



ISAF MIRROR

Issue 33 October 2006

Transfer of Authority Stage 4

**Hospital Fire
at Mazar-e Sharif**

**Fire Fighting Equipment
for Lashkar Gah**

Fighting the Drought

3. Commander's Foreword
4. NATO unifies mission throughout Afghanistan
5. Rough engineering made easy
6. Turkish infirmary offers medical help
7. 2,100 animals treated by the Italian veterinary team
8. French EOD team
9. New wells and mosque for Meymaneh
10. Patients rescued in hospital fire
14. Spanish PRT fights against drought
16. Three hundred children visit PRT Chaghcharan
17. Repairs to Boghi Pul bridge
18. Civil Affairs Team education support
19. Food for work programme
20. Canadian philanthropist furnishes Dand district school
21. Lashkar Gah receives new fire fighting equipment
22. Medical supplies to Kandahar ANP hospital
23. Gomal leaders kick-off district centre project

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Articles should be in MS Word format (Arial), photos should be at least 4.5cm and 300 dpi resolution. The ISAF Mirror is published monthly and aims to be available by the first Friday of the month.

For more information please call the editor on 0799 511230.

The electronic version of this magazine can be downloaded online at: www.jfcbs.nato.int/ISAF

Commander's Foreword

General Richards



NATO's fourth stage of expansion took place on 5 October. A fitting ceremony was held in Kabul to mark ISAF's assumption of responsibility for security – in support of the Government - in the eastern provinces and, with that, responsibility for security across the whole territory of Afghanistan. This final stage of expansion marks a significant point in NATO's odyssey since August 2003, but there is still the crucial Stabilisation phase to follow. NATO remains committed to Afghanistan's long-term future and will remain to support progress in the years ahead.

Meanwhile the benefits of full expansion are a greater number of troops and assets being available to ISAF, one single international command being responsible for security across the whole country, better cohesion and coordination of the military effort, and improved unity of effort between the military, the government and the international community.

Before moving on, I would like to pay tribute to the US Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan (CFC-A) who have been responsible for the eastern provinces to date, and who have done so much to defeat the insurgents and improve the quality of life of the local population. ISAF will endeavour to follow their example and be worthy successors.

Operation MEDUSA in Regional Command South was concluded in October, and Operation OQAB has now begun. OQAB means 'Bazz' in Pashtu, and 'Eagle' in English. Operation OQAB is the first ever nation-wide joint Afghan National Security Forces / ISAF operation to be conducted, and includes the full participation of the Afghan National Army, Police and Auxiliary Police. It is designed to improve security in order to create the conditions in which effective, noticeable reconstruction and development can be undertaken by those responsible for this.

Meanwhile of course other assistance projects across the country continue, many of these directly undertaken by ISAF troops, and some excellent examples are shown in this edition of the Mirror. Such projects give real benefit to the lives of ordinary Afghans, and I am grateful they continue within the broader security framework and the NATO mission. The rescue of patients from Mazar-e Sharif hospital and the subsequent support from ISAF is a particularly good news story in this edition, and I commend it to you.

Finally, my huge thanks and congratulations to you all. Every one of you, of every rank and nationality, can be very proud of our collective achievements. This is all about team work and you are a great team that I am privileged to command.



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NATO Unifies Mission Throughout Afghanistan

Staff Sgt Brian Lamar (US-A)
PIO HQ ISAF

During a ceremony on the 5th of October at the Headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), NATO took command of the east of Afghanistan from the US led Coalition. The change of command, known as Transfer of Authority Stage 4, was the final expansion that had been planned for NATO forces on 8 December 2005. General David Richards, Commander ISAF (COMISAF), assumed command and control of every province in Afghanistan just two days shy of the fifth anniversary of the beginning of operations in Afghanistan expanding the ISAF mission countrywide. "This is a historic day for both Afghanistan and NATO, and illustrates the enduring commitment of NATO and its international partners to the future of this great country," said Gen Richards during the ceremony.

The new region known as Regional Command East (RC East) will be under command of Maj Gen Benjamin Freakley of the US Army. The expansion into RC East creates a unified mission that will enhance the coordination and cooperation with the Afghan National Army and Police to continue reshaping and supporting the Afghan people's right for freedom from the threats posed by insurgents, drug lords and criminals. "The purpose of our security operations is to enable improvements in government capacity and to accelerate reconstruction and development, to bring real benefit to the lives of all Afghans," Richards said.

RC East is one of five regions that supports COMISAF's mission of military and civil-reconstruction operations. The last time ISAF expanded its mission within Afghanistan was on the 31st of July when it took over RC South thrusting NATO/ISAF into a war fighting campaign against insurgent forces in the southern provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan and Zabul.

ISAF troop levels have been bolstered to 31,000 with the assignment to NATO of former Coalition forces that were stationed in the provinces supporting the US led Operation Enduring Freedom. The transition will streamline support for troops and coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and the Afghan National Security Forces. "By bringing all of these (US led coalition) forces under unified command, we enhance the effectiveness of the operation," said Richards.

Although there has been a number of offensive operations, ISAF is not just concerned with this aspect alone. The Commander's main focus on the mission is to help Afghanistan recover an infrastructure destroyed by over 30 years of war. RC East will continue this effort with many civil engineering and infrastructure supporting projects planned for the near future. "ISAF, in partnership with the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, is to think and plan for the long-term future of Afghanistan," said Richards.

The US led Coalition will continue the US counter terrorism role with another 8,000 troops. These troops will also continue to support the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police.



Rough Engineering Made Easy

Brig Ian Dale (UK-A)
Deputy Chief of Staff Support HQ ISAF

Being in charge of NATO logistics for an operational theatre the size of Afghanistan can have its moments – good and bad. One of the best so far popped up when I started to engage with the Afghan National Army (ANA) and their US mentors. In the process I had the very great privilege of visiting their fledgling Central Workshop in Kabul.

Led by Brigadier General Jiwad it is an organisation of around 50 officers and soldiers supplemented by a civilian workforce of between 300 and 400 craftsmen. Its organisation, role, infrastructure and processes are a bit like a Victorian version of an old REME Base Workshop. It is accommodated in a complex of buildings erected by the British over 150 years ago and used as a munitions factory. It is dilapidated, dank and dark. Working conditions are Dickensian to say the least. Health and Safety, Engineering Hygiene, Engineering Standards and Materiel Management are ideas way beyond their 'ken'. But my overwhelming impression was of a team that was well motivated even though the system was not yet mature enough to pay them. They were all ingenious, creative, hugely skilled and



able to craft anything from nothing with the meanest of tools and equipment. Their hands were cut and burned, their arms were bruised and scarred, their lungs melted by acrid fumes and their ears assaulted by a cacophony of noise. Yet they smiled; they toiled; they were dedicated to their craft and they responded with overwhelming pride, friendliness and enthusiasm. I left uplifted by their high spirits and optimistic outlook.

So impressed was I by this humbling display of excellence in adversity that I just had to return a few days later with a contingent of REME officers and soldiers from my staff and the Support Battalion LAD. Needless to say – they too were humbled. Thank God, I say, for the unconquerable human spirit – and all Craftsmen in whom it blossoms!



Turkish Infirmary Offers Medical Help

Cpt Kamil Erdogan (TU-A)
PIO RC(C)

Efforts of establishing a close relationship between the Afghan people and RC(C) continues. Beside the medical support to Afghan people, the Turkish Battle Group infirmary offers circumcision to male children who want it.

In Islam circumcision holds a huge importance. Each Muslim boy is circumcised when they are children. The Turkish Battle Group, who are aware of this importance, has begun to carry out this operation. Each week about 20 children are circumcised by doctors of the Turkish infirmary.

With its four doctors; one surgeon, one internist, anesthesia specialist and one general practitioner; and a dentist, the Turkish infirmary serves not only soldiers but also the Afghan people with a superhuman effort.

Everyday Turkish doctors check approximately 30-40 local nationals and offer them treatment. Also some 10 dental patients are treated by the dentist. In addition to these laboratory, x-ray and emergency surgery opportunities are also provided in Turkish Battle Group Infirmary.

But the doctors are not content with this. They also give medical help to people in their villages. For example, the medical staff performed health services support in Khaki Jabar on the 9th of September. Thirty-five civilians were checked and treated by the doctors. Usually these are people who can't be treated because of a lack of a doctor and medical equipment. Another medical support to local people was carried out in Shevaki, a village in Bagrami, on the 12th of September. Many civilians were checked and given medicines by the Turkish medical team. A small girl's injured finger was successfully operated on by the medical team. Some medical instruments (sphygmomanometer, stethoscope etc) were gifted to the Shevaki Clinic in order to provide a better service to the village. On the same day a glucometer, haemoglobin meter, urine script, 200 pieces of urine measure bar, sedimentation measure tube and 50 pieces of sedimentation bar were gifted to the Khaki Jabar medical clinic's Doctor Sülayman by the Turkish Mobile Medical Team.

Despite the fact that they have only been in Kabul for one month, it is certain that Turkish doctors will win the 'hearts and mind' of Afghan People.



2,100 Animals Treated By The Italian Veterinary Team

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

Local farmers in the Chahar Asyab district, south of Kabul have received veterinary assistance from the CIMIC team of the Italian contingent in Kabul. This type of event is aimed at extending similar kinds of activities from the area of Kabul, where they regularly happen, to the whole AOR of Battle Group 3 (the Italian manoeuvre unit), which comprises the districts south of the capital.



On 16th and 18th September a CIMIC team coordinated by the ITALFOR veterinary officer, Major Salvatore Santone, treated some 2,100 animals, including sheep, goats and cattle with



antiparasitic treatment against gastrointestinal and pulmonary infections.

On 16th September the activity was conducted in the Keyrabad village, where 1,350 sheep and goats and 50 cattle were treated. On the 18th September it was repeated in the village of Cheheldoktaran, for 200 cattle and 500 sheep and goats.

The funds for the treatments were allocated by the Veterinary Department of the Italian Army Logistic Command, in Rome. The zootechnic livestock is of vital importance to the Afghan population and this kind of support by the Italian contingent has the full appreciation from the local people and authorities.



French EOD Team

1Lt James Clerc (FR-A)
EOD French BG / PAMIR XIV

The EOD team's prime task is to contribute to the French Battle Group's security. Within their area of operation, it picks up the UXO that might otherwise be used to make IEDs. As part of RC(C) EOD IRT (Immediate Response Team), our team intervenes also in IED incidents that may occur while it is on duty. Lastly, the French EOD conduct mine-clearance checks, thus contributing to the protection of the Force in general.



The French EOD are confronted with three main difficulties in performing their daily tasks. First, the significant increase of the IED threat makes our road movements all the more dangerous. Then, during direct interventions on IED, the growing sophistication of the devices (such as RCIED) is such that we have to remain



extremely vigilant and permanently adapt our methods. Last but not least, the wide area we have to cover and the ensuing travel duration often result in considerable delays before intervention actually begins.

Our EOD team members have gained tremendous operational experience, through the outstanding number and the wide range of the tasks performed. Each team member has built up an increased confidence in his own capacities as well as his trust in his partners. Their accumulated experience will be used back in France during training sessions at the Engineers' branch school.

Finally, in this multinational context, we have had the opportunity to develop our skills and procedures with those of our foreign counterparts, which leads to mutually beneficial exchanges and a better understanding.



New Wells And Mosque For Meymaneh

Lt Cdr Knut B. Andersen (NO-N)
PRT Meymaneh

As a result of the good relationship between the PRT and the inhabitants of Meymaneh, the PRT have initiated and financed nine wells for the local community. Each district in the city will soon have its own source of water.



For some time now, officers and soldiers from PRT Meymaneh have planned the wells together with the *wakils* in the city. The planning and the discussions on locations have taken some time, but now all districts and authorities have finished the paperwork. Last week the final paper was signed, and drilling has begun in District 8.

The drilling is being carried out by NEO-Liaison Engineering Office from Mazar-e Sharif. The first 20 meters were drilled on Tuesday 5th September. Since the groundwater level is low because of the drought, it is expected that each well will have to be more than sixty meters deep.

If the work proceeds as planned, all wells will be finished in two months – for the locals to enjoy.

Lt Cdr Knut B. Andersen (NO-N)
PRT Meymaneh

PRT Meymaneh has been reconstructing the ANA camp in Meymaneh since early July this year. As an addition to the original plan the PRT has now started the construction of a new mosque for the units stationed in the camp.

The old building being used as a mosque is being torn down, and the new construction will contain all facilities for the users. The building is to be in a local style, as are the rest of the new houses in the camp.

During the construction period a temporary building is being constructed and will be used as a mosque until the new one is finished. The reconstruction of the new ANA camp has been a big project. Eight new buildings are being built to facilitate a unit of 150 men, and a new sewage, water and electrical net are being set up.

It is planned to open the new mosque on 28th February 2007 together with the handover of the new ANA camp.





Patients Rescued In Hospital Fire

Yahya Najafizada
FMT PRT Mazar-e Sharif

A small electric short caused an extensive fire in the central civilian hospital of Mazar-e Sharif on Tuesday afternoon the 19th of September. More than 100 patients, who were bedridden in the hospital, were saved from the fire by the fire department of RC North. The firefighters and additional German Army troops responded to the scene based on a request for help by Balkh Governor, Atta Noor.

The day after the fire, the Swedish PRT in Mazar-e Sharif installed three tents with eighteen beds to protect the most critical bedridden patients of the fire-damaged hospital.

During a crisis meeting with the chief of the Balkh Public Health Department, Doctor Mirways Rabeh, the German forces from RC North and Norwegians from the ISAF field hospital arranged to donate medicine and medical equipment to help the hospital in the short term. German ISAF medical officer, Eberhard Limpricht, handed medical supplies to the hospital, saying, "ISAF was delighted to be able to help the people of Balkh province, and will continue to work hard to support this important medical capability and the patients being treated."

The main building of the hospital was completely destroyed, but thankfully all critical equipment was brought out before being claimed by the flames. Emergency rooms, an intensive care unit, operating rooms and an x-ray room, as well as administration, nursing facilities and medical stores were destroyed.

"If ISAF troops had not been here to help us stop the fire, we would not have succeeded in gaining control of it on our own," said Gulaqa Tashqorghani, a local firefighter.

Mohammad Shafiq Ghafari, a cleaner in the hospital, who carried patients together with ISAF troops during the evacuation appreciates ISAF for their humanitarian assistance, "after we saw the fire rising from a room of the hospital, we ran to save the patients that were at risk." He added, "The reconstruction of this hospital is not the most difficult, but if the patients had not been saved it would have been a tremendous loss and disaster for all the people of Mazar-e Sharif. It was ISAF that helped us in saving the patients. As an Afghan, I want to thank all ISAF troops who helped us in the rescue work," said Shafiq.

The chief of the Balkh Public Health Department, Doctor Mirways Rabeh, is very concerned for his patients, and stated: "To rebuild this hospital, we need around two million dollars. In addition to NATO forces, the United Nations departments of WFP, UNICEF and FAO and other European Non-Governmental Organisations have promised to assist us."



The central civilian hospital of Mazar-e Sharif is the biggest hospital in Northern Afghanistan serving 80 percent of the population in Balkh, Meymaneh, Sheberghan, Sar-e Pol and Samangan provinces.





Spanish PRT Fights Against Drought

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

Maintenance of the water supply in Badghis province is important as drought is a problem, so the PRT commander has decided to try and help solve the water supply problem in small villages. This project was presented to the PRT by Council Elders and approved by district governors.

Three wells were repaired in Garchagay Village in Qadis district. This Quick Impact Project was decided upon because the lack of water faced by the population in the area was quite serious, so they needed urgent support to solve the situation. The Spanish PRT started to look for solutions and finally, the solution adopted was to repair three wells which were out of order, instead of digging new wells. This solution was very well accepted by the village authorities who signed an agreement to ensure these wells are for public use.



Near Zaymat village, Ab-Kamary district, a fountain provides water to three different villages, but there were several problems because this fountain was small, so people had fights over the water. Once identified, the Spanish PRT contacted the Council Elders of three villages and all of them agreed to have the fountain repaired with more taps to avoid the population having to wait for hours to collect water.



In Shang Atesh, Muqur District, World Vision constructed a water pipe installation, but as the village is divided by a river, the other part of the village didn't receive any potable water. The Council Elders requested the assistance of the PRT to solve this problem since only salt water is available in the area. The PRT studied the problem and proposed to extend the existing pipeline to the other bank of the river and construct a fountain to provide water for the population.



Finally, in Ghormach city, the drought situation is worse so the District Governor asked the PRT to build a well in the city. As with the other projects the PRT studied his request and decided to contract a company specialised in digging wells. For this work, the only condition imposed by the PRT was to use employees from Ghormach city since unemployment is one of the worst problems in the city.

In summary, the Spanish PRT is making a big effort trying to avoid the population suffering from the drought. This is only a small amount of assistance, but the increase in funding from the Spanish Government means that the WFP has received €300,000 which has been used in Badghis province against drought.



Three Hundred Children Visit PRT Chaghcharan

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

On Thursday 21st September a ceremony in honour of the beginning of Ramadan was held in the compound of PRT Chaghcharan. About 300 children from Chaghcharan Children's Home participated in the ceremony, and they presented a programme to soldiers of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

The Governor of Ghor province, Mr Shah Abdul Ahad Afzali, the Chief of Ghor police, General Shah Jahan Naserullah Noori, and more than 30 high ranking officials of the Local Administration participated in the event.

Commander of the PRT, Colonel Vilmas Šatas, the Governor, and a representative of American company KBR (Kellogg, Brown & Root) welcomed the visitors on the solemn occasion. "ISAF soldiers have once again showed that they respect local traditions and religion," said the Governor during his welcoming speech.

The children presented their programme with a background scene built especially for the event. The recitation of the Holy Koran, poetry, articles on issues of the orphans,



national songs and dances were included in the programme. Children also presented a short drama named "The Rich Man".

Every child received a portion of sweets, fruits and chips. A set of educational learning tools were provided for each child too.

Lithuanian, Croatian and Danish soldiers of the Civilian – Military Cooperation cell organised the ceremony. ISAF soldiers serving in Afghanistan's Ghor province have had a close relationship with the children's home of Chaghcharan since the beginning of the mission in this province in June 2005. Doors and windows have been provided for six buildings of the children's home during this time. Soldiers also provide regular support – clothes, toys, learning tools. The project for providing a new building for children's home is in the planning stages.

There are about 200 orphan children permanently living in the children's home, additionally about 150 children from extremely poor families during the daytime. There is also a kindergarten and a primary school located under this institution.



Repairs To Boghi Pul Bridge

Gina Gillespie
FMT PRT Farah

The American-built Boghi Pul Bridge has spanned the Farah River since the early '60s. It is the main east-west artery leaving Farah City, and ties the provincial centre to the western districts. But the 150 metre structure now needs emergency repairs to keep commerce flowing through the region. "If the repairs aren't made, the bridge could fall down. If we get flood levels and rapid current, it could knock it down this year," says Major Jeffery Risher, who manages construction projects for the PRT Farah Civil Affairs team.

When advised of the bridge's deteriorating condition, the PRT moved quickly to obtain \$190,000 USD in funding for emergency bridge repairs. "In addition to fixing stuff we want to pump funds into the local economy," says Maj Risher. So a local contractor has been hired, and work will soon commence on the bridge. Work is expected to be completed within three to four months.

Cracks have appeared in the two headwalls of the bridge, and the metal sheet pile is pushing away from the wall. This is causing the pile cap to break. "The rest of the bridge is in good shape. Our job is to fix both headwalls. We'll replace the headwalls and the pile cap, and the bridge will last another 50 years," says Maj Risher.



During construction a temporary river crossing for cars will be built and a channel dug to divert the water flow away from the construction. A temporary roadway will be erected so people can cross the road. When the repairs are completed the water will be returned to its original course.

The completed bridge will be lit by solar lighting, which will span the length of the bridge, and continue for one kilometer on either side. "The biggest challenge will be holding the bridge up while they demolish all this," says Lieutenant(Navy) John Baise, an engineer at PRT Farah. When construction is complete, big rip rap rocks will be placed 50 metres down from each side of the headwall. Finding the rocks for the rip rap won't be a problem. "This country has a lot of three things; sand, rock and cheap labour," says Lt(N) Baise.



Civil Affairs Team Education Support

Gina Gillespie
FMT PRT Farah

Each morning the PRT Farah Civil Affairs (CA) team loads a cargo trailer full of school supplies. They form a line and pass the bundles from person to person – from Captain Mark Bartels, to Staff Sergeant Daniel Dominguez, to Staff Sergeant Mark Johnson, to Specialist Corinn Gillingham, then onto the trailer. The supplies pile higher and higher, packages of donated paper, pencils, backpacks, blankets, gloves, hats. When there’s no room for even one more pencil, they head out to visit one of the local schools. “One of our higher priorities of things to support is education,” says Capt Bartels.

With schools across the province just opening for the season, they’re on a mission to support education and draw the children back to school. So each day they visit one of the 30 local schools, handing out supplies to the children. They sit in on the classes, and talk to the children about the importance of education. “Today I gave a speech,” says Capt Bartels. “I told the children that they are the future of Afghanistan. I told them, you can be a great person like the Director of Education. This person has chosen to make education a priority for the people of Afghanistan. It is his foremost priority.”

The children are eager to display their knowledge, raising their hands to answer questions, and joining their voices in song. When asked about their favourite subject, the answer is almost always unanimous: mathematics. Najib, a female teacher at a local girl’s

school, explains the attraction to this subject. “It’s not a very hard subject. It’s easy as they try to learn. They don’t have to do preparation at night at home. You can learn it right away and keep it in your mind. It’s easy on everybody,” she says.

Part of the rationale behind the CA team’s school visits is to encourage attendance. Security is still an issue in Farah province, causing many children to stay home from school. The CA team hopes the thought of receiving free school supplies will bring the children back to class. “When the CA team donates supplies, it encourages the children to come to see. That is a very effective means of bringing the children to school,” says Atiq Ullah, Director of Education for Farah province. He says his wish, and the wish of the people of Farah, is for their children to be educated so they can build the future of Afghanistan.

Although the Constitution of Afghanistan proclaims education to be the right of all citizens, and provides it free of charge up to the level of Bachelor’s Degree, there are still high rates of illiteracy, especially in rural areas. In many of the rural villages, 95 to 100 per cent of the women cannot read or write, and 63 per cent of men living in rural areas are illiterate.

Atiq Ulla has dedicated his life to promoting the importance of education. “The Director of Education told me, I will visit the schools with you, any day, any hour, whenever,” says Capt Bartels. “He has agreed to clear his schedule to meet our needs. I think it’s worthwhile. Children are worth it,” says Capt Bartels.



Food For Work Programme

Gina Gillespie
FMT PRT Farah

In Shib Koh District, the sand is slowly reclaiming the villages. With no protective walls, or trees to break the wind, dunes of sand are obliterating the roads, and mountains of sand rise as high as the rooftops. As with many villages, water is scarce. The irrigation canals are filled with sand. In the village of Alias Abad, the 500 families that farm the area needed water for their sheep and cattle. With their survival at stake, desperate villagers turned to PRT Farah for help.

Tony Beals, the US Department of Agriculture representative at PRT Farah, met with the delegation along with the Civil Affairs team, to assess the situation. “There was one storm two summers ago that caused flash flooding, and water and mud plugged the *kariz* (a horizontal well). It needs to be cleaned out,” says Mr. Beals. “I thought they were asking for mechanical equipment, but they only wanted shovels.”

Staff Sergeant Mark Johnson, a member of the PRT Civil Affairs (CA) team, noticed boxes of tools among their Humanitarian Assistance supplies, and suggested a Work for Food programme. The PRT would provide food for 50 men for three months. In return, the villagers in Shib Koh District would dig out the irrigation canals and remove the sand dunes burying the villages from the world. So on one warm September day, a delegation from Shib Koh District pulled into the PRT with a truck and loaded not only tools, but tea, salt, flour, beans, cooking oil, rice, sugar, medical supplies, tarps and radios.

“It was a simplistic problem, but Mark Johnson had an idea. Once you show people they can do it themselves, there you go,” says Captain Mark Bartels, a member of the CA team. “It’s like paying your kid to mow the lawn. It’s just a way of getting them to do stuff and show them the PRT cares.” Armed with food and tools the villagers will now hire the poor and unemployed in the area to dig out the canals.



Canadian Philanthropist Furnishes Dand District School

Cpt Dave Muralt (CA-AF)
PRT Kandahar

A Canadian veteran has generously donated the funds required to furnish the Dand District School in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Mr John Race, 80, of Simcoe, Ontario, donated \$10,000 to the charitable Material Assistance to Afghanistan Fund which was used to purchase students' and teachers' desks for the school, and furniture for the staff room so that teachers would have an area to prepare class work.

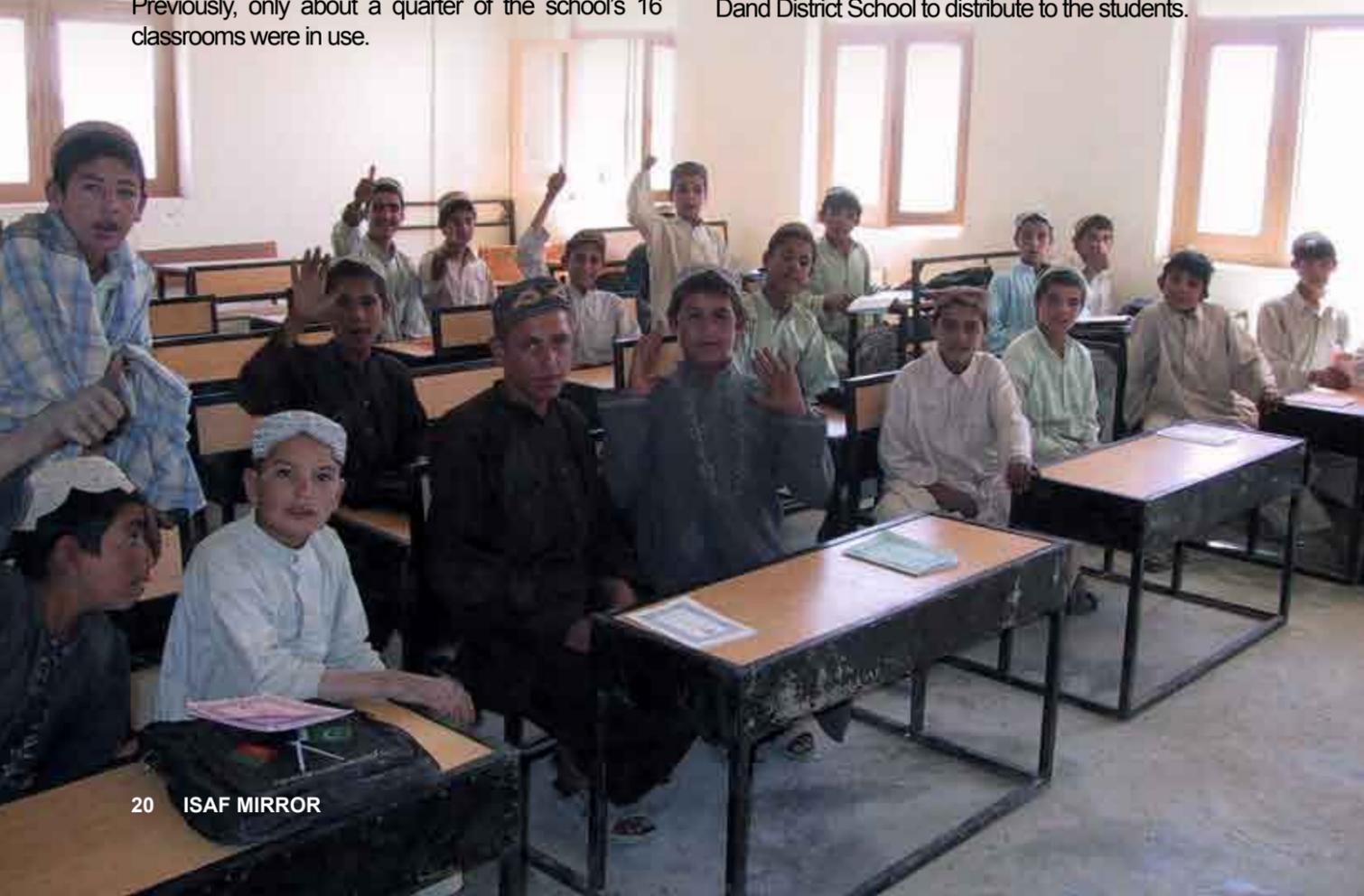
"Ordinary Canadians like John Race care about the people of Afghanistan," said PRT Commander Lt Col Simon Hetherington. "I know that he will be thrilled that his generous donation has touched so many children's lives."

Mr Race asked that his donation be used to help farmers or children and, as a result of his generosity, 350 Afghan youngsters are now able to attend school. Previously, only about a quarter of the school's 16 classrooms were in use.



Mr Race is a veteran of the Second World War and was a farmer for most of his life, raising ginseng and breeding Belgian horses. In addition to serving in the Canadian military, Mr Race has made charitable expeditions to Africa and India.

The Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team provided notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil crayons, rulers and pencil sharpeners to the headmaster of the Dand District School to distribute to the students.



Lashkar Gah Receives New Fire Fighting Equipment

Sqn Ldr Jason Chalk (UK-AF)
PRT Lashkar Gah

In Lashkar Gah, the centre of government in Helmand province, Fire Chief Khadar Nasar Khan took possession of a supply of new fire fighting equipment from ISAF personnel who work within the PRT in the provincial capital. Captain Michael Hoffman and Warrant Officer Klaus Augustinus, Danish officers from the PRT, were there to oversee the handover of the much-needed equipment that will greatly help the 41 fire fighters who provide 24-hour fire cover for Lashkar Gah and the surrounding area.



Fire Chief Khadar Nasar Khan bid for funding for the equipment through the district Shura, or council, to the Provincial Development Council, which is overseen by the Governor of Helmand Province, Governor Daud, and which put its seal of approval to the bid. The local population are encouraged to take their ideas for development projects to their local *shuras* for consideration. The fire fighting equipment is the first of a number of projects in the pipeline secured through the Provincial Development Council with assistance from PRT Lashkar Gah, which are designed to make life better for the people of Helmand.



Medical Supplies To Kandahar ANP Hospital

Cpt Dave Muralt (CA-AF)
PRT Kandahar

The Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team, part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, provided medical supplies and bed linens worth more than \$6,000 to the Afghan National Police hospital.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superintendent Dave Fudge, the senior Canadian civilian police officer in the PRT, worked with the Afghan Ministry of the Interior representative, Col Husain Andiwai, to arrange for the transfer to take place.

Canadian Forces medical technician Sgt Ron Andersen supervised the delivery of the supplies. "This donation of bed linens and medical supplies is from surplus stocks that are here in theatre," said Sgt Andersen. "With the move of most Canadians into Kandahar from Kabul, we found we had some items that we didn't need."

The medical supplies and linens were loaded into two ANP vehicles at PRT Kandahar. A large variety of orthopaedic items, pain medication and antibiotics



were included. Speaking to Afghan National Police officers here, PRT deputy commander, Maj Steve Murray said, "these supplies are to help you help your officers, who are working with us and the rest of the ISAF coalition to help bring peace to Kandahar."

The items will be used to treat sick and wounded Afghan National Police officers. The Afghan National Police serve alongside Canadians, the Afghan National Army and International Security Assistance Force in the effort to restore security in Kandahar Province.



Gomal Leaders Kick-Off District Centre Project

Lt Geraldine Carey (US-MC)
PIO RC East

Citizens of Gomal in Paktika Province will soon have a new building where district leaders can coordinate many useful services. During a ceremony held on the 4th of October at the current Afghan National Police building in Gomal, several Afghan officials gathered to break ground and celebrate the construction of a new district centre.



The event was attended by Paktika Governor Akram Khpalwak, Gayan District Governor Abdul Qadir, Gomal District Governor Mohammed Ulah Shah, Paktika Border Police Commander Brig Gen Abdul Hameed and local elders and mullahs. "Today is a very good day for all of us because the new district centre will be open soon," said Shah, who referred to a recent attack on an Afghan Border Police station not far from where the ceremony was held.

Members of the shura then spoke to the people about the need for security. The leaders told citizens that if Gomal doesn't have a secure environment, the people cannot keep any buildings safe in the village.

Paktika Director of Education Siad Ahmad spoke about the importance of education, and emphasized the work he's doing to have more schools built in the district. Governor Khpalwak expressed condolences to the families who lost loved ones in recent combat, and he used the event as an example of why security is so important. He also discussed the need for everyone to do their part to promote security, promising continued construction of new mosques, schools and clinics for the people of Gomal.



