



ISAF MIRROR

Issue 32 September 2006

**Trade School
in RC(S)**

**Public Health
in Qaleh-ye Now**

**Hospital Equipment
for Meymaneh**

Task Force Seagull

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Commander's Foreword

Lieutenant General Richards



It has been a busy month. My main effort has been focused on Op MEDUSA, and the kinetic phase has been a resounding success. The Taliban had prepared extensive defensive positions and had every intent of staying. They fled, and this has broken the key psychological grip they were developing on the area. In addition, it has proven NATO's combat capability. I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the forces involved; the five NATO nations, OEF (both ground forces from RC(E) and air) and the ANSF. This was a real team effort where the contribution from each member was crucial to the success. The kinetic phase is now over, but the challenge continues. We have now created the opportunity for reconstruction and development, but it is critical that we deliver. This is a key test for NATO and the world is watching.

However, we must not forget the other great work that has been going on elsewhere. In Tarin Kowt a new trade training school is being developed by the recently arrived Australian Reconstruction Task Force and should be ready in eight weeks. In Lashkar Gah fire fighting equipment has been delivered to the fire service and other projects, which have been suggested by the local population, are under consideration.

In Meymaneh and Farah new anaesthetic equipment has improved patient care. Training and maintenance of the equipment is an integral part in its delivery. The programme has been so successful in Meymaneh that it is being considered for use in other provinces. In Qaleh-ye Now the Spanish-led PRT has been working hard to improve the public health of the city. As part of this a city rubbish dump has been established and the city's bazaar has been completely cleaned out.

These are just a few examples of the great work that is going on. However, there is no room for complacency. We have a window of opportunity to win over the Afghan public opinion which will not remain open forever. We must continue to strive to produce tangible results on the ground, providing the security which is the key enabler for all other activities to take place, and gaining the trust and the confidence of the people. I am confident that we are on track to exploit this opportunity but we must work hard and imaginatively to do so. Our actions now will determine NATO/ISAF's fortunes over the next 5 years. Pulling together, with the GOA, IC, OEF and ANSF, I know success can be ours.

Construction Begins For Trade Training School

*Maj Andrew Bird (AS-A)
PIO PRT Uruzgan*

The Australian 1st Reconstruction Task Force (RTF), in Southern Afghanistan, commenced construction of a Trade Training School on 6th of September to be used to teach the local population various building skills.

The Australian 1st Reconstruction Task Force, who began arriving in the Uruzgan Province last week as part of Australia's contribution to the Netherlands-led Provincial Reconstruction Team, is a mix of engineers and security personnel deployed to Afghanistan for up to two years.

The Australian RTF will focus on reconstruction and community-based projects. The Trade Training Centre will allow locals to further

enhance their trade and building skills. Lieutenant Colonel Mick Ryan, The Commanding Officer of the 1st RTF said "We are all about giving the locals a fair go and a chance for the future".

"By having a Trade Training School it will provide a place where they can come and learn a range of building skills from carpentry, block laying, small engine maintenance and other skills in a bid to assist Afghanistan and the people of the Uruzgan Province achieve a stable and secure future. We hope that this school may provide a model for other PRTs across Afghanistan to emulate. The benefits of these skills will continue well after our personnel have returned home – it is an investment in the future of Afghanistan," he added.

Construction of the Trade Training School is expected to take around eight weeks.





Task Force SEAGULL Begin Operations

*Cpt. Bafile Fabrizio (IT-AF)
PIO 51° WING Detachment*

Less than one month from TOA, the Italian 51° Wing Detachment, which is based in the military airport of ISTRANA (TV), has assumed full operating activity in Afghanistan. The Detachment is identified as Task Force (TF) Seagull and has already completed numerous missions in the skies of Kabul under the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Recognition, personnel transport, medical transport and control of territory are some of the types of missions that the AB-212 helicopters of the Italian Air Force have carried out so far in a total of 50 flights, some of which were at night time.

The 51° Wing Detachment, commanded by Col Giorgio Seravalle, will be engaged in Afghanistan until next November based at Kabul International Airport (KAIA) along with the other military contingents, from more than thirty countries. In this period TF Seagull will guarantee aerial support to Regional Command Capital in an Area of Operation that includes the Afghan capital and neighbouring zones.

TF SEAGULL is fully autonomous with its own flight crews, operational support personnel, and technical support teams who are able to guarantee the efficiency of the helicopters.

The final element of TF SEAGULL is the Force Protection team from the Italian Air Force, called Fucilieri dell'Aria. These are select personnel who have been specially trained for guaranteeing the security and safety of men and the means of the Task Force.



*Cpt Alex Montagna (FR-A)
PIO RC Capital*

On 24th of August in Camp Warehouse a joint exercise was conducted in order to test and verify all operational and medical procedures in case of an incident involving personnel from Regional Command (Capital) (RC(C)).

The CASEVAC (CASualty EVACuation) exercise was led and coordinated by the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) of RC(C) in Camp Warehouse. The exercise simulated an IED attack against a French BG patrol in the north of KABUL. The simulated attack involved a vehicle and two soldiers. The RC(C) JOC immediately alerted the French QRF, Czech EOD team, MP team and the Medical team and tasked them to move to the spot of the attack.



The wounds of the two soldiers had been estimated as too serious to move them by car so the JOC alerted TF SEAGULL. Within a few minutes of receiving the call the Italian AB-212 helicopters took off to the scene of the incident. In the meantime the French QRF and Czech EOD team secured the Landing Zone (LZ). The helicopters, with doctors onboard, landed in the safe LZ and immediately lifted the injured soldiers to the French military hospital at Camp Warehouse.

The training demonstrates the close co-operation between the Italian Air Force unit, the French hospital emergency team and all the other support units involved in the simulated incident.

Just a Matter of Perspective

*Lt Col Michael Backhaus (GE-A)
PIO Team Kabul*

A metal butterfly evolves to a classic example of CIMIC in theatre

Maybe it is more than routine - this idea takes root. "Today CIM* (Centre for International Migration and Development) will hand over to us a new solar energy cooker. Won't you (Press Information Office Kabul) join us?" asks the leader of the CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) platoon within the German Support Element Kabul, Captain Jochen Zielinski, is pretty excited.

All curious, my camera ready and my mind filled with the ideas of an average Central European of the booming solar energy industry I arrive at the CIMIC area at Camp Warehouse at 5 pm, it is still hot, although the sun is no longer at its zenith.

One glimpse and you are back to Afghan reality. Scepticism grows, as the CIM representative is eager to describe the fabulous performance of the apparatus. In the morning it is said to have brought to the boil 4.5 litres of water within 21 minutes. And all you can see is a large-scale wheeled metal butterfly, which in addition looks very unstable.

"In Nepal this device is used successfully by the local population already for decades," explains Staff Sergeant Andreas Magun, who is responsible for the project. "Especially in the rural areas of Afghanistan, where no energy supply exists, this device could be quite useful." Afghanistan has up to 300 days of sunshine per year. The device is able to collect the sunlight, focus it and exploit its energy.

Then, all of a sudden, the idea of the butterfly is gone - it took only 7 seconds to set on fire a piece of cardboard which was used to demonstrate





the operating mode. Physics can be so easily understandable. Suddenly all of us are back to the Afghan reality: in the country generation of energy is a vital challenge for the family clans. As if he could read the minds of his audience, we learn from SSgt Magun that a family in rural areas has to spend about US\$50 per month for fuel, mostly wood. Considering an average salary of US\$60-100 in Kabul this is an incredible expense. Thoughts of the recent headlines of increasing energy costs in Germany come to my mind.

Now the CIMIC platoon leader is in his element. "It takes US\$50 to produce the cooker but so far there is no local investor to produce and sell the device," says Captain Jochen Zielinski. CIM is looking for such a company; with small projects they try to boost the local economy.

Cooperation between Mrs Barbara Clasen, representative of CIM, and CIMIC is as follows: Whenever Captain Zielinski and his men are out and about for their own projects they also present the solar cooker. And the people are quite taken. The people have a good sense of things that might be helpful in their day-to-day life. Each time CIMIC sets up the cooker the

people in the villages want to buy it offering a lot of money.

Zielinski is conveying this enthusiasm on events of CIM or, to say it in other words, he describes to the attending local investor the potential "market". "Cooperation with CIM is working well", summarizes Zielinski. One can feel that the soldiers from the Bundeswehr Joint Support Service are satisfied with their job. "We do not have this kind of project every day, but every little thing helps."

* The Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) was founded in 1980. It is funded by the Federal Ministry for Technical Cooperation and Development, other ministries and NGOs. By the end of 2004 627 integrated experts were on missions all over the world with their primary task being the placement of personnel for German development aid work. The aim of the organisation is to promote development in the partner countries (in this case Afghanistan) as well as to achieve the objectives of the Ministry of Technical Cooperation and Development and its partners. Cooperation exists with the German GTZ (Society for Technical Cooperation), the DED (German Development Service), BA (Federal Employment Agency) and other agencies.



Advanced Guard Training Course

1Lt Juri Curtolo (IT-A)
PIO ITALFOR 13

Battle Group 3, the Italian manoeuvre unit directly reporting to the Regional Command Capital, continues to provide direct support to the Afghan National Army (ANA) units located in the Italian Area of Responsibility, through the conduct of specific training courses and joint activities on the ground.

From the 20th to 23rd August an Advanced Guard Training course took place at the Kabul Military Training Centre for one Officer and six NCOs, who will operate as instructors training the ANA cadets. The advanced course was organised for the attendees as a continuation of the basic force protection training, which they received from the 9th Alpini Regiment in April.

Two Italian officers and six volunteers were detached from the 22nd Alpini Company to carry out the course at the Military Academy. 1Lt Antonio Lamorte and 1Lt Giuseppe Ceselin managed the training activities, which included defence procedures and techniques in military installations, the manning of defence positions and observation posts, alarm procedures, personnel and vehicle search methods, the structure of checkpoints and the organisation of the main gate in a military base.

On the 23rd of August the closing ceremony took place, with the certificates award to the seven attendees. The ceremony was attended by the commander of Battle Group 3, Lt Col Ferdinando Piccoli, the Deputy Commander of the Military Training Centre and the courses coordinator.





Observations From Hawkeye

Sgt Sowerby & Cpl Phillips (UK-A)
UK Force Protection Company

The day had started early, and the queue had been long for the two open showers - showers with a better than average view, looking out over the stunning mountains and valleys surrounding Forward Operating Base (FOB) Hawkeye. Hawkeye has been refurbished by the UK Force Protection Company (FPC) and is currently the working home of both Territorial Army (TA) soldiers and their Regular counterparts in the FPC.

Rebuilding the FOB at Hawkeye was a task that took ten days of dedicated time from two multiples, one of Assault Pioneers, and one of TA Infantry. A fantastic team relationship, coupled by long hours and a great deal of hard work, resulted in a fully refurbished camp that has become the primary operational location of the UK Force Protection Company. This relationship, coupled with the stunning views and the majestic surroundings of the foothills of the Hindu Kush, meant that the whole Hawkeye experience has been a highlight of the Tour for many of the soldiers, both TA and Regular.

Since the rebuilding, patrols and meetings with the local population and its representatives have led to a good understanding of the needs and aspirations of the area. While generally friendly, the population have been hit hard by the recent years of violence - evident by the numerous damaged and destroyed buildings and villages in the region - with the consequence that outreach and relationship building will take time but should pay real dividends.



Training sessions with the local police and army units aim to raise skills and professionalism significantly, but also represent an excellent relationship building opportunity, one that it is hoped will pay dividends over the coming months. The training sessions also illustrate what the TA can bring to the table when they serve alongside Regulars. Instructing on arrest and search methods and procedures, LCpl Hays is a serving officer with the Metropolitan Police, and therefore has a wealth of insight and experience to offer in a situation such as this.

Since serving in Afghanistan three years ago, Rifleman Turner has noticed a number of significant changes, led by the work of ISAF, in Afghanistan and its people. Notably, there has been a huge change in the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, both in Kabul and outside the city. Only three years ago, they were little more than civilians with an AK. Now, with uniforms and force structure, the attitudes have changed. Training has clearly been improved, and the actions now are much closer to an international norm. Levels of corruption have fallen and the standard of professionalism has risen, despite significant pay issues.



Inaugural Medical Study Period

Maj W D Bullock (UK-A)
SO Current Med Ops HQ ISAF

Shortly after the arrival of the new HQ ISAF MEDAD, Colonel Martin Bricknell, CJ Med sponsored the inaugural ISAF IX Medical Study Period. The event was held at HQ ISAF over the period 28th and 29th of August. The study period was divided into two distinct and separate events with the first day being allocated to medical reconstruction and development and the second day being allocated to medical operations.

Both study periods were well supported by representatives from all ISAF Regional Commands, CFC-A, Task Force Phoenix, CSTC - A and CJTF – 76. In addition, the medical reconstruction and development conference attracted representation from the GOA, IMPC, International Medical Corps, Morning Star NGO, HOPE Worldwide and several other International organisations. The purpose of this conference was to achieve mutual understanding of the roles and capabilities of the military medical services in support of the health sector in Afghanistan.

The conference was opened by Lieutenant General Chris Brown, Chief of Staff HQ ISAF, who emphasised the need to support the GOA in partnership with the International Community. Presentations were delivered by both internal and external Subject Matter Experts on experiences from Operation

ENDURING FREEDOM, the Afghan National Security Forces, Non Government Organisations, Provincial Reconstruction Teams, Women's Health issues and several others. The Conference included a top table lunch and concluded with an informal barbecue for all. MEDAD RC (C), Lieutenant Colonel Dominique Le Fol, subsequently described the Conference as particularly worthwhile.

The second day of the study period was dedicated to medical operations within the AOO. Its aim was to achieve common understanding of the medical contribution to incident response in ISAF. The following objectives were set and achieved: review ISAF SOP 1144 dated 04 May 06; run a table top exercise to rehearse SOP 1144; share practice across regions through a series of backbriefs and identify further tasks.

The aims and objectives of the medical operations study period were achieved through a series of lectures, which were designed to support the main event - a tabletop exercise of a Major Medical Incident. The tabletop exercise proved fruitful in its delivery of conceptual thinking and may be rolled out at regional level across the AOO.

The next CJ Medical Study period is scheduled to take place at HQ ISAF in the 3rd week of October 2006. POC will be Major W D Bullock, SO Current Med Ops, IVSN 2278.





Land Commission Resolves PRT Land Dispute

SSgt Brian Lamar (US-A)
PIO HQ ISAF

In a small room in remote northwest Afghanistan tension ran high while land owners met with representatives from HQ ISAF, the Norwegian National Contingent Commander (NO NCC) and the six month old Government of Afghanistan Land Commission on Saturday 26th August in order to settle a land dispute in the town of Meymaneh that has been costing the Norwegian PRT over US\$2,000 a day and costing the locals a lot of heartache. The dispute between the local landowners and ISAF began when construction of a US\$10 million new PRT location started on 1st of August in the area of the Meymaneh airstrip.

An agreement had been made between ISAF, the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and a local landowner (who claimed to own much of the land) in accordance with the Implementing arrangement. Five days into construction, four other citizens of Meymaneh voiced their concerns that the construction was taking place on their land, this caused some friction between the construction company and the locals, and so the PRT Commander halted all work on site until the situation was resolved.

The NO NCC Commander contacted HQ ISAF CJ4 Estates to find a solution to the problem. After several meetings with the MOD representative, Gen Habibullaha, a meeting was arranged at PRT Meymaneh between HQ ISAF, the NO NCC, the PRT, the local landowners and officials and the Government of Afghanistan Land Commission. The meeting was hastily put together over a 24 hour period and involved moving the Land Commission from Kabul to Meymaneh.

The meeting was opened by the NO NCC and HQ ISAF CJ4 Estates explaining the current situation, the future requirements of the new PRT location and the benefits that this new location would bring to the people of Meymaneh. The Land Commission was requested to take the lead for the meeting and was briefed that the outcome for the PRT must be that they can recommence construction immediately.



After an hour or so of heated discussion the meeting was adjourned for some lunch after which the Land Commission suggested that the locals and the Land Commission carry on the meeting without any military presence this was agreed and within an hour there was agreement between all parties. The land owners were asked to bring documents to confirm their claims to the land, on production a survey would be carried out to determine their boundaries and all information would be forwarded to GOA to finally settle their claims. It was also agreed that the construction company could also restart work immediately.

The current PRT camp is too small to continue daily activities due to the expansion of operations this year. The reason for moving the entire PRT to the airstrip is two-fold: the current PRT sits within the city of Meymaneh, which chokes the PRT's ability to expand and moving to the airfield will allow better access not only to the area but also the airfield, which they plan to expand and repair.

The Governor of Faryab Province, Ibrahim latif was asked for his opinion on the meeting and he said, "The results are good. Everyone is happy and the ISAF soldiers can continue to build their new camp. The soldiers of the Norwegian PRT are extremely friendly and professional. The province is lucky to have soldiers like these".

This was the first time that the Land Commission had been requested by ISAF to resolve a land dispute and they proved to be invaluable. No doubt they will be used again in the not so distant future.





MED
CAP



Anaesthesia Equipment And Training For Meymaneh

Lt Tuomas Kainulainen (FIN- A)
Media Ops PRT Meymaneh

Anaesthesia equipment has been donated to Meymaneh provincial hospital by the Norwegian Armed Forces through ISAF's Norwegian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Meymaneh.

The equipment consists of an anaesthesia machine with ventilator, a compressor and two oxygen concentrators given to the public hospital. In addition, the donation includes other equipment such as a pulse oxymeter, needles, instruction books etc. The machinery can function without electricity and oxygen. It is easily maintained, too.

The special anaesthesia apparatus delivers gasses to patients before they undergo surgery, blocking the perception of pain and other sensations. It also helps to conduct bigger and more advanced surgeries. In October another anaesthesia machine, compressor and concentrator will be donated from the Norwegian Armed Forces to be used on the women's side of the hospital.

The Norwegian Surgical Team (belonging to Norwegian Deployable Hospital in Mazar-e Sharif) that is located at the PRT is responsible for the training of the local hospital staff. The

training is done by two dedicated anaesthesia experts that are teaching local doctors and nurses to use the machinery. Local nurses will also be trained to monitor the patients after surgery during recovery. The purpose is to ensure the sustained use by the hospital without PRT support.

The anaesthesia project also focuses on the hygiene situation of the operating theatre and helps the hospital to reorganise its emergency room.

The health care project, started first in Faryab in July 2006 by the PRT, is a joint venture. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health in Kabul are working with the Norwegian Armed Forces as a pilot to see if such cooperation can be successful. During the two months since July, over 50 procedures have been conducted with the new surgical equipment.

During the evaluation by WHO and the Ministry of Health last week the results were so promising that the concept probably will be rolled out in other regions of northern Afghanistan and hopefully in the future to whole of Afghanistan.

The cooperation between the Surgical Team of the PRT and the local doctors and nurses at the Meymaneh Public Hospital has been very good.





Hungary Takes Command In Pol-e Khomri

Capt Ludwig Fischer (GE-A)

RC North

The International Security and Assistance Force is in Afghanistan to help and support the Afghan government and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) with establishing and maintaining security and stability in Afghanistan. In this way the possibility for the Afghans and NGO's to start rebuilding and developing the country is created.

ISAF is also actively supporting the Government and thus facilitating the reconstruction in every province. In Baghlan this support is executed by the Netherlands led PRT, located in the provincial capital, Pol-e Khomri.

For the last two years PRT Pol-e Khomri has been led by the Royal Netherlands Military Forces. A lot of work has been done. Now PRT Pol-e Khomri has been handed over from Dutch forces to the forces of the Republic of Hungary. The Hungarian forces will carry out the PRT mission and all of its tasks with the same standard and dedication as the Dutch forces have done.

On the 14th of September a ceremony was conducted at the PRT to celebrate the start of the takeover of the PRT from the Netherlands



The Dutch and Hungarian Ministers of Defence sign the handover paperwork

by Hungary. On the 1st of October Hungary will formally take over all tasks and responsibilities of the PRT. Important representatives of the Afghan Government, including the Deputy Governor Mohammed Rafi, were invited to celebrate the start of the takeover during this ceremony. In his speech he made clear that, "It is very important not to stop fighting against international terrorism in Afghanistan." The Dutch Minister of Defence, Henk Kamp, and the Hungarian Minister of Defence, Szekeres Imre, were present and represented their countries' governments. Other guests at the ceremony included members from both countries' Armed Forces and COM RC North, General Markus Kneip.



Joint ISAF/ANP Foot Patrol

*Yahya Najafizada
FMT PRT Mazar-e Sharif*

A foot patrol conducted by ANP and the ISAF troops based at PRT Mazar-e Sharif on August 12th aimed at making contact with the people of the area; finding and stopping any possible criminal and terrorist activities; showing presence by ISAF and listening to the people's needs and their problems.

The ISAF troops in PRT Mazar-e Sharif are working together with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to make a more stable condition for the citizens of their responsibility area.

Ghulam Sakhi, a policeman said, "together with ISAF, we are going to ensure the security for the people in Mazar-e Sharif by our patrols. We are active to stop the criminal activities during the days and nights." He added: "I appreciate ISAF and I want to thank ISAF troops for their respect of the people and culture of Afghans."

Hakim Shah, age 40, a butcher from Mazar-e Sharif said, "we are really happy for our international friends for their assistance in ensuring security. We did not have a secure condition before, but by conducting patrols

ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces make our area more secure now." "In addition to warlords, there were many thieves and other criminal activities in our area before but after these patrols, the statistics of the criminal activities have gone down," he added.

In addition to ensuring the security, the other important task of the ISAF Provincial Reconstruction Team at Mazar-e Sharif is to assist the Afghan local government in their development activities.

The guard escort group leader at PRT Mazar-e Sharif, Sergeant 1st Class Thomas Poulsen said, "we have a good relationship with the national police of Afghanistan and the other security forces in our areas of responsibility; they are helping us to ensure the security in their area." "Beside these patrols, our PRT has a development advisor who is focusing on developing process as well," said Sergeant Thomas.

Carpenter Rahim Shah, a Mazar-e Sharif citizen said, "when these ISAF patrols started, we felt most restful. We are working in a safe environment and nobody threatens us now. " "During the nights, we can sleep with out any fear," said Rahim Shah. Rahim Shah asked the ISAF patrols to drive a little more slowly because of the dust.





Girls' School Construction Begins In Jebrail

*Ciro Parisi
PRT Herat*

The Civil Military Cooperation personnel from the PRT Herat participated in the laying of the first stone ceremony for the construction of a girls' school in Jebrail village, in Injil District.

The project, which has been developed and supervised by the PRT, is part of a wider initiative of school construction that started after a specific request from the Educational Department of Herat Province.

The new building will have ten classrooms, a multi-playground, a staffroom, sanitation services and will allow around two thousand female pupils, from the nearby villages, to attend the respective lessons shifts.

The ceremony was surrounded by happy people and children and was attended by the vice governor of Herat, the head of the Educational Department, the governor of Injil District and by the elders of the near villages.

In their speeches the local authorities underlined the importance of the school reconstruction project and also expressed gratitude to the



Italian soldiers for their constant and sound support to the Afghan people.

Colonel Antonio Zambuco, commander of the PRT, stated that ISAF's commitment in Herat province consist of projects for reconstruction and support that are agreed on a list of priorities decided by Afghan authorities, and that the aim is to improve the living conditions of people and provide expertise to local construction enterprises both in the planning and constructing phases.

The ceremony ended with the symbolic donation of more than 400 backpacks to the students and with the laying of the first stone of the new school.



Qaleh-ye Now Public Health Programme

Maj Fransisco Calvo (SP-A)
PIO PRT Qaleh-ye Now

A great effort is being carried out to support the improvement of sanitary conditions in Badghis province. The Spanish PRT in Qaleh-ye Now is supporting health with different campaigns and



in developing their ability to manage the hospital. In addition the PRT has faced health problems from different points of view in trying to reduce the illness and mortality rates in the province. First of all it has run campaigns to educate people in healthy living habits; delivering health care lessons for children and organising a clean up of Qaleh-ye Now city. These activities try to instil how important it is to live in a clean environment, in particular it is aimed at children for their future.

projects with the main aim of improving conditions. The main project is to build a new provincial hospital, which is going to be finished at the end of this year. The PRT is in charge of organising the hospital management, as well as assisting the Afghan people

Other projects are directed to improve the health conditions in the city. Firstly, a rubbish dump is to be built for use by Qaleh-ye Now council. This was decided when the PRT noticed that rubbish was being delivered directly into the river near Ferestan





village, so it was a source of infection for the people living around it. Work started as soon as funds and council approval were available. This project includes two tanks for sewage, one place to burn rubbish, another place to recycle and two tanks to deliver the remains.

Secondly, there is a medium-term project which consists of disinfecting public buildings from germs, insects and rats. This started one month ago with the main Provincial Department's buildings. At this time, the PRT veterinarian is working on cleaning



the city bazaar, which is a very big issue, because in addition to the great number of shops, it is a very dirty place which needs a detailed cleaning job, but it will improve the health conditions of goods bought by the population. Therefore at least, it will be an advantage for costumers and families. At the same time, after



disinfecting, the PRT is providing lime to owners in order to whitewash their walls. This is useful for both, cleaning them of insects and improving their aspect, so while it is a healthy use, it makes the city nicer.

Finally combined patrols are moving all around the province and when it is possible, health care for the population is included in their activities, especially in places where clinics are not available. Even where they are available support assistance is provided to local doctors with advice, medicines and help.

The Spanish PRT has made a big effort in trying to reduce the illness level in the province, focusing it on different aspects of this issue. This work will continue in the next months, although its results will be not seen in the short term, but we are sure that at least, it will benefit the Badghis population in the long term.





Delivery Of Desks For Tulak Girls' School

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

On 5th-6th September soldiers serving in PRT Chaghcharan conducted a patrol to Tulak district of Ghor province in order to deliver school desks and chair cushions to a girls' school located near the centre of the district. A Danish officer from the Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) section, Lithuanian soldiers from Logistic Support Element and the Croatian Mobile Liaison and Observance Team of the PRT participated in a complicated trip.

The school is made of tents and there are 150 students studying there. Fifty school desks and the same amount of chair cushions were produced in Chaghcharan at the request of the PRT. Two trucks were used for delivering the goods as well as Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs). This wasn't an easy trip as the school is located about 200km from the camp of PRT Chaghcharan. In order to reach Tulak the soldiers had to travel along mountain roads for about eleven hours, after staying in the area overnight they had to travel the same distance back home.



This is the second time that soldiers serving in PRT Chaghcharan have conducted this complicated patrol, which takes more than one day to take equipment to the schools of Tulak district. In April 2006 school desks were provided and delivered to a boys' school there. The donation was organised by the Danish CIMIC officer serving in the PRT.





Support For Widows and Disabled In Farah

Gina Gillespie
FMT PRT Farah

Parigul is 25-years-old. She learned the art of weaving carpets at her mother's knee. Now she's passing her knowledge to her own daughter, Shakila. Several years ago the body of her husband was dumped in the street outside her home. Since then Parigul and her four children have often gone hungry. "They'd sleep without eating anything, and their tears would rain down," says Parigul. She lifts her burka to show her pale, yellow face. "Except for God, I have no relationship with anybody," she says. "Just God and the Director of Martyrs and Disabled."

A new programme created by this ministry and funded by PRT Farah will help not only widows like Parigul, but dozens of orphans and disabled people. The PRT donated sewing machines and looms, a generator, carpet and clothing material to the local Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled. This will allow them to set up a carpet weaving and seamstress training centre. Six widows, including Parigul, will be hired to work as teachers for six months, passing along their skills to fifty students. "We will be teaching orphans and poor people, those who have nothing. We don't want them begging in the streets and the bazaars. We will bring them here to teach them how to weave and sew," says Parigul. "It's good for them to find a piece of bread or a loaf of bread for life." Literacy courses will also form part of the curriculum.

The cost to the PRT is small. This project was launched with only \$5,000 in funding. But the



impact will be huge. This donation of simple low-technology tools gives people stripped of everything but their motivation, the chance to become self-sufficient. Many of the trainees are refugees, returning from Iran to their homes in Afghanistan. It is expected that the graduates will eventually be employed by private carpet companies, or NGOs engaged in structural rehabilitation work.

This project is the brainchild of Aminullah Regwall, Director of the Farah Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled. "This is a unique concept



for us," he says. "We have a lot of orphans, so I have a big responsibility to them. Here there are a lot of addicted people. I wanted a prevention against opium. When they grow up the orphans will be seamstresses and carpet weavers. Also the disabled. Some have no legs or hands."

Captain Mark Bartles from the PRT Civil Affairs team was a driving force behind the push to fund this project. "If this works, we've found a way to spark industry in this area," he says. "It will allow them to bring in an income and show people there's a lot of things they can do for themselves. It will give them options and head off the need to seek assistance from the Taliban."

A side effect to this training programme will be a resurgence in the art of carpet weaving in Farah City, a skill traditionally passed from generation to generation. Displacements and disruptions from the war have led to a severe loss in the number of skilled tradeswomen. Training young women like Shakila will ensure these ancient skills continue to get passed along.

New Construction Technique Introduced

Gina Gillespie
FMT PRT Farah

Sometimes it's the little things that make a difference. In this case, an outdated videotape entitled "Laying Concrete Block," is changing the face of the construction industry in Farah. Lieutenant-Colonel Ed Boyer, a construction engineer from DeSoto, Missouri, was the catalyst for change. He arrived at Farah one year ago, eager to begin re-building Afghanistan. But he found the local contractors building things from mud and straw, an ancient technique that desperately needed updating. "I set out on a path, that I'm not wasting a year of my life," he says. "I had a good opportunity. All the Afghan people I've met are good. They're hungry for knowledge, hungry for tools. They want to do better, they want to build better, but they don't know any better. That's the way they've done it all their life," said Lt Col Boyer.

When Matt Eddings from Eddings Masonry in Park Hills, Missouri, stopped by the office of E.A. Boyer Building @ Design Inc. to see how he could help the American troops in Afghanistan, Lt Col Boyer had a request - masonry tools. The Cement Masons Local No. 527 Union rallied their resources, sending \$1,000 worth of masonry tools to Afghanistan. There were mason's levels, trowels, and a multitude of masonry tools. But the most important part of their donation was a training video produced in 1985, entitled "Laying Concrete Block." Although outdated by American standards, the technology matched the needs of the Afghanistan building industry. The tape was reproduced by ISAF and a DVD copy sent to each PRT. Soon eight concrete block buildings were being built in Farah City. At first the local contractors were sceptical, but they were willing to try the new techniques.

Haji Abdul Wahid, head of Afghan Brothers Construction, watched the DVD and found it



Block construction of the new cold vaccine storage unit at Farah Hospital



easy to understand. "It was something new in Farah, and we will use it more in the future," he says. "Because we are construction guys, when somebody tells us about a product, we find out whether it's effective or not, whether it's stable or not. This DVD told us every detail, so we are 100 per cent sure it will be a very good, and freestanding building." He's using concrete block construction to build the new vaccine cold storage facility at Farah Provincial Hospital.

Engineer Karim Rahamanni also viewed the tape, and began following the directions for laying blocks, mixing concrete and washing crushed sand and gravel. "This construction method is better, plus easier and cheaper," he says. "We have plans for future construction in town, and we want to show the local masons how to make concrete blocks." Mr. Rahamanni is currently overseeing the construction of three concrete block buildings at PRT Farah. Another local contractor, Shir Pir Construction Company, is constructing a concrete block building for the new orphanage, as well as the generator room at the hospital.

"The contractors in Farah are some of the best contractors in Afghanistan, because they know how to use block," says Lt Col Boyer.

Lt Col Boyer's tour of duty in Afghanistan is coming to a close, but the work he began here is taking on a life of its own. Following the success of the concrete block video, he plans to contact a variety of American trade organisations to ask for similar training material. Carpenters, ironworkers, labourers all have information that can make a difference in Afghanistan, whether tapes on how to build scaffolding, pile driving bridges, or how to fasten decking. "Everybody has their own little part that will fit in with this thing. We're not asking for super trade secrets. We're asking for your old technology," says Lt Col Boyer. "Something as simple as that tape has made my life so easy here. It's an amazing thing. It doesn't take millions and millions of dollars. Small things can make an impact. Somebody taking the time has forever changed construction in Farah.

