



# ISAF MIRROR

Issue 42 August 2007

## **AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES**

**Getting bigger,  
stronger,  
better prepared  
-- every day!**

- **NATO reaffirms Afghan commitment**
- **ANSF, ISAF defeat IEDs together**
- **PRT Meymaneh in action**
- **ISAF Docs provide for long-term care**

## 4 **NATO & HQ ISAF**

- NATO reaffirms commitment
- Conference concludes

## 5 **Commemorations**

- Marking D-Day and more

## 6 **RC-West**

- DCOM Stability visits Farah

## 7 **Chaghcharan**

- Gen. Satta visits PRT

## 8 **ANA ready**

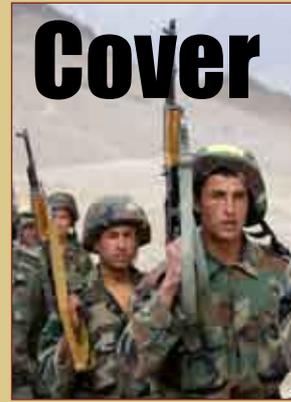
- Camp Zafar prepares troops

## 9 **Security shura**

- Women's roundtable in Farah

## 10 **ANSF focus**

- ANSF, ISAF train for IEDs



ANA soldiers in training.

*Photo by Sgt. Ruud Mol*

ANSF ready to react .....  
turn to page 8.

## 11 **ANA ops**

- ANP scores victory in Ghazni
- ANP repels attack on town

## 12 **RC-Capital**

- Sharing cultures
- MEDEVAC ex, celebrations

## 13 **RC-North**

- Meymaneh donates blood
- New CC for PRT



## Raising the cup

Macedonian mid fielder Goran Boleski kisses the cup after his team won HQ ISAF's football final. An elated team-mate and team captain Elvis Todorovski looks on.

*Photo by Sgt. Ruud Mol*

For more on the championship .....  
turn to page 22.

## 14 RC-South

- NAMSA improves life at KAF

## 15 **RAF aids nomads**

- Humanitarian help for Kuchis
- Victory for Afghan farmers

## 16 **A magical effect**

- Aussie, Afghan engineers team up

## 17 **Keeping cargo rollin'**

- Combined team moves it at Qalat
- ISAF, ANSF open new checkpoint

## 18 RC-East

- ISAF docs provide for the long term

## 19 **A good dam job**

- PRT repairs Band-e-Sultan Dam
- Bambakot flourishes due to aid

## 20 **RC-East update**

- Extremists try to mortar hospital
- Polish take lead in Uruzgan BG

## 21 **RC-East ops**

- Village elders banish Taliban
- ANSF, ISAF repel attack
- Extremists defeated in Ghazni
- Bagram rocketed

## 22 **Compass Points**

- FYROM takes football crown



The ISAF Mirror is a HQ ISAF Public Information product. Articles, where possible, have been kept in their original form. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect official NATO, JFC HQ Brunssum or ISAF policy. Photo credits are attributed to the authors of the submission, unless otherwise stated. Submissions can be e-mailed to:

[pressoffice@isaf-hq.nato.int](mailto:pressoffice@isaf-hq.nato.int)

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 at 0799 511230.

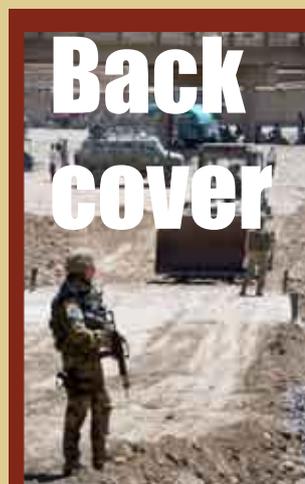
The electronic version of this magazine can be downloaded online at:  
[www.nato.int/isaf](http://www.nato.int/isaf)

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Lieutenant Colonel Maria Carl  
Chief, Public Information

Technical Sgt. James Fisher  
Editor

Sgt. Ruud Mol  
Photographer



A security detail ensures workers from the 32nd Engineer Regiment can complete work on the Red Circle bridge bypass in Kabul. *Photo by Sgt. Ruud Mol*



**Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from more than eight NATO countries stand tall during a commemoration of D-Day -- the Allied invasion of Europe June 6, 1944. The invasion and Battle of Normandy were critical to the eventual Allied victory in World War II. Estimates put total casualty figures for the invasion at more than 17,000 killed, wounded, missing and captured. Photo by Sgt. Raud Mol**

## Extraordinary Conference concludes

*NATO staff reports*

The Extraordinary Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) requested by the Russian Federation concluded June 15. This conference took place in Vienna from June 11 through 15.

The 22 members of the North Atlantic Alliance, who are States Parties to the treaty considered the Russian Federation's stated security concerns, which were the basis for requesting the conference and have suggested a positive and constructive way forward in their proposal for a final document.

The participating allies reaffirmed the alliance's commitment to the CFE regime as expressed by heads of state and government at the NATO Riga Summit. They regret that not agreeing on a final document and urge the Russian Federation to engage in continuing dialogue.

## NATO reaffirms commitment to Afghanistan

Defence ministers from 26 NATO countries and the 11 non-NATO countries supporting NATO's mission in Afghanistan reaffirmed their determination to stay the course in Afghanistan at a meeting in Brussels June 15.

NATO's mission was the focus of the second day of a NATO Defence Ministers meeting, with the Afghan Defence Minister, Abdul Rahim Wardak, and representatives of non-NATO troop-contributing countries taking part.

"With your support and help Afghanistan has been delivered from the ashes of destruction, tyranny and decades of civil war," said Wardak, "Now we have hope for a bright future."

### No moral equivalency

The need to do more to train and equip the Afghan National Army was stressed, and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told reporters a number of

countries volunteered to send additional mentoring and liaison teams.

"We are not there yet," De Hoop Scheffer told reporters. "We do need more training teams to keep up the pace."

Ministers also discussed specific measures to reduce casualties among civilians as a result of NATO's actions.

This includes strict implementation of rules of engagement, better coordination with US-led forces, timely investigations of incidents, as well as post-humanitarian relief funds for families and communities that have been affected by NATO actions.

"But I say once again, NATO-ISAF does not indiscriminately kill people. That's what the Taliban does, roadside bombs, suicide bombers, they make by far the most civilian casualties," stressed the NATO Secretary General. "We do everything to prevent that from happening."

"The bottom line is this: 37 NATO-ISAF countries will stay the course," he added, "For all of us Afghanistan is really that long-term commitment."

The Secretary General also stressed that there was a need to step up civil and military cooperation in support of Afghan reconstruction.



## Honours and celebrations

HQ ISAF took part in several celebrations in May and June. In addition to NATO's commemoration of D-Day, U.S. troops at the HQ celebrated Memorial Day May 28 and the U.S. Army's Birthday June 14, celebrating 232 years of service since its inception during the American War for Independence in 1775. (Left) A joint colour guard present the colours during the Memorial Day commemoration. (Above) Commander of ISAF General Dan McNeill (centre) and Lance Corporal Derek Jabben and Specialist Charlene Carter lay a wreath in tribute to their fallen comrades. Below, McNeill, the oldest soldier at ISAF, cuts a birthday cake with the youngest soldier, Specialist Victor Cordero, in keeping with Army tradition for the event.





ISAF's Deputy Commander for Stability, Major General Garry Robison, meets with members of the provincial council during his recent visit to Farah in Regional Command-West.

## DCOM Stability visits Farah people, officials

Story and photo by Gina Gillespie  
PRT Farah

Extending governance to the people was the theme behind DCOM Stability's recent visit to Farah City. Major General Garry Robison, deputy commander Stability for ISAF, paid a first-time visit to Farah province in an effort to see the area's issues first-hand instead of from a headquarters-only perspective.

Muhammad Suleman Kakar, a senior advisor from the Ministry of Education, and Mr. Mashal from the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in Kabul accompanied the general.

DCOM Stability visited Farah City's new Education Centre, the Women's Affairs Department, the new courthouse, and the Agricultural High School. A key message the general passed to each department was the importance of capacity building.

"I sense an optimism from the people to be able to achieve things by themselves. We have no right to be telling you what we think is important.

"I think it is key to develop your own

capacity. Take advantage of the international community's forte, but as soon as possible, say thank you, we can do things for ourselves. That is what the international community wants as well," Robison said.

The General gave four reasons for his visit to Farah:

- To visit PRT Farah since he is responsible for PRTs across the country
- To provide an opportunity for his colleagues in government to meet the people and discuss the issues face to face
- To ensure that those who work at headquarters expand their perspective to the rural level

■ A desire to see as much of Afghanistan as possible during his tour of duty

The importance of education was stressed by the decision to have Suleman Kakar accompany the general to Farah.

"The importance of education is well understood and the international community realizes that it is by providing education to your children that the next generation of this great country will prosper and blossom. There is a commitment by the international community, by

the PRTs and more importantly from the Education Ministry. It is not for us to do this. It is developing the ministry's capacity to get out and help in the provinces that is so important," Robison said.

At the end of the tour, Robison stopped to shake hands with the children in the street, and was surprised at their ability to speak English.

"The most precious resource that Farah province has is in the brain power of its children," said PRT Farah's Commander Frank Hughlett.

**"I sense an optimism from the people to be able to achieve things by themselves ... I think it is key to develop your own capacity,"**

*--Major General Garry Robison*



## RC-West commander tours Chaghcharan



Regional Command-West Commander Brigadier General Antonio Satta (centre) and Provincial Reconstruction Team in Ghowr, Commander Colonel Dalius Polekauskas (right) tour the area outside of PRT Chaghcharan during his recent visit to the area.

### RC-West staff reports

Chaghcharan – PRT in Chaghcharan was visited by the commander of Regional Command West Brigadier General Antonio Satta with a delegation, including the incoming commander Brigadier General Fausto Macor. A change-of-command ceremony is slated for July. Satta and his delegation met with the PRT-5 Commander Colonel Dalius Polekauskas, Chief of Staff Lt. Colonel Darius Vaicikauskas, Assistant Head of Special Mission Tomas Urbonas, and other officers responsible for coordination of other operation areas. The visit was done for the purpose of coordination, addressing the PRT-5 operation, projects and issues of provincial development, security, and stability ensurment.

The guests familiarized themselves with the priority areas of the PRT-5 operation and special mission development projects and financing. Satta was interested in cooperation of the PRT-5 and provin-

### Ghowr development

The Lithuanian government, which funds PRT Chaghcharan, tripled allocations for cooperative development projects in Ghowr:

■ **More than 4 million Litas (about 1.15 million Euro) in 2007**

cial authorities and attitude of the locals towards the PRT.

Lithuania is responsible for reconstruction of the Ghowr province, one of the poorest provinces in Afghanistan. Each sector, including education, public health, security, development of administrative competencies, economic expansion, or any other, demands a lot of effort. The strenuous work goes toward helping the provincial government acquire confidence of its citizens and to improve living conditions

of the people in the region, especially of those living in remote areas.

The general said that the extremely poor region is getting a great effort from the PRT.

“I believe the work done by the Lithuanian-led PRT and members from its partner countries is outstanding. As the Ghowr province is the most poverty-stricken throughout Afghanistan, it is in need of extra support. We try to attract as many non-governmental organisations as possible to such regions in order to facilitate development projects,” Satta said.

This year the Lithuanian government tripled allocations for the Ghowr cooperative development projects to 4 million Litas (about 1.15 million Euro). It has also attempted to raise funds of other donors in the province. The PRT was the first to send a project-based application to receive financing from the European Commission Fund.



# ANA becomes ready to react at Camp Zafar

Story by Warrant Officer Gaetano Tuoro and photos by G Zaccario

RC – WEST Public Information Office

CAMP ZAFAR -- It is here that the Afghan National Army is developing its capabilities to achieve the task that the Afghan nation has entrusted to it: to ensure a safe a secure environment and to defend the fatherland from enemies.

It is also here that the Afghan National Army is training its own soldiers and that a modern and technological Army is being built up. Comparable professionalism with ISAF, the use of modern weapons and equipment, and increased capability in decision-making and organization are targets of the ANA, according to Major General Abdul Wahab Walizadah, a commander here.

"I'm optimistic about the future of ANA, because everyday it grows stronger. We have better training and reforms and the soldiers are very hard working. In addition, they are very proud to serve in the Army and know what to do in order to be accepted by the authorities and population," the general said. "Therefore, in the near future, the ANA will provide good benefits for the people of this land."

Recent events that exemplified what

the ANA is trying to accomplish through training here included a recent command post exercise.

The ANA's 207th Corps, supported by joint and combined forces, commenced offensive operations in the "enemy denial" area of operations. This was exercised to eliminate or capture insurgent forces in order to restore freedom of movement on the ring road and to restore the district to Afghan Governmental Control.

Upon completion of offensive drills, the 207th conducted civil-military operations throughout the restored province until May 26.

"The purpose of the exercise was double: to practice short-notice orders writing procedures using the deliberate military decision making process in the production of separate corps and brigade operations orders; and to familiarize corps and brigade staffs with support and coordination requirements necessary for operating in the areas where insurgents frequently transit," said Lt. Colonel V Grasso, the chief of staff for the Italian Operational Mentoring Liaison Team. The OMLT is assigned to these ANA units in the area.

This part of exercise is to improve the cooperation between ISAF and the ANA,

Grasso explained, because it is important to have cooperation, coordination, and to build synergy.

"They are learning everyday new techniques of the way they need to operate in order to improve their effectiveness. They are learning how to do the cross boundary operation, and they are learning how to work in their own tactical operation centre better," Grasso said.

ANA recruits are pleased with the progress and the opportunity to better their country and secure its future, according to soldiers at the camp. In the army, the soldiers said, the youth of Afghanistan can satisfy their desires by participating in an active role for a modern Afghanistan.

"I joined the Army because of the opportunity to help and serve the people in our country and to ensure their security," said an ANA officer from the 207th. "We all expect security be ensured in our country, so we can lead a comfortable and safe life. And the national army has a clear purpose: it allows all the ethnic groups to serve alongside each other in support of the people of Afghanistan. There are no barriers to ethnic diversity, language and culture here."



Afghan National Army soldiers train on the obstacle course at Camp Zafar recently.



# Security shura in Delaram

Story by Gina Gillespie  
PRT Farah

Improving security is a top priority for Farah governor Mawlawi Mohideen Baluch. It is so important to him that he recently left Farah city to attend a security shura in Farah province's newest district of Delaram.

Abdul Qadir Daqiq Golestani, president of the Provincial Council, stood by his side at the shura, along with PRT Farah Commander Frank Hughlett. Together they met village elders from Bakwa, Bala Baluk, Golestan and Delaram. These districts experience frequent Taliban attacks, adversely affecting any attempts at reconstruction.

Governor Baluch's speech to the shura focused on three areas: asking the villagers to take responsibility for security in their districts; working with the government to get rid of the Taliban; and supporting reconstruction.

Religious elder Mawlawi Yahya spoke of the meaning of the word Taliban, which refers to a student.

"These guys are not students of Islam. They are killers and murderers," he said. "This is not the Muslim way of living." He called for people to welcome the efforts of the international community to help Afghanistan rebuild.

"This is Afghanistan's chance, and the Taliban are trying to stop it," he said.

Returning from Delaram, the group stopped at a village where two ANP soldiers, a doctor and the doctor's son had been murdered by the Taliban the previous day. The governor, with the head of the Provincial Council at his side, held an impromptu shura for approximately 50 people, speaking on the importance of improving security before reconstruction in the area can begin.

"Even if we don't reap a lot from the security shura, the mere fact of getting the governor out to the district to connect with the people, accompanied by the president of the Provincial Council, was huge. It's going to pay big dividends in the future," said Hughlett. "I am optimistic something good is going to come from this."



## First-ever women's rountable at Farah

Story by Gina Gillespie  
PRT Farah

The time was noon. The place was PRT Farah. The event was the first-ever Women's' Roundtable gathering.

The participants varied in age from 15 to 50, and covered a range of professions: Provincial Council members; teachers; journalists; administrators; women's rights activists. There was even a female interpreter, and an Afghan National Army guard.

Outwardly the women appeared very different. Some wore the uniform of the United States Army or Navy. Some wore stylish business-suits. Most were draped in black. But despite the differences in appearance, the women came together with some common goals – to make friends, enjoy a meal and work towards making Afghanistan a better place for women.

Captain Amanda Breslin hosted the event. She led the women in a discussion of issues, such as child marriages, spousal abuse, bride burning and unemployment.

The possibility of introducing small business loans to the women of Farah City occupied a large part of the agenda. A brainstorming session suggested several possibilities for home-based businesses, including making peanut butter, pasta and mulberry

preserves to sell at the bazaar. Fifteen-year-old Rasma spoke for the younger generation, suggesting an internet café for women. The women were asked to develop some strong business ideas and come up with a business plan in order to make this micro-financing plan work.

The fact that PRT Farah has a female interpreter was greatly appreciated, as it allowed for a female-only discussion group.

"During this meeting, women's rights issues were discussed, and the PRT showed that they are paying attention to women. Today we have a female translating what we say to other women. It is very important to see Afghan women working here," said Razia Hakimi, head of the organization Afghans Defending Women's Rights.

Many women expressed appreciation at being asked for their input, instead of constantly seeking advice from the same department heads again and again.

"In the past they have invited only two or three women to the PRT, but this time they asked the opinion of many women. I have an idea that if we continue these meetings, we will solve our problems," said Jamila Faize, a principal at fourth district school.

The meeting was such a success that the women decided to make it a monthly event.



## Comm check on IEDs



Cordon commanders for the exercise from the Afghan National Police (right) and Turkish Forces (left) in ISAF set up communication before the day's first exercise.

# ANSF, ISAF defeat IEDs together

Story by Technical Sgt. Jim Fisher and photos by Sgt. Ruud Mol

KABUL, Afghanistan – The International Security Assistance Force is working more closely with Afghan National Security Forces to defeat improvised explosive devices. Afghan soldiers, police and other government security forces joined ISAF May 26 in IED exercises at a base in the capital.

The exercise, named New Freedom



An ISAF EOD member uses robotic technology to view an IED.

by ISAF officials directing the event, was designed to increase cooperation and coordination between all friendly forces operating in Afghanistan, according to counter-IED officials. "Cooperation and coordination save lives" was the theme for the day-long event.

"We are all here for one reason only: to save people's lives. This is all about the preservation of life," said an ISAF official who is not named for security reasons, from the counter-IED department at ISAF Headquarters.

He went on to explain that everyone involved was enthusiastic and commitment to successful interaction.

"The Afghan National Security Forces were helpful and quite professional. Everyone wants to improve; everyone wants to get better at countering this threat."

The teams, which included multi-faceted forces from different nations within ISAF and Afghan National Army, Police and other security forces, worked together on responding to a number of different IED scenarios.

By having IED and explosive ordnance disposal teams from ANSF and ISAF working the same scenario allowed each team to see how the others worked and approached IED safeing and exploitation.

This process improved their capability to work together, and led to sharing the latest, most-effective information and procedures, according to Lt. Peter Majewicz, a member of the exercise IED detection team.

"What I observed here was a lot of different organizations coming together and communicating," he said. "And they all brought their own methodologies to countering IEDs. Everyone wants the same solution, but everybody has different methods. That's the great thing about this exercise: we all get to observe each other and we all get to learn."

The lieutenant said learning will mean a more effective counter-IED force for Afghanistan, a vital affect considering the threat.

"The final product is that we are going to be stronger in combating IEDs, which are the number one threat to personnel here," Majewicz said.

ANSF members taking part also found the experience beneficial, according to ANP member Lt. Colonel Sahid.

"It was so good to take part in this cooperative training. I was so excited to be a part of it," Sahid said. "We challenge with how to cordon off an area and to

*continued next page*



**A EOD team member takes steps to destroy an IED in place after the threat to the public has been eliminated.**

cooperate with other teams as we were doing this – especially the EOD teams. We learned their steps and procedures in depth.”

Technology used by some of the ISAF forces was new, but techniques were more important, the lieutenant colonel explained.

“I have experience with IEDs, but we’ve seen new techniques here and coordination methods,” Sahid said.

Throughout the day, participants tackled a series of objectives, including improving inter-agency cooperation and coordination; exercising tactics, techniques and procedures; understanding roles and responsibilities; improving capabilities; and identifying future challenges. All were met, according to exercise officials.

This is important, considering the ability of IEDs to destroy lives and disrupt security in Afghanistan. IEDs placed by Taliban extremists have claimed more than 200 lives so far in 2007, including the lives of more than 70 innocent civilians. More than 280 Afghans have been wounded by the blasts. While more than 200 attacks have been prevented, ISAF and ANSF are looking to improve their rate of thwarting IED attacks.

**Editor’s note:** *for security reasons, several of the sources and photo subjects were not named in this story.*



## ANP defeats enemy force in Ghazni

*RC-East staff reports*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO – Afghan National Police officers quick response in the Kotai Sagee Village, Ander District, June 2 prevented the destruction of a school and a check point.

An unknown insurgent force attacked a blocking position, a blockade setup to deny freedom of movement for enemies of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and more than 30 officers mobilized to the area to defeat the insurgent force.

“The enemy attempted to attack our forces at a checkpoint located across from a school. It appears to be a small group of insurgents who fired rockets and small arms fire at the police,” said Muhammad Naiyz Razmahammed Wardak, deputy commander of the ANP in Eastern Afghanistan. “We were quickly able to move additional police to the location and the cowards were forced to retreat.”

The increased ANP and Afghan National Army presence is part of Operation Maiwand, an effort to separate the Taliban from the people in the districts of Ander,

Giro, Qarabagh and Waghez. International Security Assistance Forces are supporting the ANSF during the operation in Ghazni Province.

Throughout the conduct of operations, ANSF will step up patrols in order to clear villages and districts of members of the Taliban’s shadow government that attempts to use intimidation and fear to enforce its laws.

## ANP repel attack on ZK District Center

*RC-East staff reports*

BAGRAM AIRFIELD – Afghan National Police repelled an attack on the Zana Kahn District Centre, Ghazni Province, late last night and into the early morning hours.

The Provincial Coordination Centre reported seeing 120 Taliban armed with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades at approximately 8:45 p.m. May 27. A Quick Reaction Force was sent to the location, where they joined forces with six ANP vehicles. The extremists fled the district centre less than three hours later.

One ANP officer was killed in the attack. There are no other reports of injuries at this time.



# Regional Command Capital

## MEDEVAC training

*RC-C staff reports*

Camp Warehouse -- In May, Region Command Capital organized three MEDEVAC exercises to improve operational capability of all units and also to enhance current operating procedures. These improvement are aimed at reducing the time it takes for MEDEVAC units to reach, treat and transport patients.

Each Battle Group within the Capital region, including Italian, Turkish and French units, received training during these exercises, in their own areas of operation.

Each exercise had a similar setup: during a patrol, an IED strike caused two injuries requiring the move of a quick reaction force to secure the spot and facilitate an air MEDEVAC.

Another main focus of the exercises was multinational cooperation. Each exercise mobilized about 50 passengers and from two to four helicopters.

## Sports day

*RC-Capital staff reports*

Camp Warehouse -- Kabul University hosted Commander of Regional Command-Capital Brig. Gen. Kasim Erdem for the May 19 Commemoration of the Ataturk Youth and Sports Fest, which is celebrated every year in Turkey. This day is dedicated to Youth in order to emphasize the significance of their shouldering burdens related to the country's future and to stress the importance of sports' role in improving human relations, social life and body system.

Exploiting every opportunity to meet public and Afghan youth, Erdem also attended this festival at the university.

"You, teachers, doctors, engineers, economists, and scientists of the future: all together side by side, hand in hand, you are going to build new, modern, prosperous Afghanistan," Erdem said. "Dear students, this is a really big and important responsibility for you. So you have to improve yourself with modern knowledge and continually develop your skills and you



**Members of multiple nations from RC-Capital participate in traditional Bulgarian folk dancing during a recent multi-national reception held at Camp Warehouse. More than 200 people participated in the cultural exchange, featuring cultural exhibitions from Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Italy and Turkey.**

also have to provide information that you learn to other people surrounding you."

## Teachers Day

*RC-Capital staff reports*

Camp Warehouse -- Since the May 24 is celebrated as Teachers' Day in Afghanistan, the Turkish Civil Military Cooperation Team organized an a celebration of this special day for the teachers who work in Shinah Girl High School in Bagrami.

Commander of Regional Command-Capital Brigadier General Kasim Erdem and other officials joined Lailuba Gadahi, head of the teachers, to honour 25 teachers in attendance.

In his opening speech, Erdem emphasized the importance of the education in a secure and stable environment.

"Teachers have very critical responsibilities and duties for the development of the country as the shape-giving hands to the future's engineers, doctors, teachers, leaders -- the country's prosperity," Erdem said.

Then director of the school, Dilala Safi, expressed her joy and thanks to the organizers.

"I'm very happy to see the ISAF units beside us on this very important day and want to express my gratitude to General

Erdem for the provisions of a safe place to conduct education."

After the speeches, the CIMIC team handed out 25 teacher kits comprised of stationary and radios to the teachers.

## Police training graduation

*RC-Capital staff reports*

KABUL --Camp Dogan hosted a group of policemen for training courses recently, including road control point establishment, road blocking, vehicle and personnel searching, intervention in social incidents and police equipment.

A ceremony then took place after the police group finished the course successfully with the attendance of Regional Command-Capital G3 Chief Colonel Hasan Usyilmaz.

After Usyilmaz congratulated the attendees, PD 1 Police Chief Col. Abdurrahman Rahimi complemented the group and the training program.

"This training will be very useful for our policemen in dealing with stabilizing the area and provision of secure environment. Thanks to the Turkish Battle Group for creating this opportunity for us."



## PRT donates blood to save woman

*HQ ISAF staff reports*

MEYMANEH – In cooperation with a local hospital, members of ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Team Meymaneh donated blood June 17 to save the life of an Afghan woman.

A mother's life was in danger at a local hospital, according to a PRT Meymaneh official. She suffered severe blood loss during a complicated Caesarean section, the official added. The child had already been lost.

Hospital officials called the PRT medical staff for assistance. In response, an anaesthetist doctor and an anaesthetist nurse from the PRT surgical team hurried to the hospital to assist. Meanwhile, members of the PRT Meymaneh medical team called upon PRT soldiers with the right blood type to donate blood.

PRT Meymaneh maintains a "living blood bank" that lists the blood types of all PRT soldiers, said Lt. Elli Flén, PRT spokesperson. The system identified five donors who provided two-and-a-half bags of blood that the doctors gave to the woman.

The PRT medical team visited the patient today, and found her still weak but getting better, Flén said.

The blood bank is normally intended for the PRT's soldiers, but the doctors at the hospital know the PRT will help in life-threatening emergencies, Flén said. The official said the bank has provided blood on three occasions to the local hospital in the year it's been operating.

## PRT buildings go to hospital

*HQ ISAF staff reports*

MEYMANEH – ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Team Meymaneh handed over several new buildings to officials from a hospital here June 16.

PRT Meymaneh soldiers supported the

## Going visiting



**A patrol from Camp Marmal in RC-North ventures out into neighbouring villages to discuss reconstruction and development with local maliqs. Topics for this visit, which occurred in May, included aircraft noise and plans to improve a local school. Photo by Sgt. Raud Mol**

local authorities and non-governmental organizations in renovating the Meymaneh Hospital. It's the main hospital in Faryab province providing care to more than 1 million people.

The Norwegian government funded the construction of the buildings. The new buildings include laundry, kitchen and dining hall, guard room, drug treatment centre, two washroom and toilet facilities for men and women, waste-burning station, morgue and a female guest room building.

"A basic right for all citizens is good health care and health care is a responsibility of the provincial authorities," said Lt. Col. Jørn Erik Berntsen, PRT Meymaneh commander. "Related to this, the PRT wants to support the provincial government in its work for better health in Faryab."

PRT Meymaneh has not only put an effort in renovating buildings at the hospital but also building the hospital's ability to treat patients. PRT Meymaneh's Norwegian medical personnel regularly meet and consult with the staff at the Meymaneh hospital.

## PRT Meymaneh gets new commander

*RC North staff reports*

MEYMANEH – Norwegian Lt. Col. Jørn Erik Berntsen assumed command of ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Team Meymaneh in Faryab province June 12.

Berntsen replaced Lt. Colonel Arne Opperud, who returned to Norway.

"Like our predecessors, we will assist and support the people of Faryab in the areas of security, governance and development," said Berntsen at the change-of-command ceremony at PRT Meymaneh city camp on Tuesday morning.

Berntsen also said PRT personnel will continue with the mission there, ever mindful of respecting Afghan culture and history.

PRT Meymaneh has peace keepers from Norway, Finland and Latvia.



# Regional Command South

## **NAMSA improves KAF quality of life**

*Story by Sgt. LeeAnn Lloyd and  
photos by Capt. Vanessa Bowman  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD -- When assuming responsibility of a multi-national installation, there are many factors that come in to play. What is the best way to keep all nations happy? The best way to sustain operations logistically in a manner agreeable for all involved? What is the best way to define the commonalities among all the unique cultural and national interests?

NATO decided to bring in a middle man to help them take on this responsibility; a voice that can represent each nation and find the common ground that lays hidden amongst the different languages and requests. That conduit, known as the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency, will officially manage the installation July 31, when command and control of Kandahar Air Field transfers from the U.S. to NATO.

"NAMSA has basically been tasked to run a small city. We are putting into place right now the contracts; much as the U.S. out-sourced much of their logistic support during the 80's and the 90's. NATO is now taking that as the way ahead," said Susan Hays, NAMSA principal procurement officer at KAF.

As with any transition of leadership, change is never far behind and KAF is no exception to the rule. NAMSA's goal is to raise the standard of the quality of life at the airfield, starting with the improvements of services soldiers hold very dear -- dining and laundry facilities.

"In the KBR environment, each of the DFACs basically serve the same meals each day. In our food services contract, first of all, it's preparation from fresh, so we're not reheating food; secondly, each of the DFACs will offer a different style of food, hopefully across of those sort of 'cuisine requirements' of each of the nations," Hays said.

What that means, Hays said, is that options will exist. "You could go to one DFAC one day and have Mediterranean food, and you could go to another



**Colonel R. Stephen Williams, installation commander of Kandahar Air Field, and Major General Karl-Heinz Muenzner, NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency general manager, sign a joint memorandum of understanding as part of the official transition of NATO's Kandahar Airfield from U.S. management to NATO May 15.**

DFAC that same day for dinner and have American food, or British-style food. This way, we can basically allow for more of a choice. We really hope that translates into an improved quality of life for the people here," Hays said.

The cost of this new quality of life will not become the financial responsibility of the lead nation alone, Hays said. The four big players at KAF--the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands--will work on a sort of 'pay-as-you-go' system with a 30-day billing cycle; there will also be an account to allocate funds for projects that benefit everyone, said Andre Hansen, section chief with NAMSA's Logistics Support Office.

"The changes you will see on KAF are the direct result of these nations defining their requirements," Hansen said.

In order to keep track of billing and the financial aspects of services provided, NAMSA is taking the electronic route. What this means is service members will be responsible for an individual swipe card. This card will serve as their 'key' to the new dining and laundry facilities, Hays said. The cards will also help NAMSA track what to bill to each nation.

"There's going to be a certain learning curve for the boots on the ground here, because this isn't something that has been done here before," Hays said. But she hopes patience, coupled with an open mind, will help the process run smoother. Soldiers should expect to see these cards from their commanders around the end of May or early June.

"At the soldier level, on the day-to-day, what we hope to obtain is a seamless transition. That is, you still eat, you still sleep, you still do everything that you would normally do; it's just that the providers will be different," Hays said.

Other services that will fall under NAMSA's scope include mortuary services, translation services, vehicle rentals, and Morale, and Welfare and Recreation projects, among many others, Hansen said. NAMSA also plans to put new towers on the air field, as well as possibly paving the main roadways to help reduce dust.

An important thing about NAMSA is that they are not a contractor, Hansen said. "We are all NATO civilian staff who are working under an actual agreement; we are all employees of NATO," he noted.

"We also have the background for this kind of work," Hays added. "Most of us are military, or we've been civilians supporting our military. There's a lot of experience here, so we understand that there's a certain vocabulary that the individual nations bring to the table."

In the end, the mission is to implement projects that will make each of the nations happy, as well as making sure the Soldiers fighting the good fight are taken care of without financially and logistically tying the hands of those nations involved.

"This is not, and never could have been, conceived as a single nation's responsibility," Hays said. "I think, long term, what it demonstrates is the capability that nations have, that they are stronger together than they are individually."



# Delivering the goods



Members of the Royal Air Force 51 Squadron, who serve on the Force Protection Team at Kandahar Airfield, distribute humanitarian aid items provided by 207th Infantry Brigade to nomadic Kuchis in Kandahar province May 16. Photo by Capt. Vanessa R. Bowman

## RAF provides aid to nomadic Kuchis in Kandahar

*RC-South staff reports*

KANDAHAR – Members of 51 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment, part of the Force Protection element at Kandahar Airfield, recently distributed humanitarian aid provided by the 207th Infantry Brigade to nomadic Kuchis camps in Kandahar province.

The RAF Force Protection service members unloaded two trucks of humanitarian aid goods including rugs, rice and beans, basic farm supplies, clothing and school supplies at two local Kuchis camps.

“We do this every two weeks or so, it helps when on patrol because they remember this,” said RAF Flying Officer Kev O’Brian. “We send patrols out to find areas of need. We help those in need by making a list of things to improve like water, food and medical,” he added.

There have been more than 20 civil military cooperation missions in the past six months providing over \$100,000 of humanitarian aid to the local populace. Over

150 tons of goods have been delivered, including 600 radios, 600 pairs of boots and 47,500 kilograms of rice, flour and beans.

Six deep wells and two karezes were also constructed, which increased water quantity and quality for agricultural and drinking use at a cost of \$105,000. The projects benefited an estimated 40,000 residents in the Daman district and provided employment for over 300 people.

### RAF aid to Kuchis

The RAF has been making regular humanitarian visits to the Kuchis:

- Aid includes, rugs, rice, beans, farm supplies, clothing and school supplies
- In all, more than 20 CIMIC missions in the area over the last six months provided \$100,000 worth of aid.

## VICTORY FOR FARMERS

*RC-South staff reports*

SANGIN – International Security Assistance Force troops have safeguarded the livelihood of thousands of Afghan farmers with urgent reconstruction work while in the middle of a major operation to clear the Taliban out of the Sangin Valley.

During the offensive to clear the Sangin Valley of Taliban fighters, code-named Operation Lastay Kulang, troops from the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and 26 Engineer Regiment found themselves digging irrigation ditches to prevent the crops, needed to sustain hundreds of villages, from drying up and decaying in the fields of Southern Afghanistan. The use of a mechanical digger meant that the simple task was completed in hours rather than the days it would have taken the villagers.

The urgent need of the villagers was established June 2 by a routine Anglian patrol led by Company Commander Major Dominic Biddick. When the Taliban extremists’ were driven out of the area, the situation was deemed safe enough to bring up the heavy machinery.

“We are entering the main phase of Operation Kulang. What we are here for is to deliver a positive legacy to these people and try to make their lives better. We’ve cleared the Taliban throughout the Upper Sangin Valley, between Sangin and Kajaki and now we are delivering some tangible output,” Biddick said.

The irrigation ditch feeds about 24 square kilometres of ground to the south here. About 5,000 families are going to get an improved water supply to their crops, which would otherwise have failed in the next 10-14 days.

The ISAF operation, from the Pashto word for pickaxe handle, conducted at the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is building on the achievements of the recently completed Operation Achilles in the Sangin Valley in support of Afghan National Security Forces.

A total of 2000 ISAF and ANSF personnel are taking part in the operation, 1,000 of those being British forces.

# Australian, Afghan engineers deliver ‘magical’ effect

## Talani School transformed by RT projects

Story and photos by Lt. Kieran Jackel  
Australian Forces

A recent project completed by the Reconstruction Task Force in Uruzgan province saw Australian engineers working hand in hand with soldiers from the Afghan National Army.

The project was a result of ongoing liaison between the RTF and key members within the village of Talani, specifically the school principal and the village maliq. One of the main concerns raised by the principal was the poor state of the windows; most of which were broken and had chards protruding from the frames. It was also identified that the students, at times up to 400, had no chairs or desks at which to work in their class rooms.

The engineers’ work, described as ‘magical’ by the principal, drove a rapid restoration of the school grounds, which had been neglected for many years

The projects, which were all completed in 10 hours, included the removal of more than 50 broken windows and the installation of Perspex inserts - which are stronger and provide protection from rain and extreme dust storms that occur frequently during summers in southern Afghanistan..

The engineers also installed a 4,000-litre water tank with multiple taps, providing the students with an area to wash their hands throughout the day and a source for clean drinking water.

Responding to the school’s need for furniture, a number of desks, chairs and bookshelves were installed. In a move highly symbolic of the overall effort in Afghanistan, the furniture was produced by local students of the Australian-run Trade Training School—emphasising self sufficiency within the community.

One of the simplest tasks conducted, but by far the most popular given the children’s expressions when let loose on them, was the installation of play equipment in the school yards. A swing set, seesaw, monkey bars and outdoor table



**Australian and Afghan Army engineers adjust an auger during work at the Talani School.**

setting. All equipment was designed, built and installed by the Australian and Afghan engineers, and now provides the children with a safe area to play outside.

Engineer Troop Commander, Lieutenant Kieran Jackel, said it was extremely rewarding work and noted the how small things can make big differences in this part of the world.

“The project was an example of how some simple reconstruction work can provide a lasting impact on the community. Ideally it will encourage more students to attend school now there is a safe and enjoyable environment to learn in,” Jackel said.

Jackel was also pleased with the support provided by the ANA engineers and said future missions will continue to develop their confidence in the community.

“We have been developing their skills back in Tarin Kowt for some time now – they have made great progress,” he said. “It was a valuable opportunity to get them out into the community and demonstrate how the ANA works with ISAF, not for them.”

Given the success of this last mission, it is highly likely that future missions conducted by the RTF and the ANA engineers will yield similarly positive results for the communities here and all of Uruzgan province.



**Talani School children play on equipment built by ISAF and ANA engineers.**



## International team keeps vital cargo flowing

*RC-South staff reports*

**Lawr Malazay – Differences in language and culture have proved to be no barrier to a joint Romanian and U.S. team keeping vital supplies pouring into an ISAF base in Zabul province.**

The team runs the “pick up zone” at Forward Operating Base LAGMAN, where they oversee the loading and off-loading of supplies and people arriving via helicopters.

The team’s determination and hard-work has earned them the admiration and appreciation of allied helicopter crews, according to Air Planning Officer Capt. Alexandru Kis.

“The job of Air Planning Officer was pretty unusual for me, being trained as an infantryman. But after five months of constant air traffic and working closely together with my U.S. counterpart 1st Lieutenant Keith Wei, it has more or less become routine,” Kis said.

The team is organizing its schedule during daylight or night, in accordance with the flying schedule. There are situations when up to ten helicopters, of different sorts –



**Ch-47s prepare to launch from Qalat. A sling load operations is in progress.**

*Photo by Catalin Orreiu*

Chinooks, Blackhawks, Apaches or even MI-8s – occupy the landing zone, and the work is done under severe time constraints. Time is critically important as all remote FOBs depend on resupply from the air.

“We get satisfaction when we succeed in sending anything, whether it be water, food, ammunition, or personnel to the desired destination,” Kis said.

The most spectacular operations are the sling loads, used for the transportation of fuel blisters, special containers or other assets. Specialist U.S. personnel normally oversee these loads, rigging them with special chains and ropes to a Chinook helicopter while it hovers over the load. The Chinook then flies off with the load, dangling from underneath, to its destination.

Where different nationalities work together, some challenges must be overcome to make it all happen. For the Romanians this meant learning the specific English terminology for all the terms that apply to this line of work, Kis explained. Now, while Romanian–English dictionaries are gathering dust on a shelf, they can focus on complementing each other as a team. This can sometimes be hard work, especially when mechanical assets get broken and the repair tasks must be accomplished through intensive physical work. At the end of the day teamwork is the key to success, he added.

## ISAF, ANSF open new police checkpoint in Uruzgan

*RC-South staff reports*

**Uruzgan – A new ISAF-built police checkpoint in Uruzgan province was opened on June 2, significantly increasing security for local residents and further consolidating Afghan National Security Forces influence in the area.**

Officials from the Government of Afghanistan and ISAF held an opening ceremony at the site near Gulkanah, signalling the importance that projects such as these hold for the future of the region.

Uruzgan’s Governor, Abdul Hakim Monib thanked ISAF for the checkpoint and said that their “hard work and kindness will always stay in Afghan minds”.

The checkpoint, which has a commanding presence over the surrounding area, was the result of a joint ISAF-ANA project conducted last week. Engineers from the Australian Reconstruction Task Force and

the ANA engineers whom they train at their base in Tarin Kowt worked hand in hand to complete the sizable task in as little as four days.

The checkpoint will immediately be manned by local ANP led by Commander Hanif. The position includes strategically sited strong points that look over the valley approaches and incorporate significant force protection measures. The ANP officers will also enjoy new sleeping and living quarters including a wood fire for cooking and heating.

Hanif says he is now able to do his job 100 percent better.

“Usually we stay under a tent and have no services, but this is great – accommodation, cooking, and heating; we are safer and more comfortable.” Hanif said.

Uruzgan Chief of Police, General Quasim, travelled with Governor Monib for the checkpoint opening. He noted the excellent siting of the position and said that the security in the

area, which is his number one priority, would be greatly improved.

Quickly established, high impact projects such as the ANP checkpoint are becoming a feature of the RTF’s achievements.

The Australian RTF commander, Lt. Colonel Harry Jarvie, says they complement the larger, more detailed construction projects which the Task Force conducts throughout the Tarin Kowt area. More importantly, he said, they also provide opportunities for the developing ANA engineers to make a name for themselves in the community.

“The Project has been a giant step forward for the area and is an excellent example of the healthy partnership that ANSF and ISAF enjoy.” Jarvie said.



## ISAF docs provide aid for long term

Story by Sgt. Jim Wilt

RC-East Public Information Office

MIRI DISTRICT – Patient after patient filled through the gate at the hospital waiting to be checked by the ISAF doctors, a rare opportunity for the people here.

While military doctors were at the hospital to aid the people of the tiny village, the doctors weren't thinking short term. Although they can't remain at the hospital, their knowledge and experience can.

A team of International Security Assistance Force medical and veterinary doctors conducted a medical engagement here in Ghazni province June 3-5 with the goal of leaving a lasting mark. Most of the time, when teams of doctors go out to villages to help the people with their ailments and injuries, they do just that. They provide expert care and medications to the people on a short-term basis.

The ISAF team went to Miri with a different purpose, to better prepare local doctors to provide better care.

"What I don't want is for patients to come in and see American doctors and not want to work with their own doctors," said Captain Darren Sommer, the battalion surgeon for the 782<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Support Battalion.

While there to provide medical aid to anyone who needed it, Sommer and the rest of his team decided to provide aid by working with the hospital staff. Throughout the day, Sommer's aid came in a series of questions.

"So what should we do," he would ask Dr. Habib, the hospital surgeon, once the patient related his ails.

Soon after, a discussion would ensue. Both doctors would name possible problems and possible cures; often they would name the same ones. But the questions didn't stop there. Sommer is concerned with the long term.

"Can you do a [test] here," he asked Habib after he suspected a man had a thyroid gland problem.

Habib's answer was "no". The word "no" led only to more questions. Sommer wasn't content until the doctors resolved



**Dr. Habib, the Miri Hospital surgeon and Captain Darren Sommer, discuss the results of a patient's sonogram during a medical engagement.**

the test could be done in Khowst, a town in the province of the same name, just north of Ghazni. The patient agreed to go.

When medication was prescribed for a chronic problem, the question was could it be obtained for the long term. If it was easily found at the pharmacy in the bazaar, Habib would prescribe it, if not; the two docs would look at other options. A key part of Sommer's long-term plan he relayed to Habib was patient education.

"An important part of my patient practice is educating them on the disease," he said.

He gave Habib a few tips on patient education such as using drawings and explaining the cause of the ailment to the person. Even though Sommer was in the mentor position, the exchange of information between the two doctors went both ways.

"I learned today probably as much as Dr. Habib," Sommer said.

Sommer's mentoring isn't a sign of incompetence in the Afghan doctor, far from it. Halfway through the day, Habib had to step out to perform minor surgery. Walikhan, a young boy, fell and landed on a blanket with a sewing needle in it. The needle lodged in his arm. Working with an assistant named Haqdad, Habib removed the needle in a matter of minutes.

Other surgeries Habib preformed included amputations and partial colon removal. Throughout the day the two

doctors faced a variety of injuries and illnesses. Not all of the problems seen by the doctors can easily be fixed by Habib or one of the ISAF doctors.

One man came into the hospital and was examined by the Ghazni Provisional Reconstruction Team's medical officer, Navy Lt. Keith Hoekman. As the man described his problem, Hoekman diagnosed the illness. Hoekman believes the man was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. PTSD is a common ailment among the military and for those who go through a sever trauma.

The patient, Masamjam, related his tale to the people in the room. Masamjam said he is one of 12 brothers. He is also the only brother not to join the Taliban. After asking his brothers not to use his house for extremists' purposes, he was taught a lesson. His house, along with his children and possessions, were taken from him. He also was beaten. After having his ribs broken by his relatives, he fled. He said he is currently hiding from the Taliban, and his family, in Miri.

Hoekman did what he could for the man. He prescribed him medicine and listened. The doctors can only help at the clinic for a few days. There are other people who need their aid. By sharing their experience with the doctors at Miri Hospital, they hope their short-term aid will end in a long-term solution.



# PRT works to repair Band-e-Sultan

Story by Army Sgt. Matthew Clifton  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

GHAZNI PROVINCE – Although many operations in Afghanistan are focused on eliminating the Taliban, there are other ISAF development missions aimed at rebuilding and restoring the country.

One such mission is the repairing of the Band-e-Sultan Dam in the Ghazni province of Afghanistan.

The Sultan Dam, as it is commonly known, is the oldest and largest water reservoir in Afghanistan. The dam dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century when it was built under the reign of its namesake Sultan Mahmood Ghaznavi.

The Danish Committee for Afghan Aid to Refugees, a non-government organization dedicated to supplying aid to Afghans through water and sanitation projects, worked extensively repairing the Sultan Dam from May 2000 to July 2002.

An extremely heavy accumulation of snow caused the dam to collapse in 2005. Although the Ghazni Provincial Government has worked to maintain the dam, ISAF's Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team is set to work with the provincial government to refurbish the dam.

Lt. Colonel Larry Orchard, the Ghazni PRT civil affairs officer, recently visited the dam to meet with Afghan National Police commander Abdul Karim. The two

discussed security of the site while making an assessment of the dam's condition.

"We're here to look at the spots in the dam that need to be patched and to see if there is need for any large-scale construction," Orchard said. "We also want to talk to the local police to see what security is like around the dam."

When asked about security, Karim pointed to a plaque mounted on the face of the dam that had been repeatedly shot.

"The Taliban drive up on motorcycles and shoot at the dam," Karim said. "We have police positioned on the mountains above to protect the area."

Orchard surveyed the base of the dam where areas of the wall had started to leak. Karim led him down a winding dirt path where Orchard was shown numerous areas where tiny streams of water had broken through the rock and mortar.

"I'll need to take a sample of the mortar used back to the PRT," Orchard said while kneeling down and placing a broken piece of cement into his cargo pocket. "We'll analyze this to see how good the quality is."

One idea Orchard had was to build several smaller dams to relieve the massive amount of pressure the water brings upon the now-standing structure.

"The idea is that with several dams in place, the water pressure will be dis-



**Water can be seen leaking through cracks in the Band-e-Sultan Dam, in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.**

Photo by Sgt. Matthew Clifton

persed," he said. "That way we won't have to make so many repairs and maintenance would be easier."

With the irrigation of the dam providing water to over 12,000 families throughout Afghanistan, the Ghazni PRT, along with ISAF, is committed to ensuring the supply of water to these families will continue to flow.

## Bambakot govt. flourishes with ISAF aid

Story and photos by Specialist Jon H. Arguello

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FENTY – A long U.S. military convoy recently rumbled into the Dari Noor District kicking up a trail of dust and delivering a truck full of humanitarian assistance supplies to one of its more remote villages. The event was a sign of governmental progress, dedication and cooperation among Dari Noor's leadership.

The civil assistance package brought food, cooking oil, school supplies and encouragement to the people of Bambakot. It also demonstrated how the sub-governor of Dari Noor and Bambakot's village elder have made the needs of their people a priority in their cooperative effort to bring security, stability and progress.

"This was really a success because it was all coordinated by the village elders

and the sub-governor," said Master Sgt. Dean Miller, the Jalalabad PRT's Information Officer. "It really exemplifies what we are trying to do here which is help stand up the government so it can support itself."

It was the sub-governor who proactively made an assessment of the needs of the villages in his district and who placed the highest need on the village of Bambakot, said Miller.

The proactive approach by Sub-governor Ahaji Halim Shah is exactly what the PRT in Jalalabad was hoping to see develop, Miller explained.

"We want people to go to the government," said Miller. "People used to come to the PRT and express their needs. Now they go to the government and that shows progress and that the people are shifting

their trust towards the government. That is the real success."

Strengthening the government and establishing it as a credible resource for its people is one of the PRT's missions, explained Captain Tony Noce, a civil affairs officer with the Jalalabad PRT.

"Our mission is only successful if it strengthens the Afghan government," said Noce. "If a project was an Afghan idea, and executed with an Afghan lead – it was a great success. It means local government officials and citizens made something happen and the PRT was a conduit to that success."

More of these kinds of operations are on the way. As the area's effective government continues and develops, it will continue to receive support, Noce said.

# Transfer of Authority



**U.S. and Polish troops render a salute during the transfer of authority June 1 of the new Polish Battle group within Task Force Fury. Both nations are integrated under ISAF in Regional Command-East's Uruzgan province. The TOA gave Polish troops command of the Battle Group, which contains troops from both nations. Poland recently increased it's contribution and contingent to 1,400 troops.**

## Taliban direct mortars to hospital treating Afghans

*RC-East staff reports*

GHAZNI PROVINCE – Taliban operatives fired numerous mortar rounds near a hospital in Miri district around 10:30 June 10. The insurgents targeted security positions during a medical assistance operation being conducted by Afghan doctors for the people of Miri.

The medical outreach program had just begun when the indirect fire started. Soldiers from the 4<sup>th</sup> Khandak, 203<sup>rd</sup> Afghan National Army Corps and International Security Assistance Forces were providing security for the doctors and Afghan people seeking treatment as part of Operation Maiwand.

“Despite warnings from the Taliban not to assist or take aid from the government or ISAF, hundreds of Afghans have come to the medical clinics and to the district centres to receive aid,” said Major Donald

A. Korpi, spokesman for ISAF forces supporting Operation Maiwand.

“Their [the Taliban’s] actions against the people only continue to separate them and show how desperate they are,” added Korpi.

Operation Maiwand is an Afghan National Security Forces led operation to separate the Taliban from the local population. ISAF personnel participating in Maiwand are in a support role to the ANA and Afghan National Police, and other security forces.

“The major focus of ISAF support during this operation is one of humanitarian, medical and logistical support,” said Korpi.

During the last two days, there have been several indirect fire attacks against security forces as they move to secure Ghazni province. It has not deterred the

ANSF from providing security and peace to the people.

“During the past several days, the Afghan National Security Forces have captured several Taliban leaders, destroyed numerous weapon caches and destroyed five roadside bombs in place without injury,” said ANA Col. Yar Mohammad Sayedi, 203<sup>rd</sup> Corps operations officer.

“This operation has begun with great success thanks to the people of Ghazni, the ANSF, and our Coalition partners. The local government, police and military are connecting to the people and will stand behind all those who oppose the criminals and murders,” said Sayedi, referring to the Taliban and insurgent fighters.

There were no reports of any injuries to Afghans, ANSF or ISAF personnel from today’s mortar.



## ANSF, ISAF defeat Taliban in Ghazni

*RC-East staff reports*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO**—Five insurgents were detained recently in Qarabagh District, Ghazni province after contact with ISAF forces in the area.

The five wounded insurgents were taken into custody during an investigation of an area where Afghan National Security Forces, along with ISAF, killed a significant number of enemy personnel.

Four of the enemy wounded were medically evacuated to ISAF medical centers for treatment.

Tribal elders have reported that there were no civilian deaths.

## One Afghan injured as ISAF base rocketed

*RC-East staff reports*

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD** – One Afghan civilian was wounded when two rockets detonated near the perimeter of the base recently.

Afghan National Police officers were alerted to the location of five rockets through information provided by a villager. The ANP arrived there after three of the five rockets had already been launched. The ANP successfully disarmed the other two rockets, which were destroyed by ISAF explosive ordnance personnel.

The Afghan, who was lightly wounded by shrapnel, was taken to an ISAF medical facility here for evaluation and treatment.

“This is another case of extremists hurting the people of Afghanistan,” said Major William Mitchell, a spokesman for Regional Command - East.

“The Taliban extremists continually hurt the Afghan people with their indiscriminate attacks.”

## Op Maiwand finds weapons

*RC-East staff reports*

**KHOWST** – Afghan National Army Soldiers in Ghazni province detained one individual and seized an AK-47, a PKM machine gun, a grenade and bayonet near Sultan Bak around 5:30 p.m. local time June 3.

During a routine vehicle search as part of Operation Maiwand in Andar district, the Afghan soldiers arrested one male after discovering the weapons hidden in his vehicle.

The Afghan National Police advised the citizens of Ghazni province not to transport weapons in their vehicles without obtaining proper permission from the government.

Operation Maiwand continues as the Combined Task Force of Afghan and International Security Assistance Forces attempt to separate the Taliban and other criminals from the people of Ghazni.

Operation Maiwand is named after the 1880 Battle of Maiwand in Kandahar, which was one of the largest battles of the Second Anglo-Afghan War. The battle, ended in serious defeat for the British in 1880, but was also very costly to Afghans losing more than 7,000 Afghan warriors.

## ANSF/ISAF repel attack

*RC-East staff reports*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO** – Afghan National Security Forces, along with a small group of ISAF forces, repelled an attack on the Zerok checkpoint, Charabaran district, Paktika province.

More than 10 insurgents fired rocket propelled grenades and other small arms fire on the checkpoint around 2:50 a.m. The joint force returned fire and the attackers fled.

One ANSF and one ISAF service member were injured in the attack and were evacuated to an ISAF base for medical treatment.

## Village elders banish Taliban

*RC-East staff reports*

**GHAZNI PROVINCE** – Elders from the small village of Gaweshak, in the Qarabagh district announced June 6 they have decided they will no longer supply or provide safe houses for insurgent fighters after years of oppression, physical abuse, murder and beheadings at the hands of the Taliban.

The villagers have decided to stand their ground and cut off all support and supplies to the insurgents, despite the threat of Taliban fighters operating only five kilometres (3.1 miles) away in nearby mountains.

Taliban and other insurgents in the Ghazni area have fled to the mountains from villages that historically provided safety and shelter due to the increased pressure of Operation Maiwand, a joint effort by Afghan National Security Forces and their ISAF counterparts. The enemies of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan government are finding sanctuaries more difficult to come by as more villages and districts turn to their elected governments for services and other forms of basic assistance.

Although villagers of Gaweshak have expressed concerns for their safety and fear that their government may not be able to provide long term security, they realize that the alternative they have been under for the last several years only offers oppression and death to any who oppose, said Afghan National Police officials located at the tactical operations centre in Northeast Ghazni.

“We will stand behind the good people of Ghazni until the last drop of blood has run out of every officer’s vein. We are here as servants of the people and true followers of Islam,” said Abdul Nasir, director of operations for the ANP, Ghazni province. “The people of Gaweshak are why we fight. If all the villages in Ghazni would take such a position, the enemies of Afghanistan would flee in fear like dogs,” he added.

Operation Maiwand is expected to continue in Ghazni province throughout the month of June.

# Compass points

## Raising the cup Macedonians take HQ title

*Story by Technical Sgt. Jim "Nigel" Fisher and photos by Sgt. Ruud Mol*

More than 400 people gathered around HQ ISAF's five-a-side football pitch June 11 to watch two teams from the HQ battle for the cup in a final between Germany and the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia.

Large contingents of singing supporters saw the Macedonians hoist the cup with a 4-1 victory. The team, made up of soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mechanized Brigade from Ochrid, finished the season losing only two matches since league play began March 19.

The Germans took second place in the competition, followed by the Dutch in third position and Polish in fourth.

Each of the matches between the four teams competing for the title drew hundreds of spirited supporters, according to league organizer Sgt. John De Graaf, who organized the competition back in March.

Two leagues of five teams were set up and play began with each team set to play eight regular-season matches. Some teams were organized nationally, and some based on work centre composition. Major representations came from France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Romania and the U.S. One club, CJOC FC, had players from more than six countries.

The point of the competition was not to win a cup, but to build friendships, according to De Graaf.

"We wanted to do it for the guys to have a good time," he said. "A lot of people wanted to play, and now a lot of guys know each other. We had a lot of fun, and this is the most important thing for the tournament to do."

For the boys from Ochrid, the tournament also gave them a chance to show the mettle behind the unit integral to securing the installation. Members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> are charged with installation security and force protection at HQ ISAF.

Back in FYROM, members of the unit had played football together for as long as



**(Above) FYROM players begin to celebrate after the final whistle. (Above right) Macedonian goalie Alexander Jorjeski stops a German shot as they come under pressure late in the second half. (Below right) The crowd of more than 400 surrounded the field, often doing a little climbing to find a good viewpoint.**

five years, according to team captain Sgt. Elvis Todorovski. He said they played with victory on their minds throughout the competition.

"I am proud of the Macedonian team," Todorovski said. "We had a desire to win and didn't surrender even though we had a lot of injuries. We don't give up. This is one special team."

Midfielder Goran Baleski said they understood from the beginning that the cup was within reach.

"When we started play in the tournament, we expected to be in the finals. We didn't underestimate the other teams, they were also good, especially the Germans and Italians," Baleski said. "All games were played with heart and a desire to win, and I think we fought successfully and accomplished our objective. Congratulations to the other teams."

Part of the objective was showing their

NATO comrades that the Macedonians could execute and perform at a high level.

"I'm so happy, so joyful, because I feel we are representing how Macedonia can be a part of NATO and accomplish great things," Baleski said.

Todorovski said he believed the team represented the spirit of their country.

"We are a small country. Almost nobody knew us before we came here and we are showing the other countries that we exist. Because we are a proud country and a proud people, we don't fall down easily and we don't give up," the captain said.

Todorovski and his unit will soon be returning home at the end of their tour here. He said he wished similar success for the unit that replaces them, but had a greater wish for Afghan people.

"I want them to [have success] and to do good, to let their kids grow up easily, not under this pressure," Todorovski said.





**“These guys are not students of Islam. They are killers and murderers. This is not the Muslim way of living. This is Afghanistan’s chance, and the Taliban are trying to stop it.”**

*--Religious elder Mawlawi Yahya  
on the meaning of the word “Taliban”*