



The Alamo



Volume 3, Issue 1

15 July 2006

TAG V Arrived

Everyone assigned to TAG V finally arrived at Camp Alamo. Col. Lyman Salem, OR, took command on July 3, 2006 at a Transfer of Authority (TOA) in the courtyard of Camp Alamo. Col. Schrock Lincoln, NE, presented the Training Assistance Group (TAG) lineage to Col. Lyman at a ceremony attended by soldiers from Afghanistan, Canada, France, Romania, United Kingdom, TAG IV and TAG V. Brig. Gen. Perryman from Phoenix IV and Brig. Gen. Wardak attended the ceremony to congratulate TAG IV for a job well done, and challenge TAG V to continue the growth of Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC). Col. Lyman said "our job is to work ourselves out of a job."

All nations working at Camp Alamo participated in the ceremony. The Adjutant read the lineage, and as he announced the date each country began supporting KMTC, the flag bearer for that

country moved forward with their country colors.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, TAG V became responsible for continuing the mission of the Training Assistance Group. Everyone on the team is well trained, prepared, and ready for the challenge. We thank TAG IV for a job well done, and look forward to the challenges ahead of us.



Col. Lyman receives the TAG lineage from Col. Schrock

Commander's Corner

Most of us now have one month under our belt and should have our jobs pretty well figured out. Everyone should remain focused on putting ourselves out of a job by mentoring and helping the KMTC staff and instructors train soldiers without our assistance. Someone mentioned to me they are here so their grandchildren won't have to be.

The second topic I want to address is making everyone part of our team. We are not the 41BCT or Task Force Phoenix, we are the TAG which consists of Guard, Reserve, IRR, Navy, Coalition Partners, MPRI and KBR staff. Every one is part of the team so set a goal to make a new friend.

If you haven't been told yet I like things neat and orderly. Now that TAG IV is on their way home we need to clean house and get rid of junk that accumulated for years around here. Pride in ownership is key to our success. Finally always keep safety in mind.

James R. Lyman
Col.
Commanding

CSM Forum



The vast majority of us arrived at Camp Alamo one month ago. Fortunately for us, the Navy personnel, drill sergeants, and soldiers from TAG IV, arriving before us, shared their knowledge and expertise. I believe the transfer of authority from TAG IV went well, and we are all working hard to complete the mission.

We must maintain our situational awareness and stay focused. I am concerned that some TAG V Soldiers and Sailors are not doing everything possible to protect themselves and their comrades. The level of insurgent activity around KMTC and Camp Alamo is increasing. I am concerned that if we don't take care of ourselves and our fellow soldiers and sailors, that somebody will get hurt. I am not saying that to be paranoid, just stay alert, properly wear all of your protective gear, keep your observation and fighting skills honed, and be prepared to take action at any given moment.

The Commander and I frequently observe almost all units working and training within TAG V. Both of us are very impressed with the professionalism and dedication to duty that everyone displays. Keep up the great work!

I encourage you to send email updates to your friends and family members. They want to know what you are doing. They are proud of you and want to be involved in your deployment.

We all need to respect other team members on this mission. This includes all KBR employees and coalition forces. All members of this mission are professionals, and should be treated accordingly. Just because you don't have to clean the latrine does not mean that you can make a mess and walk away. It has come to my attention that some of our personnel are disrespectful to KBR employees. I will not tolerate that. Treat everybody on Camp Alamo the way you would like them to treat you.

Be safe and take care of your battle buddy,

Rober Foesch
Command Sgt. Maj.

The Operations (S-3) staff

By Sgt. 1st Class Mark Whitney

Hello from Camp Alamo. The S3/OPS (Operations) section wishes you the best and thanks you for supporting, caring and praying for us. Our section is responsible for all Planning, Training (Afghanistan National Army (ANA) and



Lt. Col Brann

(Task Force Phoenix V).

Our S3/Operations Officer is LTC James Brann Eugene, OR, Asst. S3 is CPT Daniel Miner Vancouver, WA and



Capt. Dan Miner working on his low Optempo

US), ammunition forecasts, scheduling and coordination between Kabul Military Training Center (K M T C) and our higher command at Camp Phoenix

The OPS NCOIC is SFC Mark Whitney Corvallis, OR. The mentoring of our individual ANA partners is an integral part of our daily mission. The use of our

interpreters daily ensures that information is clearly understood by all parties.

Convoy Operations (COPS) is another part of the OPS mission. Anyone from



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Whitney checking the facility

many requirements of our overall mission.

The COPS section NCOIC is MSG Roger CatesFort Smity, AR. Assisting



Master Sgt. Roger Cates

TAG V leaving Camp Alamo must check in and out through COPS and they keep track of departure and arrival. There are several convoy missions that depart and return daily due to the

him is his crew of drivers in SGT David Dodge Portland, OR, SGT Sean Derby Milwaukie, OR, and SPC Victor Gomness Hillsboro, OR.



Sgt. Sean Derby in the OP center



Spc. Victor Gomness monitors the radio outside



Sgt. David Dodge checking vehicles before con-

MWR Up Coming Events	
Religious Services	Protestant—1230 Every Friday at KMTCC Conference Room Protestant—0900 Every Sun at Phoenix Greek Orthodox—1300 Every Sun at Phoenix LDS—1500 Every Sun at Phoenix Catholic—1730 Every Sun at Phoenix
Movie Night	Sat., Tue., Thur.—1930 in the courtyard. (B-hut M2 in inclement weather). Direct movie requests to LT Heron.
Bazaar	1st and 3rd Thur. of each month. Outside the west gate.
Molymics (Alamo Olympics)	1 September. Sign up sheet on the DFAC door. Sign up for one event or all of the events. Just sign up.

Helping the children of Afghanistan

One school at a time, one village at a time

Our mission in Afghanistan is to mentor the Afghanistan National Army (ANA). The ANA needs to provide safety and security for the citizens of Afghanistan. Working with the ANA, we get the opportunity to travel through the villages and schools. It absolutely

stan. As we deliver the supplies to the schools, I will let the pictures tell the story.

The first school we have the oppor-



Entrance to Pol-e-Charki High School

tears at your heart to see the lack of resources for the children and the way of life for people in a third world country.

tunity to visit is the Pol-e-Charki High School. You can



Girls wait in anticipation of the gifts.



CSM Striley unloading back packs to deliver to the students



Students checking out the contents of the back pack

As a result, the Training Assistance Group (TAG) adopted four schools near our ANA training base. The personnel of TAG IV established a supply of school supplies from Spirit of America and other personnel willing to purchase and ship the supplies to us here in Afghani-

stan. tell at the entrance that the school is very short on resources to maintain the building.

On this trip we are delivering supplies to the younger children at the school. The younger class does have some boys and girls in the same class-

room. As the students get older, they completely separate the boys and girls. Pol-e-Charki High School runs four shifts to accommodate the 8,000 students that attend the school.

The girls tend to be much more quite and reserved as we deliver the items.

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When we deliver school supplies to the

older girls shift, we are not allowed to take pictures.

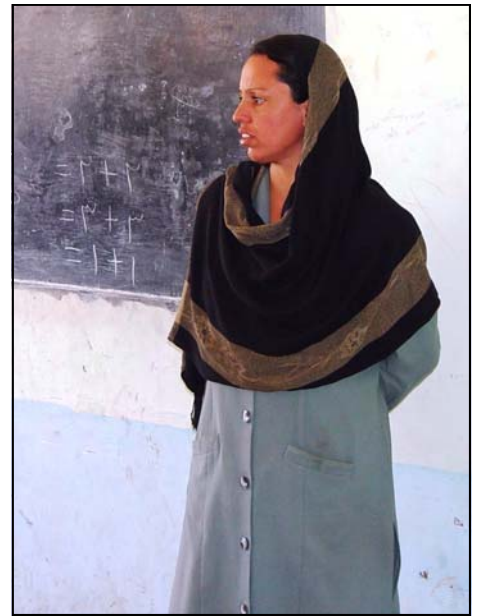
After we finish delivering the backpacks, the students go outside for a recess. Many of the students come to the US soldiers to shake their hand and try out some of the English they learn in school.

The next school we visit is the Family village school. Here the Army is sponsoring the addition of a

(Continued on page 5)



The boys show their jubilation after receiving school supplies



Teacher at Family Village School



Students join the Principle out side the school



Family Village classroom.



This is the playground at Pole-Charki. The previous unit built this pavilion in Jan of this year for the students to have



At Family Village the teacher must bring her baby to the school while she teaches class.

(Continued from page 4)

four room classroom building. The school will use the fourth room as a science room. We are working with Spirit of America to send some microscopes

books and supplies for the students.

Outside the children make games to play with the things they have. At Family Village the girls lined up some hula hoops, and then took turns throwing a

ways have a smile when a group of soldiers come to visit them.

The next school we will take supplies to is in the Kata Khail village. Kata Khail is a remote village several miles



Security Force delivering books to Family Village. L to R: Principle, Village Malick (Mayor) Teacher, and Security Force Platoon Leader



Two young girls outside the school. These girls are not old enough to start school.

and other science supplies.

The classrooms are just like Pol-e-Charki. There are three to four students per desk, with 30 to 40 students in a 12

Frisbee through the line of circles. There was a lot of laughing at their attempts to get the Frisbee through the circles. This is the only playground they have at the

away from the Kabul city. The Malic established a school in the Mosque, and they teach over 50 students in the one classroom.



Girls at Family Village playing a game of throw the Frisbee through the hula hoops during recess.



The Mosque at Kata Khail doubles as the school. Our next school delivery run will go to the 50 students at this school.

foot by 14 foot room. Many of the doors and windows in the existing building are broken. In the future we will request funds to repair the windows and doors.

This trip to the Family village, the Security Force supporting Camp Alamo provides boxes of books to the teachers. The schools are in desperate need of

school for almost 1,000 students. They run two different shifts to accommodate the students.

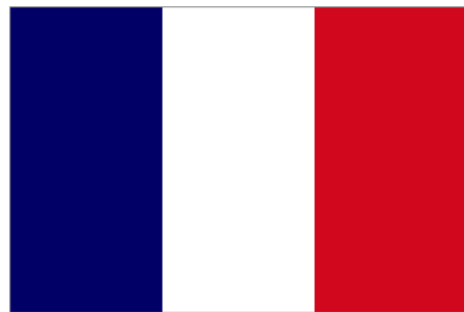
The children outside this school are just like many of the children throughout the country. They don't have shoes, and many times they don't have a shirt to wear, but they are full of energy and al-

We are in need of supplies to deliver to these schools. If you would like to send school supplies or winter clothing, please send them to:

**Don Weber
TAG / 41 BCT
APO AE 09320**

Fete de la Federation (Bastille Day French Celebration) - 13 July 2006

By Staff Sgt. Shaun Ridings



Although the actual storming of the Bastille in Paris, France took place on 14 July 1789, the French typically begin their celebration of their national holiday the evening before. I feel fortunate that I was able to observe the French soldiers stationed here in the Kabul area perform an honors ceremony. Having studied the language for several years in college, and

refresh my memory as Major Frenz said. I find the French contingent here to be quite amiable and willing to discuss military matters and training. While conversing with Major Frenz, he expressed surprise that most of us around here are National Guard and Reservists as the French Army doesn't tend to send their reservists on missions out of the country.

Wardak and Col. Amin came in their own vehicles. I was able to converse with Col. Amin in French, as well as interpret for Lt. Col Flux, as he spent two



The French Army forms up for the Bastille day celebration at Camp Phoenix, Kabul Afghanistan.

L to R: Lt. Col. Gauthier, Maj. Buffard Morel, Maj. Frenz, Maj. Voirin, Warrant Officer Michel, Capt. Petermann 2nd row: Capt. Cheyrezy, Capt. Ducrocq, Sgt. 1st Class Alejandro, Sgt. 1st Class Thieulie

also traveling around France for three months, I have been able to communicate with those soldiers whom are working from Camp Alamo at KMTC. Although my French is rusty, I am happy that I am able to practice with them in order to

Those of us planning on attending the ceremony left Camp Alamo around 1730. Our group included Col. James Lyman Corvallis, OR, Lt. Col. Frank Flux, Lt. Col. James Brann Eugene, OR, Capt. Dan Miner Vancouver WA, Staff Sgt. Raymond Shannon Oceanside CA, and myself. Col. Lyman stopped at KMTC to pick up his counterpart, Brig. Gen. Wardak from KMTC, to attend. Another ANA officer in attendance from KMTC was Col. Amin, whom is the KMTC Operations and Training (G-3) officer. Brig. Gen.

years in France, and so is well-versed in the language. Of course, Brig. Gen. Pritt, Task Force Phoenix V Commander, attended the ceremony as well as other ANA officers from the Kabul area.

The French contingent commander, Col. Pesquelir, opened and conducted most of the ceremony. He gave out awards to subordinate leaders, who in turn gave awards to the troops within their own elements. There was a lot of coming to attention, saluting, and marching back and forth by the soldiers and their leadership. In some ways, it was similar to a change of command ceremony in the U.S. Army, because most of the movements and activities were driven by music and commands given by the colonel. After the ceremony, we were invited back to the French quarter, to partake in conversation, food and soft drinks. Our group left around 1930 and made it safely back to Camp Alamo around 2015.



The French commander pinning awards on soldiers.

Combined Training Exercise Kandak 52

By Capt. James Caruna
Princess Patricias Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)



Kandak 52 saw yet another forward step for the ANA and in particular the Collective Training Brigade (CTB). The CTB instructors took the lead throughout

conducted night training for the first time. The other two companies could not do night training due to force protection measures directed by higher authorities.

out. An NCO cannot be created in a matter of weeks or months, so the Canadian team attached to the CTB continues to program training that not only tests and evaluates the Kandaks, such as Kandak 52, but also affords the CTB staff to enrich their own skill sets.

Kandak 52 was yet another trying, yet highly fruitful training experience with the ANA. The soldiers proved to be just as hardy as ever with the leaders gaining more confidence from the enhanced leader training program created for them. Kandak 52 is the precursor to Kandak 53 which will serve as a litmus test for the level of advancement of the CTB staff. The CTB will plan and control all facets of the training and logistics for running Kandak 53 under the close watch of the Canadian team. Kandak 53 marks the final Kandak for the current group of Canadians before we begin our Relief in Place and head back to our families for a much deserved break prior to follow on tasks.



Kandak 52 conducting training

10 days of instruction and two days of Situational Training Exercise (STX). Prior to the commencement of training we put officers through a leadership training package. We gave or refreshed leaders on the fundamentals of various types of operations for three days, after which they practiced in a series of Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs). During these TEWTs we gave the leadership complex problems with very few details. The aim is to get the Kandak's leadership thinking outside of the way they did it in the past. With much prodding and encouragement the officers came up with not only the requisite questions, but with tactically feasible plans.

Once the CTB commenced training, we split the Kandak into the usual four companies (three infantry plus combat support/combat service support). The first 10 days saw the normal training activities, which included Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), convoy operations, squad and platoon attacks including live fire for all except the CSS company who could only do squad live fire. Two of the ANA companies

The ANA, and in particular CTB, proved capable of running most of the training tasks without difficulty. The lack of additional knowledge and experience still require significant mentorship through-



Kandak 52 receiving operations briefing

FACILITIES ENGINEER OFFICE (FEO)

By Lt. Col. Thomas Smith



Back row: Sgt. Foust, Staff Sgt. Golden, 1st. Sgt Carlson, Lt. Col. Smith; kneeling Capt. Vosika

Hello to our families and friends. The FEO section is responsible for all plans related to construction on the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC). With almost 20,000 acres of land and over 5,000 people living here, KMTC is like a small city and the FEO is responsible for ensuring that we have all of the utilities necessary to conduct business everyday.

Currently, we are making plans for the future expansion of KMTC. We are working closely with the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) to start implementing a five-year master plan that will greatly enhance the

quality of training and life here at KMTC. Over the next year the FEO will be extremely busy helping to train the ANA by working hard to improve the infrastructure.

The FEO consists of Lt. Col. Tom Smith Waynesville, MO., Capt. Earl Vosika Oregon City, OR., 1st. Sgt. Dan Carlson Bend, OR., Staff Sgt. Gerald Golden South Beach, OR., and Sgt. Brandon Foust Mt. Angel, OR. In upcoming issues we will focus on each of your soldiers and let you know and see what they do here in Afghanistan.

Thank you for all you do for us. Without you and your prayers and support we could not do the things we do. Be safe and know we are thinking of you often.

Force Protection

By Capt. Chris Graves

The Army has a saying that we are all Safety Officers. That statement is true but I want to add to that and proclaim us all Force Protection Officers. As Force Protection Officers it is everyone's job to be looking out for our security and safety.

What does this all entail? Simply put if you see something that just does not look right and something needs to be done then ACT! Report all suspicious

behavior to the Comanche TOC. In this context, suspicious behavior is that which if unchecked could jeopardize all our physical safety. In a recent example one of our members saw what he thought was an ANA Soldier standing next to our South Wall with a GPS device. It took over an hour to report it to the MP mentor. After that much time there is nothing we can do. The quicker the report, the quicker the response.

Force Protection is more than just looking out while at KMTC. In fact when we are doing any kind of movement we need to look harder at what is

taking place around us. Already I see people getting into the idea that when we drive down Range road or even route Violet we are not as aware as we should. Work as a team. Call out possible suspicious vehicles and personnel. The number one thing is take your assigned weapons. Do not show up to a gun fight with only 30 rounds. Outside KMTC we all need to think "this is the time we are going to get hit." So practice and think about how you are going to react.

Remember: We are all Force Protection Officers!

Health Reminder from the Medical Crew:

We are in a very harsh environment, that we need to acclimate to. Please remember to follow the following medical requirements:

- Wear your sunscreen
- Wash your hands and use sanitizer frequently and after interaction with ANA soldiers. The TMC has bottles of Pural.
- Take your anti malaria medication.

In August the Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) will start doing monthly blood pressure checks for everyone over 50 and anyone on blood pressure watch.



Promotion of Sgt. Shaun Ridings to Staff Sgt.

Training Assistance Group Newsletter

Tag
41st BCT
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