

OTA offers training opportunities for all

by **Spc. Nick D. Wood**
115th MPAD Staff

Range Control works to provide, maintain, administer and build training platforms visiting units may not have available at their home stations. At 138,000 acres, Orchard Training Area is one of the largest multi-purpose range complexes capable of supporting heavy weapons; its size and capabilities make it difficult to oversee.

The Range Officer for Gowen Field's Installation Support Unit Lt. Col. Donald Weaver and the Soldiers at his command run OTA and work with civilian agencies, numerous units and countless soldiers.

"My people start work before seven in the morning and go home when the job is done," Weaver said, "... sometimes after dark."

Preparations began as early as October 2004 for Operation Bayonet. See **OTA**, Page 5



Photo by Spc. April Dustin
2nd Lt. Vince Habeck, left, signals for his soldiers to pull security around a building, Spc. Bradley Beverly, right, mans the radio, and Abdul Wahab, center, role-plays as the village mayor while Bravo company searches for insurgents in the simulated town of Faruq, Afghanistan at the Orchard Training Area.

Iraq veterans tailor training

by **Spc. April Dustin**
115th MPAD Staff

During Operation Bayonet Thrust II Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry are participating in urban warfare training tailored to simulate the most common situations soldiers will encounter in Afghani-

stan.

The battalion, along with personnel from Blue Canopy, Oregon State Defense Force and 116th Cavalry Brigade, is operating a military operations in urban terrain site known as Faruq in the Orchard Training Area. See **TRAINING**, Page 3

1042nd takes care of the wounded

by **Spc. Micheal S. Gann**
115th MPAD Staff

As Soldiers kicked up clouds of dust while training in the Orchard Training Area Wednesday, the 1042nd Medical Company hovered overhead ready to provide treatment for the injured.

Their UH-60 aircraft is capable of transporting six patients at a time on the carousel, which is a litter storage device that turns 360 degrees in the center of the aircraft, said Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Travis Powell, NCOIC for the 1042nd with 17 years of mili-

tary medical experience. This is in addition to a pilot, co-pilot, crew chief and at least one medic, explained Powell.

"This aircraft is capable of bearing a load of more than 20,000 pounds including bird-weight," said Chief Warrant Officer Wayne R. Steenson, a medical evacuation pilot with the 1042nd since 2002. With the upgraded 701C engines the aircraft is capable of flying at more than 165 mph, but during training exercises is only flown at about 143 mph, said Steenson.

See **MEDEVAC**, Page 4

Volunteers make mission real: For the ORSDF it's about saving Soldiers' lives

by **Spc. Annie Baxter**
115th MPAD Staff

The Oregon State Defense Force has 36 volunteers in the Orchard Training Area helping to create the Afghanistan-inspired atmosphere of Bayonet Thrust II.

The force is made up of nearly 100 members who volunteer their time to provide support to the Oregon Army National Guard "Wherever we can, whenever we can," according to Capt. William Quigley, a Vietnam veteran who now serves as the company commander of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, OSDF.

This year, the volunteers are here to support the training set up by the 41st Brigade Combat Team to add realism to the training so Soldiers get the opportunity to practice skills they're going to need for the Afghanistan deployment next year, said Col. Roberta Janssen, commander of troops, OSDF. The volunteers are providing opposing forces and tacti-

cal operations support by playing civilians on the battlefield as well as members of simulated Afghan public and political officials.

Most of the force is made up of prior-service military members who experienced many of the same kinds of training scenarios during their time in service that they are helping to create for the AT exercise, said Staff Sgt. Michael Shidler of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, OSDF.

Although the youngest volunteer is 18, the older age of most OSDF members helps simulate the environment guardsmen will face in Afghanistan next year. Most public officials in Afghanistan are older aged men, so having these volunteers plays in and adds to that element, said Quigley.

"I think that adds one more element of realism to the training," commented Janssen.

The volunteers' presence pro-
— See **VOLUNTEERS**, Page 6

History of Gowen Field

by **Sgt. Clayton Jones**
115th MPAD Staff

In an old white hangar on the west side of Gowen Field is the Idaho Military History Museum where, in a well maintained glass case, rest belongings of the base's namesake, Lt. Paul R. Gowen, a pilot who died in a plane crash in Panama in 1938.

But according to museum curator Gary Keith, the history of Gowen Field and the Idaho military is often overlooked.

"People who live here don't realize the significance of this place. And that is why this museum is so important," said Keith, whose grandfather was stationed at Gowen Field. "It's to educate."

The installation's namesake was born in Caldwell, Idaho — 27 miles west of Boise — Feb. 1, 1909 and was the youngest of seven chil-

— See **GOWEN**, Page 7

Delicate balance between nature and training nation's forces

by **Spc. Janelle Henderson**
115th MPAD Staff

National Guard Soldiers conducting their annual training at Orchard Training Area are aware of the intrusive dust, the dry desert heat, aggressive rodents and biting bugs. What the Environmental Management Office is working to make them be cognizant of are the protected wildlife, plant life and rules that go along with training at the OTA.

Some of the protected animals inside this area are raptors, such as hawks, eagles, falcons and owls. They depend upon many forms of plant life which they use as their home.

"The birds of prey have to have it for cover or they won't make it out there," said Dana Quinney, Environmental Technician Specialist at the EMO at Gowen Field.

The sagebrush is being protected because "It's sen-
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When a phone call is not enough

by **Spc. Micheal S. Gann**
115th MPAD Staff

As the sun beat down fiercely and a constant wind covered Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with powdered Idaho desert, they underwent intense field artillery training in the Orchard Training Area Tuesday.

The 218th are firing 152 or more rounds a day into a desolate stretch of land filled with craters and sage brush. To complete the basic mission, the unit was to shoot rounds safely into the impact area, said 1st Lt. Eric Brenner, executive officer for the 218th Field Artillery unit based out of Portland, Ore.

Field artillery units also have soldiers who scout ahead to the “impact zone,” said Brenner. The gunners are shooting at targets that they can’t see so the forward observers are the eyes of the artillery and referred to by many as the “eyes of death,” said 1st Sgt. Wiley M. Fretwell, a Soldier with 14 years of military service who just returned from Iraq.

When the round hits, the forward observers call back to the Fire Direction Center who process the data and tell the gunners the adjustments needed on the Howitzer’s settings.

This mission is called “adjust

fire.” It’s when adjustments are made to the settings on one gun at a time to ensure the effectiveness of each well-calculated shot.

Once the settings are adjusted, field artillery units use “smoke,” for infantry units in order to screen their movements, said Brenner. Smoke rounds are fired to a specific area in order to obscure their enemy’s vision to protect Soldiers from a possible ambush. Instead of releasing a charge of gun powder, these rounds emit a thick cloud of smoke.

Visibility may work on the Soldier’s side or against them since battle doesn’t just stop when the sun goes down. To improve the effectiveness of night fire, field artillery units also practice a technique called “illumination,” explained Brenner. Soldiers send up large flares to cast light on the battlefield so targets are more visible.

No matter what time of day or night, each round is still going to be just as effective. When each round is fired the earth seems to jump as if startled by the power released by these guns.

At 8,000 meters just one round has the ability to destroy a car, said Brenner. Within 35 yards of the impact area no one would survive and within 50 meters they would more than likely lose a limb, said Brenner.



Photo by Army Pfc. Micheal S. Gann
Sgt. James M Smith, gunner, makes adjustments to the firing point for the 105mm howitzer.

When the proper adjustments have been made and the guns are on-target the battery receives the command to “fire for effect”; then all guns are fired simultaneously, he explained.

When firing multiple guns at the same time, the power of each round is consolidated into one massive blow to the approaching threat.

By training for different scenarios and working together as a highly prepared team of professionals, the field artillery units will supply the support the forward operating units need in combat.

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ing Area. At the site, Soldiers must undergo a two-day operation with three iterations each day during which they practice gathering intelligence and building trust with local villagers in order to eliminate insurgency in the area.

“This is realistic training to prepare for Afghanistan,” said Capt. Robert Winters, OIC of Faruq MOUT site and Commander of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry. “We need to change the mindset of soldiers from combat operations to support and stability

operations.”

The Soldiers begin by patrolling the village to establish a presence. Company and platoon leaders must identify and make contact with the village leaders and begin building a rapport with them through the use of interpreters who speak the Dari language and know cultural customs.

“They’re learning to interact with village leaders and interpreters so they can deal with low intensity negotiations,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Bailiff, NCOIC of

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MEDEVAC, from page 1

The aircraft also has a hoist with a 250 foot long cable to retrieve injured Soldiers in terrain where a landing is too dangerous, such as a mine field or on a mountain where there is not enough landing space. The crew chief would lower a medic using the hoist to retrieve an injured Soldier, explained Steenson.

The crew chief is also in charge of upkeep on the maintenance log books and daily maintenance on the aircraft, said Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Scott Dye, a crew chief for the 1042nd.

For each hour the aircraft is in flight there is about an hour of maintenance required that most people don't know about, continued Dye.

"Without our mechanics, fuelers and operations, we would never go anywhere," said Powell. Everyone relies on each other to successfully complete the mission, he continued.

When someone is injured on the battlefield and needs to be transported for medical care, Soldiers must give accurate and immediate information to the forward support medical team. This information is broadcast to the operations crew who needs at minimum the location of the pick-up, the number injured and the radio frequency for the FSMT, Powell explained.

If an aircraft lands too close to a forward operating base it may stir up a cloud of debris that has potential to cause injury. Pilots must also be ready to fly in many weather conditions and not only transport the patients safely, but the crew as well.

At the beginning of each day the pilots must make adjustments to the aircraft based on the temperature and weather. Once the adjustments have been made and the pilots have the coordinates for the medical evacuation area, they have to carefully maneuver the aircraft to the proper position for pickup, Steenson continued.

Once the patient is onboard, they are treated just as they would be in a clinic, said Powell. Each aircraft is equipped with supplies for a number of different injuries. The medics have "life pacs" on each aircraft, which are defibrillators used to start a patient's heart if they go into cardiac arrest.

"We have many different splint devices for broken bones, plyable backboards for spinal injuries, portable electric suction systems and three full intravenous systems," Powell said.

With up to to 10 missions per month, training and keeping supplies filled is vital to the 1042nd, Powell said.

This year's annual training is



Photo by Spc. Micheal S. Gann
Staff Sgt. Travis Powell explains the proper method for moving a casualty onto a litter to Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry.

based on helping ground troops prepare for deployment, said Powell.

"We have to do this, there is no question," he continued.

The 1042nd is training with ground troops on several scenarios involving different numbers of casualties and a range of injuries. This training is important to the mission because familiarization with each of these scenarios will ensure more precise communication between the ground troops and the medical evacuation team to improve timeliness and effectiveness.

J-6 keeps lines of communication open

by Spc. Nick D. Wood
115th MPAD Staff

The 41st Brigade Combat Team communications office, or the J-6, has been preparing for Operation Bayonet Thrust II for more than three months in conjunction with the Idaho Deputy Chief of Staff of Information Management and the National Interagency Fire Center.

Staff Sgt. Joe A. Robinson, NCOIC for the J-6 of Joint Forces Headquarters said they have communicated

fairly well with both the DCSIM and NIFC.

Robinson, who works as a computer technician full time for the Oregon Army National Guard, said the duties of the J-6 include set-up and maintenance of computers, networking, cell phones and radios for the entire operation, both downrange and at Gowen Field.

"We're making sure everybody can talk where they need to all through the training area," Robinson said.

After set-up, the J-6 office's primary duties consist

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of troubleshooting any problems that come up once everyone is on the ground.

“Somebody comes in when their computer is broke or they need to have data communication in one of the buildings here,” Robinson said. “We’ve run networking for some of the Arizona units so they can communicate with their headquarters.”

Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Nicholas Carbone is the acting J-6 for the operation. Carbone, who recently graduated from the Oregon Institute of Technology with a computer hardware engineering degree, says he enjoys working with computers and that AT so far has been both

good and a learning experience.

“I enjoy solving problems with computers,” he said.

To help with back-up communications, the Guard called on the aid of the National Interagency Incident Communication Division, a component of NIFC that sets up communications for events like the Salt Lake Winter Olympics, hurricanes, fires, floods and national disasters. Help was sent in the form of Field Operations Telecommunications Specialist Mike Tuominen.

The agency has worked with the Army in the past, though this was the first time to do so for a training exercise.

“We have worked with the Army before on some drug interdic-

tion,” Tuominen said. “That’s normally with aviation assets, but as far as a large training exercise like this, it’s the first time.”

The NIFC is a body of organizations made up of representatives from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as state and local Forestry.

Operation Bayonet Thrust II’s J-6 has provided computer networks for the Joint State Task Force and the 41st and radio networks for motor transportation assets. They arrived before most involved in the operation and will stay a few days extra until the job is finished.

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net Thrust II, determining dates, types of weapons, vehicles and ammunition and any other needs the 41st Brigade Combat Team might have.

One such need was qualification of the Range Safety Officer for Range 10, Master Sgt. Phil Manley.

“I wasn’t qualified to run a range with the Mark-19,” Manley said.

He explained that Range Control took time out of their regular schedule to instruct him on the specifics of running a range with the MK-19.

Describing OTA’s capabilities, Weaver said, “We can shoot anything from the 9mm pistol to the Hellfire rocket out of the helicopter.”

The OTA’s 14 ranges are also capable of supporting armor-based weapon systems, artillery, mortars and demolitions; however, for this operation, the ranges will cater mostly to the crew-served, vehicle-mounted .50-caliber machine guns and other small arms.

Range Control is also responsible for safety outside the ranges on the OTA. One of their biggest concerns is traffic. Despite the 35 mph speed limit, accidents are always a possibility. To combat this Weaver recounted a number of safety precautions including warnings about road types, not driving in another vehicle’s dust cloud, following distance and continual headlight use.

Other dangers include the Hanta virus, which can render buildings uninhabitable until properly cleaned,

and snakes such as the Western Rattlesnake.

Orchard Training Area distinguishes itself among training areas because of its unique flora, fauna and history. Range Control coordinates with the Bureau of Land Management, various Native American nations and the Snake River Birds of Prey organization. Large stands have been made completely off-limits due to sagebrush and lepidium, a rare plant family found on the OTA. Other areas have been cordoned off for a recently discovered species of shrimp.

The Air National Guard inhabits the OTA which belongs to the Bureau of Land Management. The bureau dictates how and when the land may be used.

The OTA houses and preserves a number of cultural sites with the help of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation.

The last organization able to dictate the specifics of training is the Snake River Birds of Prey.

“There are certain times we can’t fire during the evening or morning because the birds are nesting or feeding,” Weaver said.

Range Control provides training platforms for countless Soldiers every year with an excellent safety record, Weaver said.

Despite the inherent difficulties, OTA continues to provide a valuable training asset to Soldiers across the country.

“Soldiers I’ve watched are excited about the opportunity. They’re excited to learn,” Weaver said.

ENVIRONMENT, from page 2 — sensitive to any kind of disturbance,” she explained.

Two invasive plants, the Russian Thistle, also known as “tumbleweed,” and cheatgrass, have disrupted the native plant community. If the sagebrush area is disturbed, the alien cheatgrass will come in and replace the native grasses that used to be under the shrubs.

“Once cheatgrass is established it’s almost impossible to get anything else to grow there,” said Quinney.

Lightning or other fire hazards burning in that area will take the shrubs with them clearing the important protective shelter the raptors need for survival and the weeds overgrown in the sagebrush areas will cause great damage because of the speed the fire covers.

Along with the threat of lightning fires on native plant life are the concerns of the same type of damage on the artillery impact area. When smoke is seen, range control calls a cease fire until the fire is put out.

The primary overseer of OTA is the Bureau of Land Management.

Until 1987, the Bureau was the primary overseer of the OTA. Additionally, the Idaho Army National Guard coordinates its own program to maintain the OTA through the EMO at Gowen Field. The mission of the IDARNG is to manage military activities and their impact on the vegetation and wildlife.

Several research projects have been conducted to study the plants and animals in this area.

The guard monitors of the impact due to military annual training, alien plants and livestock.

The IDARNG has been studying and monitoring many plants on the OTA, including the *Lepidium Papilliferum* commonly called the “Lepa,” which is a growing threat to plant wildlife.

For the OTA to stay healthy the

EMO requires every unit that comes to Gowen Field for training to view the environmental video produced from the office. This video covers fire safety, restricted areas to be aware of, guidelines to abide by, the cleaning requirements for all vehicles entering the OTA and the potential shrinking of the habitat from fire damages and training exercises.

Quinney explained the importance to view the video and ask as many questions on fire safety while training on the OTA.

“A lot of them don’t realize how difficult it is to fix damage. In some of the habitat parts it’s not possible to fix damage,” Quinney said. “It’s a lot better to train the right way so that you can do it every year [rather] than mess it up so that it’s off limits for 150 years.”



J. Weaver

A golden eagle, a protected species making its home on the Orchard Training Area soars above.

VOLUNTEERS, from page 2 — provides Soldiers with experience dealing with the added stress on the battlefield that civilians can present. The troops are also taught target identification among crowds of people, said Capt. Melvin L. Lardy of the 2nd Battalion, ORSDF.

“We’re here to help [ensure] people who are deploying survive,” said Quigley.

To many in the state defense force, the volunteer time comes at great personal loss. Some leave their families and full-time jobs to spend two weeks in the field receiving only food, board and transportation as compensation for the nearly 5,000 man hours they donate.

“If our presence can save one Soldier then our volunteer time is well spent,” said Janssen.

Annual training is not the only event supported by the force. They host and support community events such as parades, manning the military museum and Patriot

Day in Gresham, Ore., where they guard three fields full of flags. The Colors are flown to commemorate each casualty of the Sept. 11 attacks and one for every fallen soldier in the war on terrorism, said Janssen.

The volunteers’ commitment becomes even more apparent during times of deployment. Before being the ORSDF, the force was referred to as the Oregon National Guard Reserve, which is essentially how they serve. During times when the state units are deployed, they act as the operating National Guard. Force members can be called up to serve as armory proctors who help man armories and take care of administrative and maintenance needs, said Lardy. And since many of the members are either over the military age limit, or have some other disqualification that keeps them from serving in the guard, the ORSDF enables them to remain involved in the military community.

“We served and are still serving,” said Quigley.

GOWEN, from page 2

dren. Gowen's father was prominent in the community as he served as its Chamber of Commerce Secretary, Postmaster and Mayor at various times.

After high school, Gowen attended the University of Idaho for two years before being accepted to West Point. At the military academy, Gowen picked up the nickname "Spoony," which, in the early 1930s, meant he was "tidy, sharp looking and immaculate in appearance."

He had great success at West Point and graduated ninth in his class.

After completing flight training, he was transferred to Barksdale Field in Shreveport, La., and was promoted to first lieutenant June 13, 1936.

During his stay at Barksdale Field, Gowen became a pilot instructor and on a late evening on Feb. 18, 1937, he had a brush with disaster. While piloting a BT-2 Army trainer with his student, Cadet Park R. Learned Jr., the two men ran into a dust storm, making landing the plane impossible.

The plane circled the landing strip a couple times, but it was too difficult to land so Gowen instructed Learned to jump from the plane and Gowen followed suit. The plane crashed into a farm, but the two were unscathed.

Gowen was transferred to Albrook Field, Panama later in the year. There, during a routine navigation flight on July 11, 1938, Gowen's right motor went dead on his plane soon after take-off. He couldn't regain control of the flaming plane and it slammed into the jungle. Gowen was killed instantly. His navigator and radio man were burned, but both survived the wreckage.

He was buried in his hometown of Caldwell with full military honors at Canyon Hill Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Betty and daughter Stephanie.

Not too long after Gowen's death, Idaho's Adjutant General Mervin McConnel wanted to construct an air base near Boise due to its strategic location and the amount of space available to build large runways. Construction began January 1941 and its 8,800-foot runway was the longest in the nation at the time. The base was originally built to house 54 medium twin-engine bombers and roughly 3,000 people.

At first the base was going to be named Boise Air Terminal so the city's name could stand out, but the War Department notified Gowen's wife on July 31, 1941, that the new Air Corps field would be dedicated to her husband.

Volunteer archivist for the museum Fred Anderson

said he recalls listening to the planes fly overhead as a child in the 1940s.

"I remember as a kid living Nampa, I would hear the B-17s flying by," Anderson said.

During the early days of the installation, it became one of the first places where women worked for the military outside of a desk job. The Women's Auxiliary Air Corps arrived in May of 1944 and employed 126 women on the post.

"The military was trying to incorporate more women in the military and try to free up men to go overseas," Keith said. "They were on Gowen to do maintenance though, not to do office work like most people think."

Also during World War II, the post assisted the 41st Division in the South Pacific by providing engineers to be attached to the unit's infantry companies.

In 1970, the Boise Airport Manager told the Idaho Air National Guard that a resolution had been approved to change the name of the Boise Air Terminal to include the name Gowen Field.

Now the base is home to the Idaho National Guard as well as the Air National Guard. Keith said Gowen Field and the associated Orchard Training Area, offers troops a different environment.

"The OTA is a great desert training site for these units because it's a new place for them because it is always nice to have something fresh to train on."

While the installation has been here since before World War II, Keith and Anderson said many people in the surrounding community don't realize the benefits Boise received with the military building a bigger airport.

"People take this place for granted in Boise," Keith said. "It has definitely boosted the commerce in Boise because the military built this airport with long runways, perfect for big jetliners."

Anderson recalls the importance of the installation when it was first built in the 1940s.

"I remember the big airport and everything moved out here (to Gowen Field)," he said. "The city fathers wanted it and it brought jobs to the city. The old airport down by Boise State was just too small."

Anderson also believes the base doesn't receive the recognition it deserves. "It is a critical part of Boise, but you don't hear much about it anymore," he said. "In the past, the city was more appreciative of Gowen Field. Nowadays, the city is more subtle about it.

"Whether people like it or not, this post is a big part of our life."

TRAINING, from page 3 — Faruq MOU site, from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry.

Bailiff said Soldiers must work to gain the trust of the village elders by providing community support and assistance such as, rebuilding wells or giving medical care to people with illnesses. If the Soldiers follow through with the community support, the villagers will begin to offer intelligence information that there are anti-coalition militants in the area. Once Soldiers receive the intelligence, they begin searching the suspected homes for insurgents, weapons caches, opium, and large stashes of money.

Bailiff said the training also adds a dose of realism by incorporating a trauma lane where villagers and soldiers are made-up with simulated injuries and fake blood. The

Soldiers had to treat and evacuate casualties while simultaneously countering the insurgents.

“The nine-line simulation added instant realism to the training,” said 2nd Lt. Vince Habeck, Platoon Leader, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry. “It got very real, very fast when there was blood on the floor.”

Bailiff said if the Soldiers are given incorrect intelligence or if there are civilian casualties, they will have to go back and repair their relationship with the village.

“As Soldiers we are not used to having to go back and explain what happened and why we did something, so we have to adapt to that,” explained Bailiff.

Bailiff said the BCT will come away with realistic feedback about their performance.

Commonly used terms in Dari:

operations edition

- absent — guy-row-zer
- assault team — group-e am-las
- checkpoint — checkpoint
- deployment — waz-e-fa
- enemy — dosh-man
- first aid — co-mack-ee awol
- formation — jahm-knee-zam
- friendly — dost
- infantry — pee-ah-da
- map — knock-shaw
- meeting — moo-la-kat
- on leave — rook-sat
- plan — plan
- reserve — group-e deserve
- schedule — jud-wal
- section — jez-a-ton
- supply — ick-maul-a-tee
- support team — group-e e-moy-ya
- teacher — mah-ha-lehm



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Spec. Michael Hennigan, a member of HHC, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., plays catch with an Afghan man Jan. 1 in Wurjana, Afghanistan.