

COALITION CONFERENCE



PARTNERS FOR SECURITY
AND PROSPERITY



United States President
Addresses Coalition Conference

Coalition Bulletin

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By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the *Coalition Bulletin* is pleased to bring you stories covering the activities of the International Security Assistance Force. As ISAF and the Coalition are separate entities, ISAF stories will be denoted by the NATO logo at the top of each page when they appear.

Cover photo: President George W. Bush thanks allies for dedication to cause of freedom at the U.S. Central Command Coalition Conference. CENTCOM Coalition Conference was held at MacDill Air Force Base. U.S. Navy photo taken by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Alisha M. Frederick.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

These are difficult times. These are tough times. These are times of test and resolve of free people. These are times that require hard work and courage and faith in the ability of liberty to yield the pace we want. And so I thank you for your contributions. Thank you for standing for what's right. Thank you for helping the liberated. And thank you for working for peace. God bless.

President George W. Bush addressing the participants at the CENTCOM Coalition Conference at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

Editorial

Coalition effort in Iraq and Afghanistan has reached a stage where it is essential for the integral security apparatus to take increasing responsibility of stabilizing the respective countries. This transition although is time consuming and resource intensive, yet sooner it is arrived at, the better it would be for success in the world wide campaign against terrorism.

Situation in Iraq is now in a critical phase as its Government is putting together new structures and institutions, duly supported by the surge in military and non-military fields. With Operation Fardh al Qanoon in its advanced stages of implementation the surge is having positive effects with reduction in sectarian violence. The terrorists are watching critically as they appear to loose ground and possibility of spectacular attacks remains; to drag the ethnic communities into renewed violence. Any such attempt would aim at creating further divisions among the Iraqi people and by no mean should sway our resolve. It should rather increase our commitment to route out terrorism, as a stable and prosperous Iraq will be a defeat for the global terrorism.

The increasing number of engagements in Afghanistan is reflective of ISAF's growing operational base and improved level of presence to relatively ungoverned spaces. This logically brings to fore the mounting level of violence, which needs to be understood in that context. However, the aspect meriting intricate co-ordination and ruthless elimination is that of collateral damage; something which serves as music to the Taliban IOs. Undeniably, the security challenges will be there in Afghanistan, but what is increasingly critical is the ability of Coalition to put together the developmental piece to win the hearts and minds of Afghan people. It is in this realm that provision of minimum one suitably staffed PRT to each province and more importantly the funding of existing PRTs remains a fundamental issue for the long term stabilization of Afghanistan.

Situation in Somalia remains fragile as the insurgents continue to come back in large number and increase the sufferings of common people. Having undertaken a surgical operation, the follow-up to bring normalcy and order appears to be losing impetus, meriting attention both at regional and international levels.

Like always, the Bulletin contains a spectrum of activities in the AOR and various other activities at Tampa, including the detailed coverage of 'Partners for Security and Prosperity Conference'.

Ahsan Mahmood
Brigadier-General, Pakistan
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group



Airmen continue humanitarian efforts in Djibouti



Story by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Greg Bluethmann, Det. 4, Air Force News Agency

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti (AFNEWS) – Nearly 200 Airmen deployed to Africa provide airlift support for humanitarian aid to the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa mission.

Providing peace and stability to the region is the main objective for the CJTF-HOA mission and the services try to accomplish this by winning the hearts and minds of natives who live in the Horn of Africa.

“One of the biggest things we do in this AOR is actually try to change peoples opinions who are there because of what they’ve been told about Americans. Now our goal is to get out there as Americans and let them experience who we are and what we are,” said Chief Master Sgt. John Harris, the command chief for the CJTF-HOA AOR. Service members in the region try to accomplish this by going out into the community and volunteering their time. English discussion groups are one of the programs Americans support that foster a good working relationship with their host nation.

“The English Discussion Group is basically a way for us to interact with the Africans, and be able to establish a community relations program” said Senior Master Sgt. Sylvester Shaw, the English Discussion Group coordinator for Camp Lemonier. “We at Camp Lemonier are able to provide the manpower through volunteers to come out and listen to the African students as they practice their English.” Another vital mission the Air Force supports in the region is search and rescue operations for all branches. C-130 Hercules maintainers play a vital role in this mission to keep the HC-130Ps ready to go on a moment’s notice.

“We provide the maintenance to keep the C-130s in the air. We’re on 24-hour alert, to answer the call,” said Master Sgt. Patrick Melady, the HC-130P/N production supervisor.

“Coming out here without knowing what you’re doing would make it a little harder,” said Senior Airman Michael Ruehrwein, an instrument and flight controls technician for the C-130.

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa is a unit of United States Central Command. The organization’s mission is to prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect Coalition interests in order to prevail against extremism. More than 1,500 people from each branch of the U.S. military, civilian employees, Coalition forces and partner nations make up the organization. The area of responsibility for CJTF-HOA includes the countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.



United States President



President George W. Bush delivers remarks May 1 to the CENTCOM Coalition Conference at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. Photo by Capt. Manuel Matos (Dominican Republic)

Story by 1st Sgt. Marvin Baker U.S. CENTCOM Public Affairs

President George W. Bush vowed to keep talking and educating Americans about the “consequences of failure” and praised Coalition members for their support during an address May 1 at the U.S. Central Command Coalition Conference at MacDill Air Force Base.

Bush said he came to Tampa to thank America’s partners who continue to stand with the United States on the Global War on Terror.

His visit was significant in that it’s the first time he has been to the command since Adm. William J. Fallon became commander in March.

Bush admitted the past four years haven’t been easy, especially in Iraq, but that they were necessary if that nation and Afghanistan are to emerge as free societies.

“Once again, history has called on great nations to assume great responsibilities,” Bush said.

“The broad coalition has protected millions of people.”

Bush reminded everyone that on Sept. 11, 2001, 19 terrorists went on a rampage that killed more than 3,000 people from 80 countries.

Since that time, some 90 nations have worked in some capacity to stop Al Qaida and the Taliban.

The president mentioned the radical Islamic push for a caliphate to that of Nazi Germany.

“They are determined to bring days of greater destruction” Bush said.

“We must go on the offense, stay on the offense, and take the fight to them.”

Since 9/11, America and her allies have shared intelligence that has essentially stopped numerous attacks, terror cells have been broken up and local law enforcement and armies have been trained around the globe.

“We’re active,” Bush told the Coalition members. “We’re working together to make this world a safer place.”

Addresses Coalition Conference



According to the president who has been at odds with Congress over the fighting in Iraq, said failure in Iraq should be unacceptable to the civilized world.

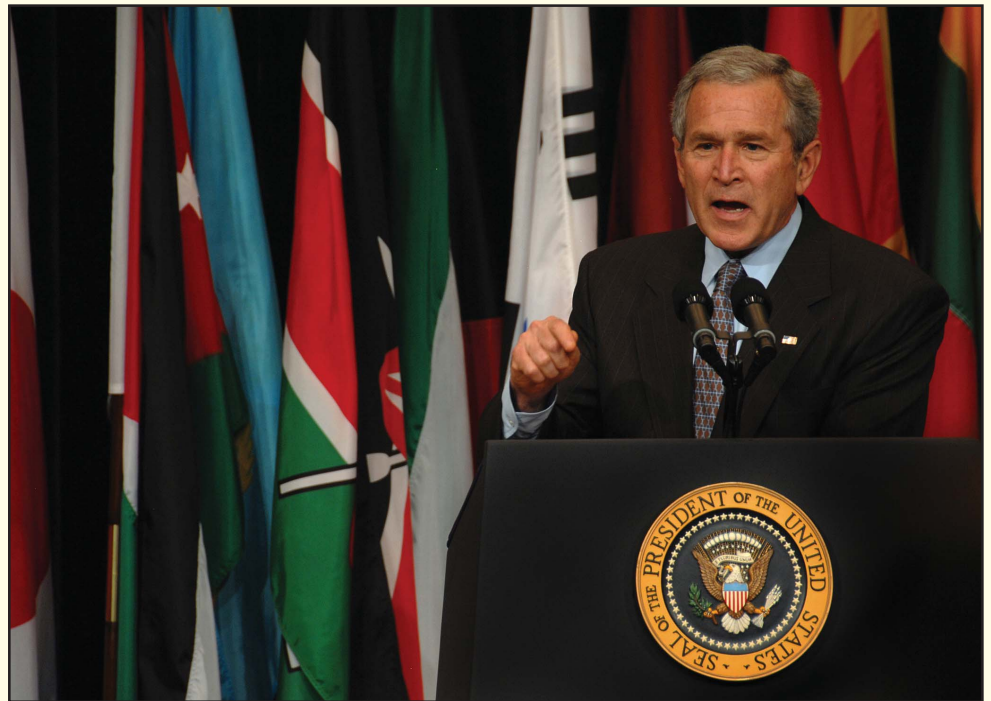
He said point blank that he fully expected to veto Congress' bill, that calls for pulling troops out of the beleaguered Middle East nation, by the end of the day.

"Our enemies, the enemies of freedom, love chaos and out of that chaos, they can find safe havens," he said. "The Iraqis are suffering a lot, but they're still in this fight and I'm impressed by their courage.

Unfortunately, sectarian violence has increased since democratic elections were held in Iraq in 2005," he added. "A new strategy has emerged to curb the unrest. It's still in its early stages and it could take months to determine the success of it, however, some early successes have already been noted, mainly a decline in sectarian violence."

Once again, Bush thanked the Coalition for their efforts in making that happen.

"I want your countries to know that the sacrifices made

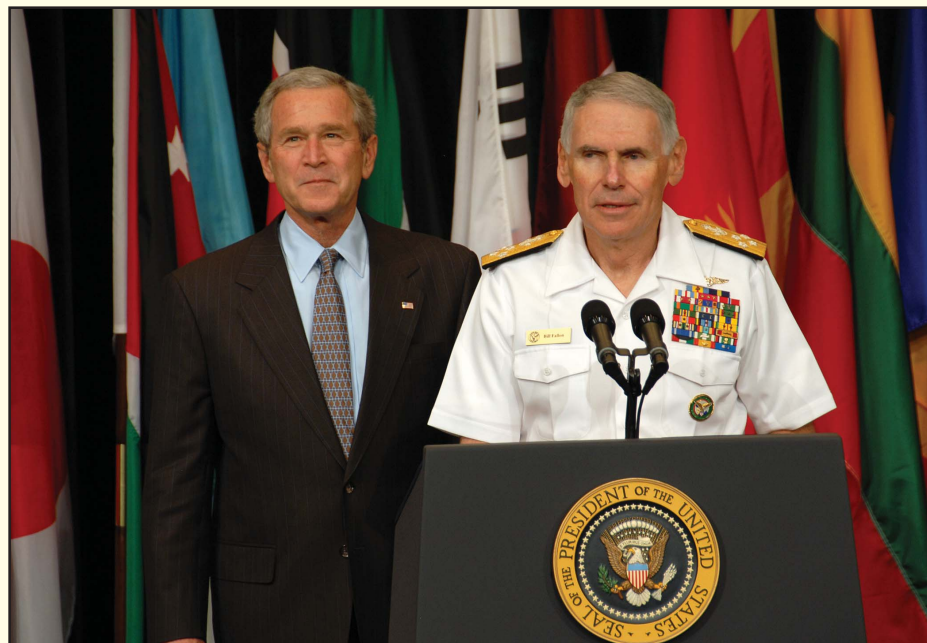


President George W. Bush thanks allies for dedication to cause of freedom at the U.S. Central Command Coalition Conference. U.S. Navy photo taken by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Alisha M. Frederick.

by your Soldiers are for a noble cause," Bush said.

"Our nations are standing together in this fight and I want your citizens to know this nation is grateful."

Bush talked about a number of other items that included education of the American people regarding the war on terror. He called himself the educator in chief, as well as the commander in chief.



Adm. William J. Fallon, the commander of U.S. Central Command, introduces President George W. Bush to the audience at the CENTCOM Coalition Conference. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Alisha M. Frederick.

"We have got to keep talking about the consequence of failure," Bush said.

"Failure will make this world a really dangerous place."

He also talked about opinion polls and that decisions that are in the best interest of the United States can't be based upon opinion polls.

He mentioned Abraham Lincoln, who wasn't popular when he decided to abolish slavery and Franklin D. Roosevelt who shrugged off isolationist opinion polls leading up to U.S. involvement in World War II.

"We can learn a lot from the past and we shouldn't fear the future," Bush said.



Coalition Partners Conference



Story by Maj. Fiaz Malik
(Pakistan)

Multi National Force – Iraq Conference was held in Tampa from April 30 to May 2. It was jointly hosted by Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command and Gen. David Petraeus, Commander of Multi National Force Iraq (MNF-I). The conference was named as ‘Partnership for Security and Prosperity in Iraq’ and representatives of more than 50 countries attended it.

The conference was mandated to undertake a review of the ongoing campaign in Iraq, provide an update and seek more support from the Coalition partners. Accordingly, the invitation was not limited to the countries already contributing in Iraq but to other Coalition partners as well. The high mark of the conference was the address by the President of United States, which was followed by a lively and open question and answer session.

In addition to the discussion on the ongoing Iraq Campaign Plan, the conference had detailed deliberation sessions on strategic perspective (global and regional), Operation Farhd al Qanoon and economic/developmental opportunities Iraq offers. Two briefings, one each on rule of law and counter insurgency in Iraq, added value to the proceedings, while

perspective of a warrior (reflections of a Sergeant Major about ongoing operations in Iraq) provided a real insight to the effort being put in Iraq.

The conference concluded with resolve to reinforce the partnership, extend security and achieve progress in building political and economic capacity both in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Military and civilian representatives of more than 50 countries, already contributing in Iraq, and other Coalition partners as well attended the ‘Partnership for Security and Prosperity in Iraq’ Conference. Photo by Capt. Manuel Matos (Dominican Republic)



Adm. William J. Fallon, the commander of U.S. Central Command, addresses the audience at the CENTCOM Coalition Conference. Photo by Capt. Manuel Matos (Dominican Republic)



Japanese Minister of Defense visits U.S. CENTCOM



**Story by 1st Sgt. Marvin Baker
U.S. CENTCOM Public Affairs**

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In a show of support for the Bush Administration’s recent troop surge in Iraq, Japanese Minister of Defense Fumio Kyuma spent several days in the United States holding talks on the Global War on Terror.

Kyuma met with Vice Adm. David Nichols and several other Japanese and American military officials at U.S. CENTCOM April 30, later touring Coalition Village 3 and meeting with the Japanese delegation stationed at the Tampa, Fla., Air Force base.

Kyuma also held a news conference with the Japanese media. The soft-spoken minister delivered 9-minutes of prepared statements to the 21 Japanese media representatives and three American journalists.

He then answered several questions before departing for his meeting with Japanese Senior National Representative Capt. Takahiro Ishibashi and his staff.

Although Kyuma didn’t speak English during his news conference, Japanese Col. Tomofufa Harada translated the minister’s comments into an English summary.

Harada said that according to Kyuma, the Japanese government didn’t fully understand the situation in the U.S. CENTCOM Area of Responsibility and expected his meeting with Nichols was beneficial in that respect.

Harada said Nichols and Kyuma discussed potential ways to solve the current situations in the AOR, with emphasis on Iraq.



Vice Adm. David Nichols (left) poses on the flight line with Japanese Minister of Defense Fumio Kyuma upon the minister’s arrival April 30 at MacDill Air Force Base. Photo: Capt. Manuel Matos (Dominican Republic)



Japanese Minister of Defense Fumio Kyuma addresses members of the Japanese media at Coalition Village 3 April 30. Photo: Capt. Manuel Matos (Dominican Republic)

“The most important thing is to make the current (Iraqi) government more capable,” Harada said of Kyuma. “Crude oil is also an issue and is a top priority.”

In addition, Kyuma told the media he believes a comeback of the Baath Party is a good idea to help stabilize Iraq. He said the Baath party, that former President Saddam Hussein belonged to, should be involved in some capacity in the Iraqi government, much like minority parties in other nations.

Kyuma briefly discussed Afghanistan, saying that fledgling nation doesn’t have the experience of a centralized government and its legal system is in serious need of assistance.

“A centralized government is necessary to connecting this country,” Harada said of Kyuma. “A ring road (perimeter) would greatly help the infrastructure.”

Numerous other items were also discussed between Nichols and Kyuma including the security situation in Baghdad, reconstruction efforts and patrolling of the Indian Ocean.

Kyuma said the Japanese government is hoping to extend its Iraqi assistance, mainly with the use of cargo planes flying supplies into the Middle East nation for up to two more years.



Relief and Appointment



**Story by 1st Sgt. Marvin Baker,
U.S. Centcom Public Affairs**

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Marine Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey A. Morin assumed his current post as senior enlisted leader of United States Central Command April 12 during a ceremony in front of the headquarters building here.

Morin becomes the principal adviser to U.S. CENTCOM Commander Adm. William J. Fallon pertaining to matters affecting more than 230,000 U.S. and Coalition forces serving in the 27 countries that comprise the command’s area of responsibility.

Morin, replaces Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Curtis L. Brownhill who has served in his position the past three years and is retiring.

The event was highlighted by Fallon’s passing of the traditional noncommissioned officer ceremonial sword. The tradition dates back to the 1850s.

“There’s one common theme here and it’s about people,” Morin said. “It’s not about Curt Brownhill and it’s not about Jeff Morin. It’s about Central Command. It’s about the people who put the command and the command’s mission first.”

A native of Auburn, Maine, Morin enlisted in 1977. Throughout his career he has served with infantry, mechanized infantry, aviation, combat service support and headquarters service commands. He has also served as a drill instructor and with the U.S. State Department.

Fallon made note of Morin’s accomplishments that include combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan .

“Jeff Morin is a Marine,” Fallon said. “First and foremost he’s a grunt, a rifleman. He’s been there and done that, and he comes with a great reputation.”

Brownhill, in his closing remarks, echoed Fallon’s confidence.

“Jeff Morin is uniquely qualified,” Brownhill said. “He is everything we could hope for.”

Brownhill also took time to recognize the Coalition partners who have fought with the United States, some since 9/11 who Brownhill stood with during their first hours as American allies in the Global War on Terror.

“We have liberated more than 40 million people from oppression and regimes,” Brownhill said. “We are successful because of the commitment of the young men and women and the Coalition partners.”

Morin has participated in numerous Western Pacific deployments including three in support of Operations Enduring



Admiral William J. Fallon, Commander, U.S. Central Command, passes the ceremonial sword to the command’s new senior enlisted leader Marine Sgt. Maj. Jeffery A. Morin during a relief and appointment ceremony held at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Patrick Ziegler

Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

As a command senior enlisted leader, Morin’s assignments were Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego; 1st Stinger Battery, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, Japan; 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, Headquarters Battalion 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, Camp Pendleton; Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. and U.S. Marine Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.

Morin’s joint duty experience includes assignments as the command senior enlisted leader for the Marine Component to Joint Task Force, National Capital Region, U.S. Joint Forces Command, Norfolk; U.S. Marine Corps Europe, Stuttgart, Germany and U.S. Marine Corps South, Miami.

Morin made it clear that he will continue to interact with the troops and the leadership, just as he has done throughout his career.

He said he coined a phrase in each command that he has served in.

“I work for you. Nobody in this command will ever work for me,” he said. “Everybody says they have an open-door policy. I don’t have a door.”

Morin’s personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star and the Combat Action Ribbon.



Leading the Way: ANA Graduates 86 from Pre-NCO Course



By Army Sgt. Tony J. Spain
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SHIRZAI, Afghanistan - A graduation ceremony was held here for soldiers of the Afghan National Army who successfully completed the Team Leadership Course March 29.

The TLC is a required developmental course for ANA soldiers to become a non-commissioned officer. Eighty-six ANA soldiers serving in the 205th "Hero" Corps received their certificates and took the next step to becoming an NCO in the ANA.

During the three-week course, U.S. and British soldiers trained and advised ANA instructors on tactical situations and how to survive in a field environment. The ANA instructors then trained their soldiers under the supervision and evaluation of the U.S. and British soldiers.

ANA Maj. Gen. Rhamullah Rawofi, commander of the 205th "Hero" Corps, was the guest speaker for the ceremony and praised the U.S. and British Soldiers for their efforts. "We are thankful for the United States and other countries that are here to teach and support us," said Rawofi. "Your teachers helped you successfully complete the Team Leadership Course and I am very happy that you have done well," he said to the graduates.

Rawofi also reminded the graduates they are the future of the ANA. If they work hard, they will be in positions of command in the future.

"We must be powerful because the people of Afghanistan are counting on us. By graduating this course you help the ANA become more professional," Rawofi said. "You are young and your minds are fresh; this is a good time to learn and improve your performance," he said.

The commander also told the soon-to-be NCOs it is part of their duty to train soldiers using the knowledge they have acquired. "It



An Afghan National Army soldier receives corrective training from an instructor at the Team Leadership Course March 27 near Camp Shirzai. TLC is a requirement for soldiers in the ANA to become non-commissioned officers. U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Tony J. Spain

is important that you apply what you have learned to operations in the field and that you teach your fellow soldiers," said Rawofi.

ANA soldiers receive training in several areas of soldiering throughout the course. They spend the first 10 days learning how to mentor, motivate and discipline soldiers. In that same time frame, they also learn rank structure, customs and courtesies. The rest of the course focuses on battlefield tactics, like moving under fire in buddy teams, moving in battle as a squad, checking for vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices at a check point and cooking in the field.

ANA Sgt. Sabar, 205th "Hero" Corps, is proud to be a graduate of the course. "I learned how to take care of my fellow soldiers," Sabar said. "I was happy to complete the course and hope I will be able to lead the soldiers working under me."

Army Staff Sgt. Victor Colon-Rosa, an American adviser serving on the mobile training team, based at the Kabul Military Training Center, says the students of the 205th "Hero" Corps did an outstanding job.

"This was my first class at Shirzai, these soldiers were the best I have seen so far," said Colon-Rosa, who has instructed several classes at KMTC in Kabul. "I see a lot of good leaders already in this group. I see five to seven good leaders that could make a platoon sergeant and there are a lot of good squad leaders here," he said.

Colon-Rosa also stated that this is the result of three weeks of hard work and training. "Today you see the results with 86 soldiers graduating. It is unreal to graduate that many from this type of course," he said.

Colon-Rosa noted most courses start off with 120 - 130 students. Out of those, 25 - 30 students will graduate. Most are kicked out of the course because of discipline problems or for missing more than three days. "We started out with 93 students and kicked four out for discipline in the first two days," Colon-Rosa said.



ANA soldiers drink water during the Team Leadership Course near Camp Shirzai March 26. U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Tony J. Spain



U.S. President visits MacDill Air Force Base and U.S. CENTCOM



Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command, greets President George W. Bush upon his arrival at MacDill Air Force Base. This was Bush's first visit to MacDill and U.S. CENTCOM since Fallon took command of CENTCOM. Photo by Spc. Patrick A. Ziegler



Air Force One arrives at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa Fla. President George W. Bush came to MacDill to meet with Coalition and U.S. Central Comand leadership. Photo by Spc. Patrick A. Ziegler



President George W. Bush greets the crowd on hand at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa May 1. The president was on hand for a briefing at CENTCOM, and to deliver remarks to the CENTCOM Coalition Conference. White House photo by Eric Draper



President George W. Bush joins Adm. William J. Fallon, right, commander of U.S. Central Command, and Gen. Doug Brown, Commander U.S. Special Operations Command, during a visit May 1 to CENTCOM at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. White House photo by Eric Draper



President George W. Bush reaches out to Mr. Shahib Hamad Adnan, Director of Policy and Requirements for the Iraq Defense Department, after delivering remarks. With them are, from left: Mr. Mowaffak Al Rubaie, Iraqi National Security adviser; Lt. General Yacoub Abdul-rizzaq, Deputy Chief of Staff for Iraq Joint Forces; and Maj. Gen. Abdul Hasan Mohsen, Director General of Directorate of Border Enforcement. White House photo by Eric Draper



President George W. Bush walks with Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multinational Force Iraq, as he prepares to board Air Force One May 1, after visiting CENTCOM at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. White House photo by Eric Draper



ANZAC Day at CENTCOM



**Story by 1st Sgt. Marvin Baker
U.S. CENTCOM Public Affairs**

As the sun was rising April 25 at MacDill Air Force Base, Australian and New Zealand representatives stationed at U.S. Central Command remembered their fallen from a fateful day 92 years ago.

ANZAC Day, which it is called, marks the beginning of the 1915 anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli, the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during World War I. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as ANZACs and the pride they soon took on as a coalition endures to this day.

In Turkey, the eight-month campaign is known as the Canakkale Savaslari. The battle is seen as one of the finest and bravest moments in the history of the Turkish people.

Turkish, Australian and New Zealand military representatives laid wreaths in unison to remember those fallen at Gallipoli. British, Canadian and American representatives repeated the humble gesture of remembrance.

Australian Senior National Representative Col. Ian Lynch told a crowd of about 60 people gathered at the MacDill AFB Memorial Park that similar ceremonies had been held in the prior 20 hours at dawn in different time zones around the world, where Aussies and Kiwis, supported by friends, family and other combatants came together to commemorate ANZAC Day.

Lynch added that some of those attending have had the experience in many parts of the world, some in the middle of combat zones and in small towns and large cities all across Australia and New Zealand.

A major ceremony also takes place at Gallipoli, the peninsula in Turkey where this historic battle began on April 25, 1915 and ended late that same year.

“ANZAC Day is celebrated at dawn, particularly because dawn was the time the attack at Gallipoli took place,” Lynch said. “Pride of the name endures to this day.”

The assault actually began at 4:15 a.m., April 25, 1915, a Sunday morning. In the dark and under heavy fire, the ANZACs climbed steep cliffs covered in prickly scrub to win a foothold on the plateaus and ridges.

New Zealand Senior National Representative Brig. Gen. Mark Wheeler thanked the service members past and present who have given their lives for their countries.



Senior National Representatives whose nations fought in the Battle of Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, laid wreaths in unison April 25, 2007 to remember those who perished in World War I and in all wars since. From left; Turkish SNR Col. Salih Gamsiz, New Zealand SNR Brig. Gen. Mark Wheeler and Australian SNR Col. Ian Lynch, move forward together during a ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base Memorial Park. Photo by: Capt. Manuel Matos (Dominican Republic)

Wheeler recognized that coalition of nations that fought in World War I, which is quite similar to today’s coalition fighting the Global War on Terror.

“Coalition operations as we know are not new,” Wheeler said. “Coalition forces landed at Gallipoli.”

In addition to ANZACs, France, the United Kingdom, Canada and British India were involved in the Battle of Gallipoli.

The assault on Gallipoli rose out of a British request to knock Turkey out of World War I and capture Constantinople, the Ottoman capital, according to Wheeler.

Unfortunately, thousands were killed while the Turks held their ground along the Strait of Dardanelles.

“One in four who landed, died and for a country with a population like New Zealand, it was an unprecedented catastrophe,” Wheeler said.

“It gave birth to the realization that Australia and New Zealand were different. But both nations have a sense of pride.”

Wheeler also recognized the Turks who lost their lives in the ensuing battle that made a profound impact back home.

“We must also remember the Turkish soldiers,” he said. “Their losses were no less severe.”

April 25 was officially named ANZAC Day in Australia in 1916. That year was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia, a march through London and a sports day in the Australian Camp in Egypt. In London, more than 2,000 Australian and New Zealand troops marched through the streets and a London newspaper dubbed them “The knights of Gallipoli.” Marches were held all over Australia in 1916.

For the remaining years of the war, ANZAC Day was used as an occasion for patriotic rallies, recruiting campaigns and parades.

ANZAC Day became a public holiday in New Zealand in 1921 following a lobby effort. Rallies are held in Wellington, the nation’s capital, as well as Auckland, Christchurch and a myriad of cities and towns on both islands that make up New Zealand.

Today, major rallies are held and televised in every state capital in Australia, as well as in Canberra, the Australian capital city.



Iraqi Youngsters Bowled Over in 'Kwik Cricket'



Story by UK Defense News

The Royal Military Police (RMP) and the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have swapped bullets for bouncers to bring cricket to the school children of Basra Province over the past six months.

Cricket fanatic Maj. Andrew Banks, officer commanding of Germany-based 110 Provost Company RMP, arranged for 'Kwik Cricket' sets from the ECB to be sent to Iraq to help build relations with the local community.

Bringing the sound of willow on leather to the villages is designed to make the British troops a more welcome presence, encouraging the locals to report terrorist activity.

Banks, who completed a seven-month tour based in Basra as part of the 20th Armoured Brigade, said, "It worked particularly well for The Queen's Royal Hussars who were conducting anti-smuggling patrols around the Iran-Iraq border as they used to stop and get their guys playing which stopped the Iraqi kids from chucking stones at them.

"Something that runs through the sport is fair play. Therefore it'd be very nice if the concepts of right and wrong were extended beyond the sports field." Speaking from his military police station in Sennelager, northern Germany, Banks continued, "Clearly there's an element of simply building 'consent.' I was in Iraq to do a job so if cricket's advanced how I and the force achieved that

job then it's a bonus."

"Iraq has no history of playing cricket, and I think the teachers were sceptical at first, as they see quite a lot coming from the West. But their scepticism was reduced when they saw the kids having fun.

When we gave them the sets from the ECB for the teachers to use they seemed quite pleased. Maybe we have started something in Iraq."

And what about the prospect of Iraq pushing for a place at the next Cricket World Cup? "I don't think the Australians need to worry just yet," joked Banks.

Brigadier James Everard CBE, commander of 20th Armoured Brigade, added: "As a military commander in southern Iraq I had never dreamt that cricket would form a bridge between our two cultures so successfully."

Oliver Mott, who managed the project for the ECB from Lord's, said, "It's fantastic to see the positive aspects of cricket being used to such good effect in this difficult situation. Cricket, of all sports, is very good at teaching the benefits of teamwork and fair play while being excellent fun.

"Kwik Cricket was the natural choice for this project. It is cricket in its most basic form and so attractive to children. It's very easy to use and the simple kits of plastic bats and balls can be packed up quickly in case of emergency!"



Iraqi children get to grips with 'Kwik Cricket.' United Kingdom Ministry of Defense photo by Cpl. Anthony Boocock



Romanian Troops Deliver Critical Supplies for the Villagers in Qalat Province, Afghanistan



Story and photos courtesy of Romanian Ministry of Defense

CAMP LANGMAN, QALAT, AFGANISTAN – The 812th Infantry Battalion “Carpathian Hawks” here, together with police officers from the Afghan National Police have completed a CIMIC humanitarian project at Spina Ghbarga village.

The mission consisted of delivering critical supplies for the population of the village, including water, wheat, sugar, rice and oil.

The 150 children of Spina Ghbarga were not forgotten, as they received school supplies including backpacks, notebooks, pencils and, of course, toys, which brought smiles to their faces.

For the adults the Romanian troops packed 125 ovens,



“There is nothing more precious and touching than seeing tears of happiness in the eyes of a child,” said Capt. Alexandru Kis, one of the officers who, together with Capt. Cornel Todea and Lt. Adrian Dan planned the mission.



The mission, carried out by 812th Infantry Battalion, Romanian Army and Afghan National Police Forces, took place at approximately 10 miles from Camp Langman, Afghanistan. All the supplies were provided by the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Qalat.

thermos bottles and radios which were also much appreciated.

All these goods were sent by the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Qalat.

“We experienced some emotional moments during the mission, when people thanked us for what we did,” said Capt. Alexandru Kis, 812th Infantry Battalion.

“The children were the most excited as they were given the presents, especially the toys.

There is nothing more precious and touching than seeing tears of happiness in the eyes of a child.”

The Romanian soldiers had a meeting with the senior leaders of the community and assessed their request of supporting the excavation of a well, in order to secure the village’s water supply.



Operation Achilles Update: ISAF Forces in Sangin Valley



A Chinook helicopter sits on the tarmac.

Story and photos by HQ ISAF Public Information Office

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Following the successful insertion of ISAF and Afghan National Security Forces into the lower Sangin Valley April 30, ISAF forces airlifted approximately 300 troops into the area to maintain pressure on Taliban extremists.

“This latest move reinforces the successes achieved yesterday by Task Force Helmand, who secured their tactical objectives ahead of schedule,” said Lt. Col. Mike Smith, Regional Command-South spokesman.

“ANA and ISAF troops have engaged Taliban extremists at several locations, and seized an ammunition cache and other equipment.

The latest maneuver is part of the ongoing Operation Achilles, which was launched in early March to prevent extremists from disrupting reconstruction and development, officials said. There are about 5,000 troops overall involved in Operation Achilles.

“This phase of Operation Achilles is a significant step toward establishing the security conditions necessary to enable key reconstruction and development projects in the area,” Smith said.

“These projects include work on the Kajaki Dam, which will be a major benefit to the people of the area.”

The operation, launched from Kandahar Airfield, was a coordinated multi-national effort including Chinook, Blackhawk and Apache helicopters. The ISAF troops conducted a night advance and secured predetermined objectives.



International Security Assistance Force soldiers walk toward a Chinook helicopter.



Greece Offers 13 Battle Tanks to the Afghan Government



Story and photos courtesy of Greek Ministry of Defence

During the last informal meeting of the North Atlantic Council at Foreign Ministers level, the Greek Foreign Minister announced that, within the alliance's efforts for equipping and training Afghan military forces, Greece offers 13 battle tanks M60A3 and 300 AK-47 submachine guns, to be provided in the next two months.

Greece has been participating in all United Nations mandated as well as in NATO operations and it has been part of ISAF from the beginning. Many Greek officers have been working in various ISAF Headquarters, while a Greek Engineer Battalion with 120 military personnel and 75 special vehicles has been contributing to the international effort by



Afghan military forces will be provided with 13 M60A3 battle tanks in the next two months.

constructing or repairing bridges, roads, schools, performing infrastructure work and by training Afghan soldiers. Nearly two years ago Greece established a role-II military hospital in Kabul with

a 30-bed capacity, manned by 50 Greek medical personnel. Almost 5,000 ISAF soldiers and Afghan civilians have received treatment in this medical facility.

In the first quarter of 2006, Greek forces had also assumed responsibility for the command and operation of the Kabul International Airport.

The annual cost of the Greek participation in ISAF amounts to almost 25 million euros (\$32 million) per year.

An additional amount of 15 million euros (\$20 million) has been offered for the reconstruction program of Afghanistan, in the course of the next five years.



Since the establishment of the role-II military hospital by Greece, one and a half year ago in Kabul, almost 5,000 ISAF soldiers and Afghan civilians have received treatment here.



AGAPANTHE 2006



A Mirage 2000D in the Afghan sky. Photo courtesy of French Ministry of Defense

Story by Cmdr. Bruno Kral (France)

The French Navy, being an ocean-going force dispatches its units far from their home bases and for long periods of time.

Agapanthe 2007 represents a deployment of seven French ships, a Spanish ship (Blaz de Lezo) joined by a British ship (HMS Sutherland) and an American ship (USS Vella Gulf) in the Indian Ocean for a duration of three and a half months.

These ships are co-located with the aircrafts carrier Charles de Gaulle to compose the "Groupe aéronaval" (GAN). The GAN reached the CENTCOM area of responsibility on Feb. 22 and began providing direct close air support to Coalition ground forces in Afghanistan on March 15.

The purpose of this mission

To support the projection of France's power as well as the Coalition in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by conducting naval, air and submarine operations, particularly in the realm of maritime security.

To support the Coalition by contributing to operation OEF and ISAF, by significantly reinforcing military forces in the zone. This support aims to demonstrate France's will and determination to participate actively in this fight against international terrorism and to be ready to participate or to conduct any engagement at short notice. In order to achieve this it is necessary to maintain a high degree of coordination and interoperability with the friendly naval forces.



The nuclear aircraft carrier "Charles de Gaulle" in the North of the Indian Ocean. Photo courtesy of French Ministry of Defense

To reinforce the international cooperation in order to develop security in the region.

To reinforce the cooperation with the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean's neighboring countries, and the allied forces deployed in the region.

To maintain and improve our ability to integrate foreign ships for a significant length of time thus improving the interoperability.

The chain of Command

The operational command of Task Force 473 is headed by the French Joint Chief of Staff as in all operational French forces. The operational control is delegated to the rear-admiral Xavier Magne, commander of Task Force 473.

The French Task Force 150, under the command of Rear Adm. Alain Hinden, will take over the Task Force 473 soon.



The nuclear aircraft carrier "Charles de Gaulle" speeds up in the Indian Ocean during Operation AGAPANTE 2006. Photo courtesy of French Ministry of Defense

THE FORCES ENGAGED

3,000 sailors on board of:

- * the French nuclear powered aircraft carrier " Charles de Gaulle" ;
- * two air defense frigates: "Cassard" and Blas de Lezo" (Spanish ship) ;
- * two antisubmarine frigates "Tourville" and " Dupleix" ;
- * the French Replenishment and Command ship "Marnes" (augmented by the "Somme" for 45 days) ;
- * the nuclear powered submarine "Casabianca".

The Charles de Gaulle brings to bear the following:

- * 16 fighter-bombers Super Etendard Modernisés (SEM);
- * Nine air superiority Rafale F1;
- * Three fighter-bombers Rafale F2;
- * Two early warning airborne E2C Hawkeye;
- * Three helicopter Pedro : 2 Dauphin et 1 Alouette III
- * Two Puma helicopters (Combat Search and Rescue) of the Army.



France Adapts its Military Presence in Afghanistan



Story by Cmdr. Bruno Kral (France)

France has decided to adapt at constant strength its military presence in Afghanistan in order to contribute to both the needs of NATO and the Afghan people.

The president of the Republic has thus decided to reinforce the French contingent in Kabul to facilitate the conditions of its use outside this zone and to engage France further in the formation of the Afghan National Army (ANA).

This decision translates to: the deployment of 2 EC 725 CARACAL helicopters in Kabul. They will benefit the Coalition in regard to troop transport; the reinforcement of the French battalion deployed in the RC-C Kabul with additional combat units; the reinforcement of French participation in the training of the ANA; the non-permanent participation of the aircraft carriers Charles de Gaulle air wing.

The French contribution to the ISAF (PAMIR operation)

The French Army stands today as the seventh largest contributor to the ISAF with 1,100 French troops engaged in the Regional Capital Command of Kabou (RC-C). France has led the command of this zone from

August 6, 2006 through April 6, 2007.

The RC-C draws up about 2,000 men split into three tactical groups (French, Turkish, Italian). The Italian battalion is in charge of the western sector, the Turkish battalion of the southern sector. Several other countries are also represented in the RC-C (Germany, Greece, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Albania and Macedonia).

The French infantry Battalion is augmented with an engineer detachment. Its primary focus is security missions in the zone of the Shamali Plain and in the Deh Sabs, at the north side as well as the districts adjoining Kabul airport.

It also takes its turn as RC-C Quick Reaction Force. On Oct. 16, it took over from the United Kingdom the responsibility of Surobu region, east of the zone under the supervision of RC-C.

Relatively small ISAF teams participate in the buildup of the operational force of the corps, brigades and battalions of the ANA. These OMLT teams embedded in the Afghan units advise and train them in coordination with the ISAF command.

The French contribution to OEF (Héracles Operation)

In July 2003, the French Army joined Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the American led war on terrorism with 200 special forces.

On Oct. 5, 2006, ISAF expanded its area of operation in Afghanistan and included the eastern region where these forces operated. This expansion provoked a reorganization of OEF. It is thus in this context that the recall of these 200 men was executed at the beginning of 2007.

The French Navy contributes to OEF by taking part in TF 150 and TF 57. Its mission is the air space and sea control in north of the Indian Ocean (Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Arabian sea) in order to stop the movement of terrorists from the Afghan zone to the Arab peninsula or the Horn of Africa, to fight illicit traffic (arms, drugs), piracy and theft, and to protect the oil rigs at sea.

France is permanently deploying amidst these two task forces. At this time France contributes to TF 150 with 2 frigates and a "Command and Replenishment Ship", and to TF 57 with a maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique 2 based in Djibouti. France commanded TF 150 at three occasions.

The French detachment Epidote

Deployed within the Task Force Phoenix, the Epidote detachment is comprised of 41 men. The instruction they provide to officers of the ANA is as follows: basic training (section level up to unit level) as well as staff level training. This training is conducted by two assistance and advice cells; specialized instruction provided by operational training detachments: intelligence training three or four courses a year and administration (sixth course ongoing). ANA represents 28,101 men with 19,799 deployed in Kabul and in the surrounding towns.

EPIDOTE rotation 16 will have trained 338 Afghan officers. 4,148 were trained since the beginning of this operation with 162 currently being trained. The goal is to achieve by 2009 a strength of 70,000 men subdivided within a corps in Kabul (10,000), four provincial corps (40,000), a joint staff and a ministry of defense (10,000) and military schools (10,000).

The end state would be for ANA to be comprised of 9,000 officers trained by the Coalition instructors. The three of these six first infantry battalions from the two light brigades of the Central Corps

of Kabul were formed in 2002. Since February 2003, the Epidote Detachment has focused on the training of officers. This training is administered simultaneously to the one for non-commissioned officers (NCO) provided by the British and the New Zealanders, and that of the enlisted men conducted by the Afghans and supported by the Americans.

Many other nations complement the technical formations (Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Canada and South Korea).

In the spring of 2007, the Commando School will open in Kabul, led by American military personnel. Twenty French instructors will participate in order to organize five Afghan special forces battalions (500 men each) by September 2008.



A French patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of French Ministry of Defense

U.S. CENTCOM Coalition Conference Official Reception



Fun Run at U.S. CENTCOM



Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands' Celebration



Djiboutian SNR Visits Eckerd College



Pakistani National Defence University Delegation's Visit To CENTCOM





NOT YET STUMPED – Maj. Andrew Banks, officer commanding of 110 Provost Company RMP, is determined to win new converts to the game at a school near Basra Air Station. United Kingdom Ministry of Defense photo by Cpl. Anthony Boocock