



# The Main Effort

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## BG Pritt holds town hall with 205th RCAC personnel

By CDR Chad Sneek  
205th RCAC PAO

BG Douglas Pritt, commanding general of Task Force Phoenix V, held a town hall meeting Oct. 9 in Kandahar with members of the 205th Regional Corps Assistance Command.

Addressing a group of about 100 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, Pritt said that he has been traveling around Afghanistan, holding similar forums, “in an effort to communicate more effectively and frequently” with Task Force Phoenix personnel.

Before fielding questions, the general briefly mentioned two subjects: the Commanders Emergency Response Program (CERP) and the standing up of training teams to build the Afghan National Police (ANP).

Pritt mentioned the task force’s \$30 million CERP funding request for fiscal year 2007 and emphasized that he wanted to see project requests from the more remote operating bases in the country. “As far as CERP goes, we want to be in the far reaches of Afghanistan,” Pritt asserted.



**BG Douglas Pritt, Task Force Phoenix V Commander, fields questions from 205th RCAC personnel, at a town hall meeting conducted Oct. 9 in Kandahar.**

CERP funds have been used to good effect in Kabul and Kandahar, Pritt emphasized, but now is the time to

maximize the impact of CERP throughout Afghanistan, not just in and around the major urban areas.

Regarding training and development of the ANP, Pritt stated that six training teams are being stood up in the 207th Corps, which covers western and northwestern Afghanistan.

Additional ANP training teams will then be formed in the 209th Corps, 201st Corps, 203rd Corps and 205th Corps, Pritt said.

A question about the length of time required for submission and processing of award recommendations elicited a straightforward reply from Pritt: “We don’t want to hand out awards to people who haven’t earned them.” The general added that the awards process is working, stating that 99 percent of award recommendations for task force personnel have been approved.

General Pritt commented that ANA recruit training is ramping up. The Kabul Military Training Center expects to train about 2,100 recruits per month by the beginning of 2007, up from about 1,600 per month.

There are challenges associated with the ANA logistics and pay systems, Pritt acknowledged, but progress is being made. For example, almost 700 ANA soldiers have signed up for direct deposit, Pritt stated.

Following the question-and-answer period, Pritt offered a decidedly upbeat assessment of the Task Force Phoenix mission and explicitly voiced unwavering support for the men and women under his command.

“I work for you,” he told the audience. “I am your absolute best advocate. You’re part of a great team having unprecedented success here in Afghanistan.”



### COMMANDER’S CORNER



By COL Michael Petrucci  
Commander, 205th RCAC

The stories in this issue of *The Main Effort*, along with those to come, will continually highlight the contributions and sacrifices the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines of Task Force Phoenix V are making for the future of Afghanistan.

It’s clearly obvious that the mission involves all of us, from the Commanding General to the most junior member of the force. Each day we’re in touch with an elder, a child, a man or a

woman whom we seek to help. Our support today will allow them to help themselves in the future.

Collect stories like these and give them to us to tell. Many of you probably, like me, sent the first issue of *The Main Effort* home to be read by friends and family. I’ll bet you got the same response — send me more news, we never hear this side. So help us tell your story and the story of the Afghans as well.

My continued thanks for what you do everyday — take care, stay safe.



## Spotlight on Service: SPC Evan Jones



By 2LT Jeffrey Fullmer  
1st BDE, 205th RCAC

“Let no man grow old without a story to tell” could easily be the motto of Specialist Evan Jones of Portland, Ore. His mother was an English teacher, and he inherited the heart of a storyteller.

“I didn’t want to grow old, having to tell my children and my grandchildren that I had not served when my country needed me,” he says with a puff of smoke under the canopy of a starry autumn night.

Young men often have a penchant for adventure, and SPC Jones is no different.

Jones, an assistant signal specialist assigned to 1st BDE HHC, is glad to be in Afghanistan, working with the Afghan National Army and teaching Afghans how to be disciplined, motivated soldiers.

It’s been said that you should be careful what you wish for, because it might come true. Such has certainly been the case for SPC Jones.

In the brief months he has been in Afghanistan, he has seen more than most men experience in a life time.

His most memorable experience was the first major rocket attack he felt, which literally made his teeth rattle.



**On a recent convoy between Shir-Zai and Tarin-Kawt, in Afghanistan, Specialist Evan Jones is happy to be the turret gunner.**

Each new experience gives him something to remember, and each day is a new tale, full of adventure.

SPC Jones’ civilian life is as interesting as his military career. He’s lived in three countries: the United States, the Grand Cayman Islands and China.

He’s traveled around the world so that he could have a story to tell.

Why does Jones place such importance in his stories? So that he, taking a chapter from the life of Henry

David Thoreau, would not come to the end of his life and discover that he had not lived.

It may come as a surprise to some, but SPC Jones was once a race car driver. He was working as a technician at a BMW dealership when he had the opportunity to drive one of the vehicles.

He beat the dealership’s driver in a race, the dealership fired their driver, and SPC Jones took his place.

After all this excitement, SPC Jones sees peace and a normal life in his future.

He wants only to serve his nation and then retire to a simple life, a steady job, and a beautiful wife and kids.

Surely his dreams of the future will come to fruition.

At 23, Jones still has his entire life ahead of him. The Army has contributed to his life experience, and for that he is grateful. However, he says he will probably get out when his contract is up.

Jones enjoys Afghanistan because it is hard. That might shock some, but he relishes an environment in which everything he does has an impact and is meaningful.

One thing is clear: Specialist Evan Jones is here to serve his nation. And he is doing a fine job.

## MCPON Campa visits Navy personnel

By CDR Chad Snee  
205th RCAC PAO

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. had dinner Oct. 18 with U.S. Navy sailors assigned to Camp Shir Zai.

LCDR Tom Foggin, executive officer of the Navy Embedded Training Team at Shir Zai, explained the ETT mission to MCPON Campa, who came away from the discussion very impressed with the myriad challenges facing the Navy team as they work to build the Afghan National Army.



**MCPON Joe Campa dined Oct. 18 with sailors assigned to the Embedded Training Team at Camp Shir Zai.**

## Shine your spotlight

By CDR Chad Snee  
205th RCAC PAO

The profile of SPC Evan Jones, on this page, is the first of what I hope will become a regular feature in *The Main Effort: Spotlight on Service*.

Such a story should be written by someone who works closely with the individual being profiled. A picture showing the person in their work environment also should be included.

Send your Spotlight on Service stories and pictures to the 205th RCAC PAO at [charles.snee@swa.army.mil](mailto:charles.snee@swa.army.mil).

# FOB Apache team winning hearts, minds around Qalat

**By CDR Chad Snee  
205th RCAC PAO**

In late September and early October, the 2nd Brigade of the 205th Regional Corps Assistance Command embarked on a concentrated civil affairs campaign to build constructive relationships with Afghans living in Qalat and surrounding villages.

The 2nd Brigade, under the command of COL Martin Leppert, is based at Forward Operating Base Apache, just a few kilometers north of Qalat, in southern Afghanistan.

COL Leppert spelled out who is involved in these noble efforts and what the objectives are.

“In addition to members of 2nd Brigade, we are working with the Afghan National Army, embedded training teams and coalition forces,” Leppert stated.

“It is a real team effort. The main thrust of our outreach is a civil-affairs and information-operations campaign to assist the immediate population near FOB Apache.

“Our intent is to improve local attitudes and increase awareness of the U.S./ANA mission in the local area.”

Leppert said that outreach operations had taken place in Qalat and in the



**A trio of young girls who attend school in Qalat, Afghanistan, receive school supplies Sept. 29 during a humanitarian outreach conducted by ANA, U.S. and coalition forces.**



**These students attend school in Qalat. In late September, U.S. and coalition forces visited their school and talked about how they can help build a better future for their families, village and country.**

nearby villages of Cokhay, Garmand and Kala.

Using a variety of techniques, to include presence patrols and meetings with village elders, FOB Apache personnel and their ANA partners repeatedly stressed that they are here to help the local people build better lives for themselves.

“We try to humanize ourselves for the Afghans,” Leppert continued. “We are a friendly force, not an occupying force. We are here to help stabilize the country.”

Information sharing works both ways, and Leppert stressed the value of human intelligence that can be gleaned from regular, direct contact with the people living near the base. “We talk about how they can assist us by providing information about enemy activity,” he said.

Indeed, much of the humanitarian outreach is being executed to fulfill a

critical tactical objective: 360-degree protection of FOB Apache and the men and women living there.

“Operations are conducted in an arc around the base,” Leppert explained. “We do this to build what I call a friendship security ring around the base.”

Leppert said that the visits are intentionally planned with an eye toward avoiding predictability. “We mix up the visits: you never know when we are coming, or where we are coming from, because we use multiple routes.”

Leppert said that prior to the outreach efforts, FOB Apache was receiving indirect fire (primarily rocket attacks) on a regular basis.

“Once we began engaging the people and winning their trust, the number and frequency of attacks dropped

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## Apache team winning over next Afghan generation

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significantly,” Leppert stated.

For example, on Sept. 22, a visit to the village of Garmand yielded useful intelligence about rocket attacks and the placement of rockets for future attacks.

In addition, school supplies and toys were distributed among 40 children in Garmand.

According to Leppert, among the more important civil affairs missions took place September 29, at a school in Qalat.

COL Afzal Mohammad, the Afghan National Army executive officer of 2nd Brigade, 205th ANA Corps, and COL Leppert were given an opportunity to address the students.

“Many of the students were young men of fighting age,” Leppert observed, “so it was important that we send a positive message. We want them to be on our side, not on the side of the Taliban.”

Indeed, the children, in Leppert’s view, are the key to building a prosperous and stable Afghanistan, which is why 2nd Brigade’s humanitarian missions place special emphasis on the children.

“The 10-to-18-year-olds will eventually lead this country out of its present state. They will build a better future,” he said.

Following the meeting with the students, much-needed school supplies were distributed to approximately 350 children, many of them young girls who were in a classroom setting for the first time in their lives.

On Oct. 10, the village of Kala was visited, and Leppert learned that the people there were primarily concerned with security.

“Initially, they weren’t particularly interested in the school supplies, toys and other items we had brought with us,” Leppert said.

ANA and U.S. leaders sat down in a

meeting with the elders of Kala that was productive and helped cement positive relationships.

A visit to the village of Cokhay the previous day, Oct. 9, also reaped positive results. Leppert said that he plans to obtain funding via the Commanders Emergency Response Program (CERP) to help improve the approaches to the village, which lies across a river.

“These types of missions are much more important than any combat activity,” he said. “We are trying to show the Afghan people that we are a caring people who are helping them learn new skills and new ways of interacting with the world around them.”

Taking the long view, COL Leppert made it clear that his command’s No. 1 mission is “to be ambassadors for the United States.”

“Our second objective is to train the ANA to plan, conduct and hold after-action reviews of civil-affairs and information-operations missions. The ANA is taking the lead on these missions.”

Indeed, the importance of having the ANA take control of its operations is critical, because as the ANA takes charge, the United States and its



**ANA and U.S. personnel assigned to 2nd Brigade, 205th Regional Corps Assistance Command, met Oct. 10 with elders from the village of Kala. Such discussions are essential for building productive relationships with the people of Afghanistan.**

coalition allies can stand down and come home.

Leppert also was quick to point out that the positive change that his command brought to this part of Afghanistan is due to the generosity of family and friends in his home state of Wisconsin.

“We have received more than \$5,000 worth of school supplies, toys and treats that have put smiles on the faces of the young children of Afghanistan,” he said.

Looking forward, Leppert emphasized the importance of these missions and stressed that they will continue.

“We are planning our next village engagement in the southern part of Zabul Province, to continue to put forward a positive American influence in the area.”

## Apache sailors celebrate 231st Navy birthday

United States Navy personnel assigned to Forward Operating Base Apache in Qalat, Afghanistan, marked the Navy’s 231st birthday Oct. 13.

CDR Chad Snee, 205th RCAC PAO, and LT Raul Tumada, Apache’s medical officer, cut the cake, which was then enjoyed by all in the dining hall.