



ISAF MIRROR

Issue 35 December 2006



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Commander's Foreword General Richards



In this, the last 2006 Edition of the ISAF Mirror, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight a few of the many achievements and successes which you have all contributed to in support of the mission over the last month.

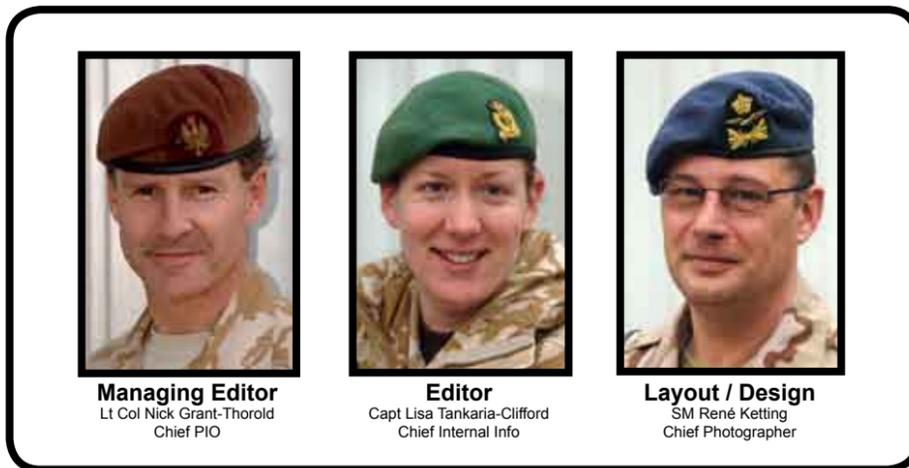
Operation OQAB remains our main effort, especially in Regional Command South, where Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and ISAF troops are having a significant success in delivering improvements in Reconstruction and Development (R&D) through enhanced security. In support of the Government of Afghanistan and provincial authorities we are also taking forward plans, together with the International Community, to improve governance. R&D and governance, together with enhancing military to military relations with Pakistan through the Tripartite Commission, are my focus for ISAF IX's remaining time in Afghanistan. Our aim is to engender in the population a growing perception of improvement and a higher level of confidence in the future; this in itself will undermine and weaken those opposed to the Government and will of the people.

Of great significance has been the way ISAF is undertaking extensive interaction with Afghans of many different backgrounds prior to operations. Through Shuras with local tribal leaders, key leader engagement and extensive combined joint planning with ANSF from the outset, maximum effect has been delivered in subsequent manoeuvre operations. The success of such an approach has been amply demonstrated by Operation BAAZ TSUKA in Kandahar Province and Operation CENTAUR OQAB in the Musayi valley, to the south of Kabul. Combined with a sophisticated and thought through humanitarian assistance and follow up R&D programme these operations, in addition to all of the others occurring across ISAF, meant that OQAB is ready to move onto its second stage in many areas. This will involve maintaining pressure on insurgents throughout the winter while continuing to build on progress to date.

The establishment of Provincial Coordination Centres, and associated Provincial Security Committees, throughout the country will provide the means to deliver a coordinated approach to R&D and governance to complement that now taking place in Kabul through the Policy Action Group and its sub pillars on strategic communications, R&D, operations and intelligence. Cross government policy formulation and implementation structures will now be in place from State to District level.

This edition of the Mirror highlights some of your efforts in supporting the R&D within Afghanistan from the bottom up, activities and initiatives that are possible through the establishment and maintenance of a safe and secure environment. Wining over and keeping the hearts and minds of the population remains vital to our mission. The population must be given a stake in society and the bond of trust between people and government nurtured and developed.

Of course there is still much to be done and this is where the actions of all parties are vital over the next couple of months. We have achieved a tremendous amount in the eight months of ISAF IX's mission so far completed. Although many of you will be coming to the end of your time in Afghanistan do not let up on your efforts. Together we can make 2007 as successful as the year about to close.



Managing Editor
Lt Col Nick Grant-Thorold
Chief PIO

Editor
Capt Lisa Tankaria-Clifford
Chief Internal Info

Layout / Design
SM René Ketting
Chief Photographer

Front cover by: SM René Ketting

Back cover by: Sgt Frank Proctor

Alternative Livelihood Fruit Tree Distribution

*Cpt A Bernardo (IT-A)
PIO PRT Herat*

On the 23rd of November a symbolic donation of a small amount of fruit trees to farmers in the Shindand district of Herat province officially started the distribution of 12,000 fruit trees to promote alternative livelihoods. The ceremony took place in the courtyard in front of the Shindand Governor's residence.

During the ceremony the PRT Commander, Colonel Filippo Ferrandu, said, "PRT Herat is put at the disposal of others in order to let the local authorities perform in the best way to satisfy the requirements of the population."

Mr Mohammad Nacim Kakar, the Governor of Shindand, stated that he was honoured by the presence of the Italian military personnel in Shindand district, and expressed his gratitude for the ongoing projects being carried out by the Civil and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) team.

Developed by the Chief of the Provincial Agriculture Department, Engineer Mohammad Ismaeil Haidazadeia, the project will see the planting of fruits trees as an alternative to the cultivation of opium, and the employment of former combatants to carry out the labour. The programme has been coordinated with the Disbandment of Illegally Armed Groups (DIAG) initiatives in Herat province.

At present the project is being implemented in 6 districts of the province. Plans are being finalised to introduce the project to the remaining 9 districts of the province. It is anticipated that about 65,000 fruit trees, including apricot trees, cherry trees, apple trees and peach trees, as well as almond trees, will be planted, at a cost of US\$55,102.

In the 6 districts involved it is estimated that the initiative could provide work for approximately 800 families, with an indirect benefit to 200,000 people. The implementation of the programme aims to assist with the eradication of opium cultivation by contributing to an increase in fruit production.



CODAN Radio System For Farah Province

*Gina Gillespie
FMT PRT Farah*

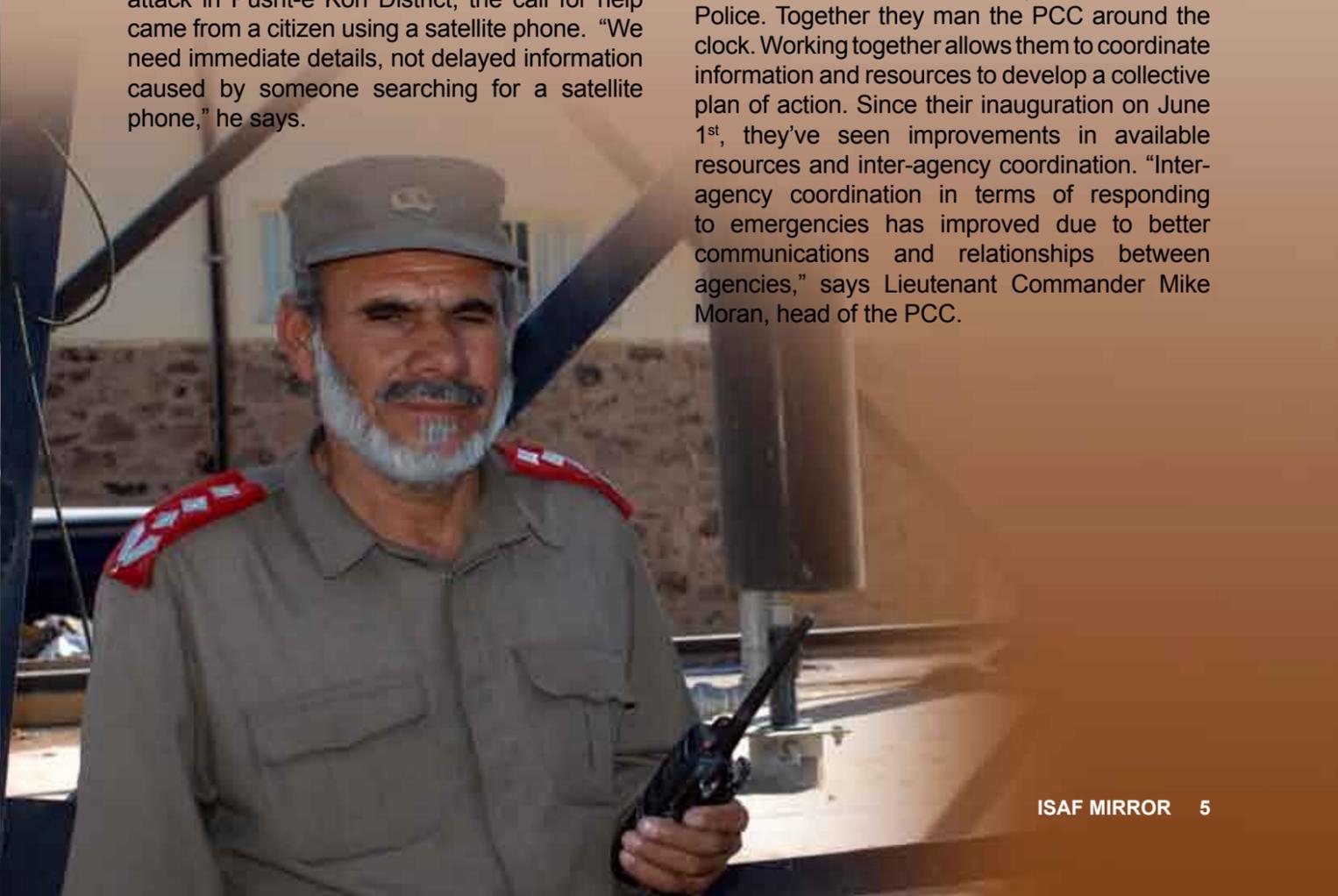
Still in its first six months of operation, the Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC) at PRT Farah recently received a major operational boost. A solar-powered, hi-frequency CODAN Radio System will expand communication into the rural areas, adding 39 channels to the existing 80 channel system. The new system has built-in compatibility with all police stations in Afghanistan, and will allow for communications with regions as far away as Kunduz or Mazar-e Sharif.

Police mentor Randy Martinak from the civilian contractor Dyncorps, oversaw the installation of the antenna. "Right now the PCC is limited in communications. We are still making contact through Roshan or Satellite phones. This will give us better communications, and will be less expensive," he says. During a recent Taliban attack in Pusht-e Koh District, the call for help came from a citizen using a satellite phone. "We need immediate details, not delayed information caused by someone searching for a satellite phone," he says.

In addition to providing a fast communications link for emergencies, the system will allow for daily coordination of logistical matters, like the delivery of food and water. Eventually the system will also provide the capability to operate a fax machine. The new antenna is funded by the Ministry of the Interior, and will be maintained by the Afghan Police Programme.

Colonel Abdul Zaher looks after communications for the Afghan National Police in Farah province. He says the new system will be cheaper to operate, and solve a lot of problems. "We will now be able to collect reports from the rural areas," he says. "You can program the frequencies to be secure. From here to Kabul, to Herat, we can talk to each district. We can talk to anyone throughout Afghanistan. It is very important for us."

The PCC brings together representatives from the Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army, National Directorate of Security and the Border Police. Together they man the PCC around the clock. Working together allows them to coordinate information and resources to develop a collective plan of action. Since their inauguration on June 1st, they've seen improvements in available resources and inter-agency coordination. "Inter-agency coordination in terms of responding to emergencies has improved due to better communications and relationships between agencies," says Lieutenant Commander Mike Moran, head of the PCC.



A Tale Of Two Schools

Gina Gillespie
FMT PRT Farah

This is a tale of two schools, one near Mons, Belgium, the other in Farah City, Afghanistan. The SHAPE International School in Belgium has an infirmary, two gymnasiums, a cafeteria and computer labs. At the Mirman Nazu Girls' School in Farah City the students sit cross-legged on concrete floors to learn their studies, and must study in shifts since there are not enough classrooms to accommodate the 3,500 students.

But although the schools are miles apart both geographically and in availability of resources, the students have reached across the miles and cultural divides to form a connection that benefits them both. Under General James Jones, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, the SHAPE school became sponsors of the Mirman Nazu Girls' School.

On the 30th of November the first of many donations from the SHAPE International School reached the students in Farah. The Civil Affairs team from PRT Farah delivered 1,000 kilograms of supplies, which were handed directly to the children by the teachers and soldiers. "What we presented them today was normally what we would donate to anywhere between 6 to 10 schools, so it was a very significant donation," says Major John Andrews, head of the PRT Farah Civil Affairs team. The donation included backpacks, writing boards, stuffed animals, Tupperware, radios, notepads, pens, paper, rulers and compasses.

Nasima Noorzai, a student in grade 12, stood in line with classmates to receive her supplies. As a widow with six children she faces challenges unknown to students in the SHAPE International School. Each day she walks to school and sits on the concrete floor alongside 45 classmates. They have no pens, pencils, or paper. They also have no textbooks, since only grades one to six have textbooks. The older children must buy their own books in the bazaar, or go without. But Nasima considers herself lucky to be getting an education.

"I have a lot of problems, but I am continuing my education, because knowledge and education is very important. I am very thankful to the students at SHAPE International School because today I received some notebooks, pens, pencils, etc. which will help me improve my education." Her classmate Fahima, 16, walks 30 minutes to school because she has no other means of transportation. Like the majority of Afghan girls Fahima wants to be a teacher, because she sees that Afghanistan has a desperate need for teachers.

Principal Homira Ayubi sees hope for the future of her students. She remembers the days under Taliban rule when girls were not allowed to go to school, and only a few hundred boys from the city received an education. Today she has 3,500 girls enrolled in school. But they depend on assistance from the international community to continue the classes in maths, English, and sciences. "I am very thankful for the attention shown to us by the SHAPE International School," says Ms. Ayubi. "On behalf of my 3,500 students I appreciate the help from an international school."

The SHAPE International School was established in 1967 by four sponsoring nations, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Presently 13 NATO and 15 Partners for Peace countries are represented in the 2,400 strong student body.

The Mirman Nazu school is one of three girls' schools built by the PRT, and one of the largest schools in Farah city. Besides the assistance from the SHAPE International School, it has also drawn the attention of Saint Gallen University in Switzerland. The university plans to set up a computer lab at the Mirman Nazu Girls' School which will be used as a model for the rest of Afghanistan. The project takes the Saint Gallen curriculum and loads both Dari and Pashtu versions into the computers. The plan is to start computer training throughout Afghanistan by working through the school system.

"There are a lot of national programmes that start with a test or pilot programme. In this case Mirman Nazu is the pilot school where the project is going to take shape and hopefully roll out into other schools across Afghanistan," says Major Andrews. An assessment team from Saint Gallen University will visit Farah in the new year to take a look at the school and begin planning for the future.





Aerial Cavalry Makes Life-Or-Death Difference

Paul Koring

The Globe and Mail

Aerial cavalry makes life-or-death difference. Just the sound of NATO jets is enough to scatter the Taliban in Afghanistan giving vital support to Canadians.

Close air support, or CAS, doesn't sound nearly as deadly, nor as crucial, nor as rapid-reacting as it is. But allied warplanes wheeling above or laying down withering fire on Taliban fighters – sometimes only tens of metres from embattled Canadian troops – make a daily life-or-death difference in Afghanistan. “Our guys sleep better at night when they hear those jets,” said Captain Tim Spears, the senior forward air controller for the Canadian battle group.

Just the sound of the warplanes, or even the drone of an unmanned aerial vehicle, can thwart an attack, sending Taliban fighters scurrying for cover. “They know the sound; they know we can see them and hurt them,” Capt Spears said.

On balance, Canadian and other NATO troops are far safer and need take far fewer risks because of air power. But it can also go terribly wrong. A fierce controversy was set off when NATO warplanes, targeting Taliban fighters, killed at least 11 civilians, including women and children. Some local Afghan officials set the number of deaths at scores of civilians.

In September, Canadian soldiers suffered a “friendly fire” attack when a US A-10 Warthog mistakenly sent a burst of cannon fire into a group of Canadian soldiers. One was killed. Dozens were hurt.

The careful, complex system of checks and balances failed. But even in the grim aftermath, some of the wounded Canadians credited close air support with saving their lives in the fierce battles of Operation Medusa.

Bombings or missile strikes by NATO's combat aircraft in Afghanistan, mostly American but also British and Dutch, rarely make news, except when things go wrong: Celebratory gunfire at a wedding is mistaken for insurgents shooting; women and children are killed when a bomb hits a Taliban compound or the dreaded “blue on blue” toll of friendly fire occurs.

Without the warplanes, casualties would be far higher among allied ground troops and it would take far more of them to battle the Taliban.

On the ground, controllers such as Capt Spears talk pilots down to targets.

It can happen with astonishing speed. A pair of Royal Navy Harriers working a routine reconnaissance flight with Canadian controllers in the contested Panjwai area west of Kandahar were suddenly called to break off their assignment. There was a TIC, or troops in contact, meaning soldiers under fire and needing what amounts to the aerial cavalry. The Harriers raced to the aid of some Royal Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers pinned down by rocket-propelled grenades further north.

TIC calls take priority over all others. They can divert warplanes already in the air or scramble ready crews sitting at air bases in Bagram and Kandahar. British Harriers, Dutch F-16s, US A-10 Thunderbolts and a variety of attack helicopters provide a mix of always-available air support.

Yesterday, it took just four minutes for the Harrier pilots to establish contact with the forward air controller and another three before the jet screamed low over the Taliban.

“It was pretty hectic when we showed up,” said Royal Navy Lieutenant Tim Flagman, 30, flying lead yesterday in the Harrier pair. His wingman, Lieutenant Brian Simple, 27, said the gunfire and exploding rocket-propelled grenades could be heard over the radio as the controller guided them in. British naval aviators, flying bombing missions for NATO forces ranging from Dutch troops to US special forces, underscore both the scope and the multinational character of the operation.

Canadian troops on the ground have quickly learned to rely on air support. Even to those who knew best its potential, the reality is stunning. Capt Spears, who has trained for years, said: “I'm still in awe.” “Most of us have never seen anything like this,” he said. Like the A-10 Warthog that saved a group of pinned-down Canadian troops who were taking casualties and had already lost three vehicles.

“We were trying to extricate our guys out there and the A-10s came in and did the job with gun runs” along the far bank of an irrigation canal, Capt Spears remembered.

Canadian troops are learning just how close the “close” can be in air support. Soldiers who trained in peacetime with bombs dropped nearly two kilometres away are sheltering as massive blasts go off only a few hundred metres away or fast jets lay down gun runs only tens of metres distant.

It's a carefully co-ordinated duet, pilot in the cockpit, forward controller on the ground, working with each other to establish common reference points, plot a route, establish a target and destroy it.

Controllers and pilot, who rarely meet but often know each other by call sign, sometimes share memories of the same strike, albeit from different perspective. Lt Flagman, who starts



his day in an air-conditioned office alongside the busy runway at Kandahar air base and prefers landing on aircraft carriers, recalls a strike against a Taliban site that was rocketing a Canadian outpost. “We thwacked it with an air burst, a 1000-pound bomb,” he recalled.

For Capt Spears, that same air strike has meant the position has been mostly quiet since then. But not unwatched. The details are secret but the United States has provided Canadian forward air controllers with portable terminals that allow those on the ground and in the cockpit to look at the same imagery, making the bombing runs more precise.

Sometimes, controllers and pilots who work together repeatedly get to know each other, or at least recognize each other on the radio. Capt Spears has tried to take that to another level, bringing some of the Canadian forward air controllers in from the field to meet with the combat pilots who are bombing at their behest. “Now my guys are not just a call sign or a voice on the radio,” he said. “It changes the dynamic.” It means the pilots can put a face and a person they know close to the target site.

Canada is the only country with a large number of ground troops fighting in the south that hasn't deployed combat aircraft. Capt Spears would like to see some CF-18s in the skies but knows the government has decided not to send any. Like the Royal Navy pilots, Capt Spears said nationality doesn't matter when it comes to providing close air support, especially when there are troops in contact.

Nevertheless, he said, “we are users, not providers” of close air support and “there are times when we, the Canadians, are not the priority” for British and Dutch and US combat aircraft.

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The Globe and Mail

Kandahar Residents Travel To Mecca

*Sgt Mayra Kennedy (US-A)
345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

This November marked the start of the fifth consecutive year of Hajj flights departing from Kandahar International Airport, from where up to 2,700 Muslims have travelled to the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

According to Islamic teachings the Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam, where pilgrims travel to the holy city of Mecca as part of an annual ritual. Every Muslim must fulfill this pilgrimage in his or her lifetime. The word Hajj means “to set out for a place,” which for Muslims that place is the holy city of Mecca.

Abdul Wahab, a Kandahar resident, saved up US\$3,000 to make this once in a lifetime journey, which seemed almost unreal. For the past three years Wahab has registered his name with the Ministry of Islamic and Hajj Affairs to travel to Mecca. Some may say the third time is a charm, which was Wahab’s case because this November he got the call and he packed his bags.

Every year, the Ministry of Islamic and Hajj Affairs allows a number of Afghans to register their names to travel to Saudi Arabia. Due to limited space not everyone who wants to travel and applies for the Hajj can go. “This is the first time that I got the chance to go to Mecca to complete all my Islamic rules and do my best for God,” said Wahab while waiting in line to enter the terminal at the airport. As he got his passport and boarding ticket, Wahab expressed that his heart was full of joy because this was a meaningful journey he was about to embark on. “It is important to me as a Muslim to go and I’m very lucky to go right now,” he said.

On the 27th of November, Wahab and another 114 passengers awaited for the Kam Air, Boeing 737 plane that would take them to Saudi Arabia. Kam Air, a commercial airline based in Afghanistan, was contracted by the Ministry of Islamic and Hajj Affairs to assist in the transportation of passengers during the Hajj this year.

Also among those traveling was Mire Ahmad, a 67-year old Muslim from Kandahar, District 4, who had never been either to Mecca or on a plane. On that day, Ahmad was excited and nervous as he waited to board the plane that would take him to the holy city. “When I’m 1,000 feet away in the sky it may be a little difficult for me because this is the first time I have flown,” said Ahmad, who was grateful to be chosen this year.

Of those chosen were 300 women travelling to Mecca, one of whom was Anafi Jan, 70 from Kandahar. She was travelling with her brother, “We are all Muslims and we respect our religion, so we have to support our Islamic rules and whatever it says for us to do,” said Jan. “I’m proud to be a Muslim and I’m going to the Kaaba, which is where I’m going to pray and ask God for peace and a better life.”

On the Ministry of Islamic and Hajj Affairs history website, the Kaaba is described as the House of God, dedicated to the simple and pure worship of the one true God. Historically Muslims believe that Prophet Muhammed was instructed by Allah to restore this sacred monument for worship only.

During her first visit to Mecca in 2003, Jan visited the Kaaba, where God told her that she should visit this sacred place not only one time, but twenty times if possible. She said that her promise to God is important to her, so once again this year she embarks on a journey she hopes to experience for many years to come.

To make this journey a safe one for everyone traveling this year, the Afghan Border Police (ABP) doubled its security efforts. Col Nassar, commander of the ABP, 4th Brigade, explained that all of the coordination took a great amount of time and effort from various entities, including the Hajj Ministry. During this Hajj season, at least 80 ABP officers are currently assisting at any given time. Nassar expressed that his main concern is safety. All ABP officers participating have made a great effort to ensure a peaceful journey to all passengers.





OP



OQAB



Bank Opens Its Doors In Qalat City

*Cpt Kevin G Tuttle (US-AF)
PIO PRT Qalat*

Qalat residents and government officials celebrated the opening of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) on the 7th of December as part of Zabul Province's reconstruction plan and city developments.

Accompanying Zabul Governor Del Bar Jan Arman was the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team commander and representatives of the United States Agency for International Development as well as other provincial leaders.

This USAID project began in January and cost approximately US\$374,000. The bank is currently fully operational with five customer service windows, various offices and a security vault.

USAID representative in Zabul, Jennifer Ragland, addressed Qalat residents and government officials at the ceremony. "We would like to say thank you to the people of Qalat for your support during the construction of this beautiful facility," said Ragland, who

has been working closely with Governor Arman on various projects. "I would also like to acknowledge the support of security forces, Afghan and Coalition that have helped to create a secure environment in this area for the project to flourish. It is because of these efforts that we are here today," added Ragland.

DAB is responsible for providing banking services to all Afghan National Police officers. DAB's new paying system called, Individual Salary Payment Programme, will ensure payment to all officers in the region every month.

DAB Director Jaliani was also present at the ceremony and ensured that the facility will be of great benefit to the people in Qalat. "We worked hard on this building for one year and we needed training to improve our skills in making this building," said Jaliani. "We even got computer training from USAID. We will be able to do our jobs well because of this nice facility. It will be very easy for us to manage the police payments now. Our progress is going very well and the police will get their salaries on time."



TV Station Paves Way For Kapisa's Future

*Pfc Anna K Perry (US-A)
19th Public Affairs Detachment*

The grand opening of a new television station on the 21st of November marked the dawning of a new communication era for the people of central Afghanistan's Kapisa province.

The capital city's new TV station, the Government-run Radio Television Afghanistan, will provide the citizens of the province with local news and entertainment broadcasts, and give Governor Abdul Satar Morad the means to directly communicate with his people by broadcasting announcements or press conferences. "It is the responsibility of every citizen to help Afghanistan, and hopefully the people will be encouraged to do so after getting information straight from their government," Morad said.

"Right now, the residents of Kapisa are only receiving satellite TV from other countries, so they aren't getting information relevant to their lives," said Staff Sgt Levi Dahlstrom, who serves with the 405th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"This station will be a great thing for Kapisa. Communication has been difficult because it's hard for our vehicles to access some of the villages ... but most of the people have access to a TV," said Dahlstrom. It is hoped that the station will soon expand to include advertising to generate revenue for the province and entertainment for the people's enjoyment. In the meantime, being able to receive accurate information from their leadership is a huge step in communication for the province.

"It has been said that knowledge is power, so this TV station, coupled with a free press, will provide the people of Kapisa with important news and information and therefore, power," said Brig Gen Anthony Tata, deputy commanding general for support, RC East. "You are demonstrating your desire for knowledge, to be informed citizens and to participate in this growing democracy," Tata added.



First ANA Engineer De-Mining Class

Sgt Nina J. Ramón(US-A)
345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Twenty Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers completed the first ANA engineer de-mining class at Bagram on the 20th of November. The 40-day course was designed by Combined Task Force (CTF) Chamberlain to graduate soldiers with a United Nations Level II area clearance certification and was taught by UN trainers with the assistance of the Bagram Mine Action Centre.

The ANA soldiers conducted regular practical training exercises and each student was equipped with a personal tool kit and mine detectors. Subjects studied included probing, metal mine detection, equipment maintenance and all aspects of safety. "We learned how to properly dispose of mines such as anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. With the instruction I received here in the course I will be able to use my new skills to help rid the land of the mines," said Cpt Hani Fullah.

Over many years, mines and explosive devices have been scattered throughout Afghanistan making life dangerous for Afghans. "Mines and explosive devices are widely used by the enemies of Afghanistan to attack Afghan Army and Police forces," said Lt Col Leslie Swartz, CTF Chamberlain commander.

"The soldiers here today have learned skills that will help them safely find and remove these devices," he said. "Their skill and bravery in carrying out this task can be a significant benefit to the Army of Afghanistan if they are used in this way."



Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams

Cpt Lisa Tankaria-Clifford (UK-A)
PIO HQ ISAF

At the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC) a group of servicemen watch and listen during a presentation about what the American Embedded Training Teams (ETTs) have been doing with the Afghan National Army (ANA). The ETTs are groups of servicemen who are attached to the Afghan National Army at company, *kandak* (battalion), and brigade level to assist with the development of their capability in both carrying out operations and being able to support those operations.

As ISAF has taken command throughout Afghanistan during the year the US ETTs have begun to be replaced. NATO calls these groups Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams (OMLTs) and they can range in size from 19 to 45 personnel. The group attending the induction course run by HQ ISAF with Task Force Phoenix from the Netherlands are about to deploy. As an OMLT they will be mentoring Afghan troops in how they go about their daily business and developing the ANA so that in the future it will be able to conduct training and operations on its own.

Their three-day induction course includes briefs on the current situation in Afghanistan, the ANA and its structure, including a visit to the Kabul Military Training Centre and information about combat enablers. The visit to the KMTC allows the team to see how the ANA train as well as recognising the differences in its structure and the type of equipment used. When they saw the age range of recruits is more diverse than in their own country and that the ANA is still in its infancy compared to other armies, the reality of what the team will meet in their time as the OMLT, was brought home.

As part of their handover the OMLT will spend 30 days working with the existing ETT in a 'Right Seat /Left Seat Ride'. In this period the incoming team will work with the outgoing team and be validated in the process. As the 30 days progress the OMLT will gradually takeover more of the training and operations. The validation is carried out by ISAF and is vital; without it the team cannot function as an OMLT and would have to have members of the ETT with them at all times.

On completion of the training this new OMLT will be split so some will work within the headquarters of the *kandak*, whilst the others are split between the companies. The mix of trades of the servicemen with the OMLT is vital as each brings a component that will enhance the development of the ANA.



Sabr Information Campaign

LTC Jackie Fouquereau (FR-A)
PIO RC Capital

In order that Regional Command (Capital) (RC(C)) operational communication line was understood and explained to the Afghan people Brigadier General Frank Le Bot presented it at a press conference to Afghan and international media. Brigadier General Le Bot went on to explain the significance of each word individually.

This concept of operations is based on a simple concept contained in one word: Sabr, which means be patient in both Dari and Pashto, as well as symbolising an acronym. Each one of these letters defines the first letter of a key word linked to Sabr:

- S= Sulha (peace)
- A= Amniyat (security)
- B= Bazsazi (reconstruction)
- R= Rehayat (respect)

Sulha: The persistence of insecurity is one of the principal challenges the Afghan authorities have to face. Violence continues to threaten the life of the citizens, the rebuilding of the State and economic development. Under these conditions, our military engagement should not be slackened. We need reciprocal respect and an active cooperation to reach the most important goal for Afghanistan: a peaceful and a prosperous country.

Amniyat: The aim of the RC(C) mission is to support and assist as efficiently as possible the Government. The consolidation of safety is the key to durable stability.

Bazsazi: Constant and unanimous support of the International Community contributes plainly to the stabilisation of Afghanistan in the long-term. In RC(C) the work of the CIMIC teams contributes to this reconstruction.

Rehayat: To maintain good relations with the Afghan people, RC(C) units have to respect the Afghan culture, customs and religion. RC(C) units consider that respect for the people of Afghanistan and their faith is to be central to all we do. RC-C soldiers act

professionally within the framework of the law and behave in an Afghan culturally sensitive manner.

Sabr is a simple word, but it carries a deeper message of patience. The return of peace, security, the rebuilding and respect is a long process after the decades of conflict and it requires a long-term commitment, not just of ISAF but the Afghan community.

Some progress has been achieved in the last few years, a real challenge in respect of the partnership between the government, security forces and international community in order to reach the autonomy of all Afghan institutions. Of course some long-term problems remain that need effort both from the International Community and the Government of Afghanistan.



Turkish Battle Group Continue Aid Assistance

*Cpt Savas Bayraktar & Cpt Kamil Erdogan (TU-A)
CIMIC Leader TU BG & PIO RC(C)*

A humanitarian aid campaign comprising of medical help, school donations and food aid was organised by the Turkish Task Force in Camp Dogan.

A standard provision box was arranged for poor Afghans. The provision consisted of basic foods including flour, sugar, vegetable oil, tea, macaroni, dates, rice, bean, and other basic needs. The food boxes were being obtained by contributions from not only Turkish soldiers but also many different nations' soldiers and some civilians.

The humanitarian aid boxes were collected and distributed by the Turkish CIMIC team. Aid boxes were donated to people both in Camp Dogan and in the villages of Bagrami, Khaki Jabbar, Malek Kheyli, Khvord Kabul, Mumuzi, Pol-e Charki. Approximately 700 poor Afghan families received the boxes during Ramadan. Also, during Ramadan on 30th of September and 16th of November breaking fast dinners were served to governors, *maleks*, and Imams in order to strengthen relationships with local

leaders, and show respect towards the Muslim and Afghan cultures.

Stationery packages containing notebooks, a pencil, a rubber, a pencil sharpener and chalk, were given to students and teachers in Mumuzi School. A further donation was made to 150 students and 90 teachers in Dehkhadad girl school in Police District 16. Besides these desks, tables, blackboards, chairs, and the electricity generator at Kabul Atatürk High School were renewed and repaired.

Medical aid, one of the most noticeable activities of the Turkish Battle Group, is an ongoing project. The doctors of the Turkish hospital have continued to give assistance to the local community through both the Turkish Battle Group Infirmary and Mobile Medical Team. In a three-month period the Turkish doctors have examined 3,000 Afghan people. During October 1,159 locals were given medical help in the Battle Group's infirmary, and 143 people were examined in their villages. The Turkish Medical Mobile Team treated 358 people Mumuzi in Khaki Jabbar and in Derbent. In addition 85 dental patients were seen in October.



Afghan National Police Training Centre Inaugurated

*1Sgt Rolf Walter (GE-A)
PIO RC North*

At the end of October the last of a total of five Afghan National Police (ANP) Training Centres was formally inaugurated in Mazar-e Sharif, the capital of the northern Afghan province of Balkh.

The significance of this inauguration was twofold: the formal creation of the ANP Regional Command North with General Fazli as its first commander, with about 130 policemen, on the one hand; and the provision of US\$20 million worth of equipment by the United States on the other.

Apart from the Afghan Minister of the Interior, Zazar Ahmad Moqbel, the guests of honour included representatives from the German and US embassies, the Governor of Balkh Province, and the Commander of the Regional Command North, General Volker Barth.

The ANP Regional Commander North, General Fazli, welcomed the large number of guests and expressed his gratitude for the trust put in him and for the excellent support and cooperation with ISAF. "We will fight against corruption and drug trafficking in our country. We will give back a sense of security to our people," he defined as his objectives.



ISAF Helicopter Delivers Essential Supplies

*Yahya Najafizada
FMT PRT Mazar-e Sharif*

Help has been brought to Badghis province after flooding killed more than 50 people and destroyed several houses. German CH-53 helicopters air dropped essential supplies to the area, relieving the immediate humanitarian needs of those affected.

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and ISAF troops helped affected citizens in the Ghormach district of Badghis province, after a mud slide, generated by flooding, gushed into the village. ISAF delivered essential supplies with helicopters and trucks. The MRRD, UNAMA and the Red Cross have provided blankets, tents, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, food packages and medicine to the area.

The supplies were delivered with the help of two CH-53 helicopters and a C-160 transport plane. Additionally two helicopters of the Afghan National Army were involved in this combined emergency operation. Due to the bad weather conditions in the area, air delivery of some of the cargo was not possible and it was unloaded at the airfield in Meymaneh and transported to the flood affected area by truck.

Besides delivering the relief supply, an ISAF medical team treated the people in the flooded area as well. "The first main focus for us is to support the suffering people of Ghormach district and in cooperation with the government of Afghanistan, we will do our best for the flood victims of Badghis," said the spokesperson of RC North, Major Jürgen Fischer, at the time. "We do everything we can for the people."



Change Of Command At PRT Meymaneh

*Lt Tuomas Kainulainen(FI-A)
Media Ops PRT Meymaneh*

In a ceremony held at Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Meymaneh in Faryab on the 12th of December, the outgoing commander Lt Col Leif Petter Sommerseth said that during his six-month period the PRT rebuilt its camp, "at world record speed, and has since increased the tempo of its operations, contributing a lot to security in the area".

"Since June 2006 the PRT has supported the Government of Afghanistan to extend its authority in Faryab. Of course we have not done this by ourselves alone. We have worked well with the provincial authorities, with the Afghan National Police (ANP) and the Afghan National Army (ANA). I thank you for the cooperation," Lt Col Sommerseth stated during his speech to the peacekeepers and to the guests that included Mr Satar Barez, Deputy Governor of Faryab province and Mr Mohammed Sadique, Deputy Chief of Police.

In his speech Mr Satar Barez thanked the ISAF troops for their excellent job and for the support shown to the national authorities, which has meant that international terrorism has not been

able to settle down in the province of Faryab. "The people of Faryab have seen the great work you have done. They have witnessed a lot of reconstruction projects you have achieved," Mr Satar Barez added.

Lt Col Sommerseth transferred command to his Norwegian colleague, Lt Col Arne Opperud. "I will continue the great work of my predecessor. It is a hard mission, but a mission that is possible," Lt Col Opperud said.

Since June, ISAF's Norwegian-led PRT in Meymaneh has initiated and financed nine wells for the city, donated anaesthesia equipment to the provincial hospital and have started to build a mosque at Meymaneh's ANA camp.

Additionally the PRT has continued to support the ANP by constructing police stations in Andkhoy, Almar, Qaisar and Shirin Tagab. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland is funding the construction projects with 1.7 million Euros. In addition, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has donated US\$380,000 to these projects. The buildings have been constructed by local construction companies using a standard design.



