



# The Alamo



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## TAG Helps with Medical Assistance

By 2nd Lt. Amanda Straub

Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers from the TAG and 201st Corps treated over 200 patients during a medical assistance mission to the village of Pol-E Charki on Aug. 11. The team consisted of Afghan doctors, medics and military police with a strong desire to care for people in the community who cannot afford regular health care. They were assisted by American soldiers who provided medical supplies, a dentist, and additional security. The ANA medical personnel normally have Fridays off, but they were happy to give their time off to provide medical expertise to the people of Pol-E Charki.

Col. Ab-Salam Ayobi, 201st Corps Surgeon, also runs a private clinic in Kabul in the evenings and treated patients

using a blend of western medicine and eastern technique. Ayobi, who studied medicine in the United States, used acupuncture to treat a young man with a



**Dr. Ayobi performs acupuncture to treat a blood clot.**

blood clot in his thumb. Ayobi said that the acupuncture would save the boys thumbnail, and decrease the pain.

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## Commander's Corner

A briefing topic the staff has for every BUB is to update me on the areas they are working on to transition a task to the KMTC staff. We have been here long enough now that you should have a good feel for what is working and what isn't. I would encourage everyone to develop some measure of effectiveness and if it doesn't work, try something else.

Never forget that our key to success is relationships and a good technique to help foster a good relationship is to first understand the other persons position and needs, and then to be understood. Success is all about relationships and communication and it starts with you. Remember you are making a difference and all of your efforts and sacrifice is for a worthy cause.

James R. Lyman  
Col.  
Commanding

## CSM Forum



Everybody should be settled in and have a good understanding of what your role is at KMTC and Camp Alamo. I am very impressed by everybody's hard work and dedication to the mission. It is important to continue doing everything we can to make sure the ANA is successful.

In the last week two different coalition armies lost soldiers because of apparent safety violations. I don't know all of the details, but it appears one of the soldiers died from a rifle negligent discharge by one of his comrades. The other soldier allegedly died when he got between a vehicle backing up and a building wall. The soldier was acting as a ground guide for the vehicle backing up, and the brakes went out on the vehicle, crushing him between the vehicle and the building wall.

We MUST think safety at all times. I know it is hard to stay constantly focused on safety, but your life depends on it. I am convinced the longer we are here, the more likely we are to have an accident. There are a lot of different factors that contribute to people committing unsafe acts. I think if you do as you were trained during your Army career and take the time to do the task right, you will prevent an accident from occurring.

CSM Freund recently transferred to 201st Corps. We all spent a lot of time with him and developed a relationship. We will greatly miss him. CSM Freund is a great soldier, and I wish him the best in his new assignment.

Senior Master Sergeant (SMSGT) Spaulding took over for CSM Freund, and he also assumed the role of Camp Mayor. If you haven't met SMSGT Spaulding yet, stop by his office and introduce yourself to him. SMSGT Spaulding is an active duty Air Force logistics specialist and he is a great addition to the unit.

I was at the range recently and several soldiers were not wearing their throat protector or groin protector on their IBA. This is a NO-GO! Everybody should know the required uniform and take it with you when you leave Camp Alamo or KMTC.

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Most of the patients were children with disorders such as chronic diarrhea, malnutrition,



parasites and skin disorders. A pharmaceutical company named McKesson, from the United States, donated 10 cases of supplies including medicines, soap, shampoo, sunscreen, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for preventative health-care.

**The children all receive a toothbrush after seeing the Dentist.**

Lt. Col. Allen Kylap, an American soldier, has a civilian career with McKesson and asked his company to send the supplies.

"I asked them to send one case," Ky-



**Children borrow a US Army hat while waiting to see the Doctor.**

lap said, "and they sent 10. Everything is definitely getting used though."

Kylap says his company has been

extremely supportive of his deployment and was very happy to send supplies. Inevitably, some of the packaging on the products his company buys and sells are damaged during shipping. Kylap says slightly damaged pharmaceuticals in the United States are normally thrown out and wasted. Kylap says he wishes more pharmaceutical companies would follow McKesson's example and donate the products to a worthy cause.

"I tell you what, we're here for the kids," Kylap said. "The children of Afghanistan will win this war, not the adults."

Soldiers from the American security force said they appreciate the opportunity to work with the ANA doing humanitarian missions to rebuild Afghanistan.

"The little girls rob us of candy pretty quick," Spc. Kyle Buckaloo said. "We can try and be hardcore all we want..."

"But we've got a soft-spot for these little girls," Pvt. Schuyler Patch said.

Buckaloo nods, "The little girls just break my heart."

2nd Lt. Eric Martz, a security force platoon leader, said he had the idea to coordinate an ANA lead medical assistance mission while he was on patrol talking to villagers in the 201st corps area.

"I asked people about their needs and found out they needed doctors," Martz said. "Pol-E Charki High School is in the middle of the village and surrounded by a refugee camp, so it seemed like a medical mission would be good there."

Martz hopes to continue working with the ANA from 201st corps to adopt Pol-E Charki High School and provide educational supplies, clothing assistance and medical care to the surrounding community.

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As a reminder, quiet time around housing units (conex housing and B-huts) is 2100 to 0700.

By now every U.S. NCO assigned to TAG should have been counseled by their rater. The requirement is quarterly counseling, and the clock started when we arrived at Camp Shelby. If you haven't been counseled, make an appointment with your rater. This is very important, and it must be done. There is a "new" NCOER support form that must accompany the counseling. It is very important for soldiers transferring out of TAG to receive an NCOER to avoid any unrated time.

The last item I would like to address is rumors. I have had many soldiers ask me about rumors they heard. My response has almost always been, "have you seen it in writing? If you haven't seen it in writing, it probably isn't true." Keep that in mind the next time you hear the latest rumor.

Once again, keep up the good work!  
Robert Foesch  
Command Sgt. Maj.

### Thought for the day

By Maj. Kim Evers

There is a famous quote attributed to Michelangelo about his inspiration for one of his many statues, "I saw the angel in the marble and I carved until I set him free". Some people see the angel and some people only see the stone. When we look at the ANA, do we see what they can become or do we see only what they are today?

"A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral".

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

## MWR Up Coming Events

### Religious Services

Protestant—1230 Every Friday at KMTC Conference Room  
Catholic—1330 Every third Friday at KMTC Conference Room  
Protestant—0900 Every Sun at Phoenix  
LDS—1500 Every Sun at Phoenix  
Catholic—1730 Every Sun at Phoenix

### Movie Night

Mon and 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. New location in the parking lot.

### Molyemics (Alamo Olympics)

15 September. Sign up sheet (starting 25 Aug.) on the DFAC door. Sign up for one event or all of the events. Just sign up.

# Time for the French to Rotate Personnel

By Maj. Laurent Frentz

It's time for Lt. Col. Gauthier and 10 personnel from our team, to fly back to France. Gauthier and his team mentored



**Departing French Team**

the Officer Training Brigade (OTB) to assess new officers into the Afghanistan National Army (ANA). The ANA is a better organization because of the accomplishments of Gauthier and his team.

The new team will have a challenging time meeting the standards set by Gauthier's team. 11 other guys under the command of Lt. Col. Dampierre arrived at the beginning of this month. They are another exceptional set of soldiers, and I am sure they will live up to the standards set. Here are their faces and short CV for you to know who they are. They will work by your side until January.



**Lt. Col. Dampierre Frédéric, 42, Foreign Legion, is the assistance cell chief.**



**You surely already know Maj. FRENZ Laurent, 36, Cadets military school, Aix-en-Provence, liaison officer**



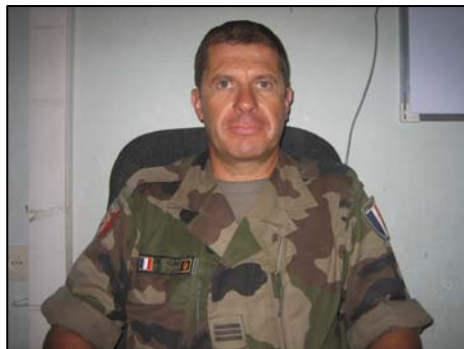
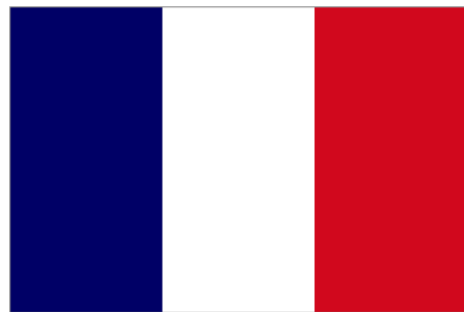
**Maj. DELECLOY Frank, 42, Infantry school, Montpellier is the tactical adviser**



**Cpt. DUCROCQ Thierry, 48, Military management school, Montpellier, is tactics instructor for the second platoon leaders course**



**Cpt Faurois Patrice, 52, Infantry school, Montpellier, is instructor at Company Commanders' Course**



**Cpt Igau Joël, 51, Mountain troops training center, Barcelonnette (Alps) is instructor at Company Commanders' Course**



**Cpt Le Losq Henri, 44, Military Academy of Saint-Cyr, Coëtquidan (Brittany), is instructor at Company Commanders' Course**



**Cpt Petermann Jean-Louis, 47, Commando training center, Montlouis (Pyrenees mountains) is tactics instructor for the first platoon leaders course**



**Cpt Wattenne Francis, 52, Paratroopers school, Pau, is responsible for training program**



**Master Sgt Lastennet Elisabeth, 33, Paratroopers school, Pau, is in charge of administrative issues**



**Spc Mathieu Aurélien, 31, 1<sup>st</sup> Chasseurs d'Afrique Armored regiment, Canjuers, is driver and deals with administrative tasks**



**Master Sgt Commeyras Emmanuel, 35, Armored School, Saumur, is the physical training instructor for our ANA students and is specialized in close quarters fighting**



**Sgt 1st Class Petit Christophe, 36, Engineer school, Angers, is the engineering instructor**



**Spc Waegeman Nicolas, 25, Mountain troops training center, Barcelonnette, is the second driver and deals with administrative tasks**

## Kandak 53 Graduates

*By 2nd Lt. Amanda Straub*

A new battalion of Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers graduated basic training at Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) on Aug. 10 and are ready to fight for peace for their country.

Brigadier General, Mohammed Amin Wardak, addressed the graduating class and saluted each soldier as they passed by for his review. At the end of the ceremony 25 soldiers performed the traditional "Man Dance" commemorating the ceremony and celebrating the strength of the ANA soldiers.

The graduating battalion of approxi-

mately 1200 soldiers is the 53rd to complete basic training at KMTC since the formation of the ANA and the opening of the facility in 2002. KMTC is the national training center for incoming ANA soldiers and conducts



**Graduates celebrate by performing the Man Dance at the conclusion of the ceremony**



**Kandak 53 in formation for Graduation**

basic training, advanced individual training (AIT), drill sergeant school and officer training.

Basic training is six weeks

long and consists of basic infantry skills. New recruits learn to fire AK-47s and rocket propelled grenade launchers (RPG's), basic infantry tactics and fighting, military discipline, map reading and land navigation. KMTC also offers the opportunity for soldiers to take classes in reading and writing, English and computer skills.

After basic training the new soldiers of the 53rd Battalion will be assigned to

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# Facilities Engineer Office

By Lt. Col. T. W. Smith, Facilities Engineer



Hello from Camp Alamo and the Kabul Military Training Center. In this month's addition I will highlight one of our key NCOs, one of our missions during the last month, a reenlistment, a promotion, a new member of the FEO, and how we currently support the ANA. So as they say on Broadway.....On with the Show.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to First Sergeant Dan "TOP" Carlson, Bend



OR. Top is my NCOIC and comes to the FEO from Echo Company, 3/116 CAV (Engineer) where he is the company first sergeant. He is

married to a wonderful lady named Anne and he is the father of Rob, Greg, and Caitlin. Last month Top and Anne celebrated their twenty-ninth wedding anniversary. From all of us in the FEO, "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!"

Top has been in the Oregon Army National Guard since March 1989 and prior to that served in the United States Navy from 1969 to 1973. He is currently employed by the Oregon Department of Transportation as a heavy equipment mechanic/welder. His most memorable moment since being mobilized is arriving at the Kabul International Airport in the middle of a dust storm. Top and Anne are planning a second honeymoon at the end of our mobilization. Ireland and New Zealand are a few of the places on



**Sgt. Faust re-enlisting in the Oregon National Guard while in Afghanistan.**

their itinerary. Thank you, Anne for loaning Top to us during this endeavor. You are a key member of the FEO team and your support is critical to our success. Thanks for all you do!

Shortly after we arrived a rocket-propelled grenade was discovered in a building overlooking the Alamo. To ensure that this would never happen again we decided to tear down those buildings. This is what's so fun about being engineers; we get to demolish things. Let me tell you that sitting in this monster and knocking down a wall is a great stress reducer. I recommend it for everyone.

I had the honor of re-enlisting SGT Brandon Foust, Mt. Angel OR., for six more years in the Oregon Army National Guard. It is great to be around young men and women who volunteer to be part of the United States

And now the newest major in the Army National Guard. BG Pritt promoted Major Earl Vosika, Oregon City OR., on 4 August 2006. It is a large step from company grade to field grade and Major Vosika successfully made that transition. I am sure the Vosika family is extremely proud of him. Congratulations!



I would like to welcome SPC Kovaleff to the FEO. He is doing a great job and working hard to learn his new responsibilities. Welcome aboard.



Over the next year we will have many different tasks associated with supporting the ANA, but our biggest contribution will be implementing a construction master plan for KMTC. In the very near future KMTC will become a bee-hive of activity. We will start with a large demolition project; followed by construction of a new dining facility (DFAC) and several new barracks. Some of our current missions include making preparations to feed over 4,000 ANA soldiers during Ramadan, replacing the existing DFAC roof, building a 4km stone wall, and replacing over two miles of water line.

I look forward to telling you what your soldiers are doing here and updating you on our success. Please continue to pray for all of us in the Training Assistance Group and don't forget to add in our Coalition partners. We miss you and think of you often. Thank you for supporting us.



**Destroying an abandon building to eliminate any possible military threat.**

# Creating a Drill Sergeant Cadre

## Developing the backbone of the ANA

By 2nd Lt. Amanda Straub

The Afghan National Army (ANA) welcomed 12 new drill sergeants into its ranks on Aug. 10. The new drill sergeants, instrumental to the continuing success and growth of the ANA, were recognized in a special hatting ceremony at Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC). Graduates ceremoniously re-

KMTTC, believes that the drill sergeant school is making a 100 percent improvement in the quality of training for the ANA.

"The drill sergeant school is a wonderful addition to training that benefits all soldiers and sergeants," Sarvar said. "Learning advanced tactics and discipline and being able to teach others is very good for the army."

The drill sergeant school is four weeks long and teaches select non-commissioned officers (NCOs) 48 different classes designed to enhance their leadership abilities and provide an advanced

knowledge base for tactical training and soldier care. Candidates in the drill sergeant school learn standards of military bearing, military customs, physical fitness programs and inspection standards.

The drill sergeant school at KMTTC is relatively new and was established in December of 2005. It was started by American drill sergeants deployed to Afghanistan, but as each class of Afghan drill sergeants completes their course, Afghan leaders take an increasing roll in the development of training. Currently, two prior honor graduates of the ANA drill sergeant school work full time to train other drill sergeants.

ANA com-

manders and sergeants major nominate their best soldiers for drill sergeant school based on their history of service, their leadership potential, and the ability to read and write. Once the drill sergeants graduate, they may take new jobs training recruits in basic training and advanced individual training, or they may return to a regular unit using their increased knowledge of discipline and standards to ensure that their soldiers are prepared to fight. Sarvar is returning to the National Military Academy, an elite school for officer training, as part of the cadre that will develop new officers for the ANA.

McAfee said that Sarvar was an excellent student and gained more points than any of his peers during the 9th drill sergeant course. Sarvar had the highest grade point average, the highest marksmanship score, and stood out as a natural leader.

"He was always motivated," McAfee said. "I didn't have to tell him how to be a drill sergeant or how to lead. He grasped the concept on his own."

Sarvar said he was extremely happy when he heard about the ANA two years ago and joined abruptly to serve his country.

"I felt so much pain seeing my country always at war," Sarvar said. "I am excited to use the things I have learned to teach new students. I want them to use my knowledge to be better soldiers and officers and I want to encourage other NCOs to complete drill sergeant school to help prepare soldiers for the enemy."



**Brigadier General Pritt congratulates Drill Sergeant after receiving his drill sergeant hat.**

tired their camouflage caps and donned new black caps signifying their status as ANA drill sergeants.

Brigadier General Douglas Pritt, American commander of Task Force Phoenix V, addressed the new drill sergeants reminding them that they are the standard keepers of the army.

"You are the first person new soldiers in the army will come into contact with," Pritt said. "Your soldiers will write home about you. More than any other person in the army, you will have a lasting impression on their lives."

American trainer SFC David McAfee says it is a great honor to be selected for ANA drill sergeant school, but the course is very tough. Trainees are expected to write reports and PowerPoint presentations, give public speeches and teach classes to their peers. In a country with a 90 percent illiteracy rate, these hurdles are difficult to overcome. Trainees are also taught to combat common problems in a military environment such as soldier abuse, ethnic discrimination, religious accommodation and stress management.

1st Sgt. Mohammed Sarvar, distinguished honor graduate for the 9th class of drill sergeants to complete training at



**Drill sergeants receive their distinctive drill sergeant hat at a special "hatting ceremony."**

# SECFOR

## The Force Protecting the Force

By Spc. David Carter

Situated just outside of Kabul Afghanistan and inside the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) is a place called Camp Alamo. Now three months into their yearlong deployment, 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1-180th Infantry calls it home. With a platoon size of



**ANA soldier providing security on the night patrol.**

forty, the soldiers conduct combat patrols, manage force protection, and maintain rapport with the local villages.

It is a twenty four hour, seven days a week job for the group of soldiers. Each new week, the four squads of the platoon receive specific missions. Everyday the soldiers come to realize one thing, expect the unexpected. Aside from their regular duties, they provide additional help with convoy security, or lending extra manpower at more remote bases located elsewhere in Afghanistan.

The platoon already conducted over one hundred combat patrols, since beginning their deployment. During that time, they helped provide convoy security escort for over 1,000 recently graduated Afghan National Army soldiers from the KMTC.



**Spc. Royce Bilyeu, Flower Hill OK, surveys the countryside with the LRAS night vision system.**



**Staff Sgt. Tom Schoolcraft Del City OK, briefs ANA soldiers on their responsibilities for the night patrol.**

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ANA corps around the country of Afghanistan to fight insurgents and make the country safe again for all Afghans. Before reporting to their newly assigned units, soldiers will enjoy a welcome rest with their families, and will return to KMTC for seven weeks of AIT. During AIT soldiers will specialize in one of six military areas including artillery, infan-

safety and freedom. Khan Mohammed, an ANA soldier who graduated with the 53rd battalion says his training was difficult, and he knows that the next phase of AIT will be challenging as well, but he is ready to face any challenge for the good of Afghanistan.

“I want to make my country safe,” Mohammed says. “We have had 30 years of war and civil war. I want to save my country from having to go through any more of this.”

Mohammed, who scored 55 out of 55 during his marksmanship training, says he is very happy to serve his country and no matter where the army sends him, he is ready to fight.

“I am ready for anything,” Mohammed said. “I only hope that more Afghans will join the ANA after me and help us to save our country.”



**Honor graduates from Kandak 53**

try, military police, mortars, and engineering.

Newly graduated soldiers are fierce and ready to fight for their country's

## Training Assistance Group Newsletter

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