



SPANN FREE PRESS

CORPS TEAM CHIEF
COL SIMSUNDARETH
TAN

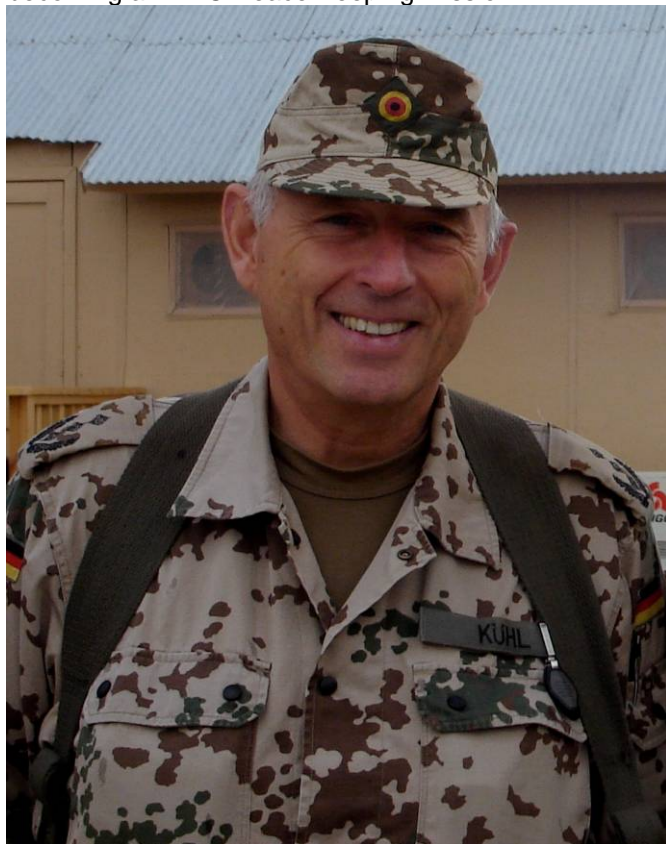
SEP/OCT 2006

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
CSM ALAN CALLANAN

News Headlines

TRANSFER OF CORPS LEVEL AUTHORITY AT THE 209th RCAG

On 18 September 2006 Camp Mike Spann in Mazar-E-Sharif shifted authority of the 209th RCAG from US COL Simsundareth Tan to OMLT German COL Kuhl. This transfer moves the military mission one step closer to becoming a NATO Peace Keeping Mission.



COL Kuhl

Fighting the war on terrorism is a joint effort of pooling together time, resources, and the commitment to pursue freedom from many nations. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom Camp Mike Spann now has 6 nations unified together to mentor and strengthen the Afghan National Army: Croatia, Germany, Norway, Sweden,

United States, and the last to join 05 October 2006- Czech Republic. In January 2007 the Camp hopes to welcome forces from Poland.



From left to right- LTC Tor Borgan (Norway), COL Hans Kuhl (Germany), SGM Drazen Klanjec (Croatia), COL Simsundareth Tan (United States), and LTC Lars Ellebring (Sweden).

Camp Shaheen Weapons Training Facility Adds aviation CAS Gunnery Training to a Growing List of Training Capabilities

02 October 2006 - Octoberfest for the German Special Forces stationed in Afghanistan started off with a brilliant display of CAS (Close Air Support) gunnery from a pair of CH-53 helicopters. Training exercises were conducted at the ANA 209th Corps, Camp Shaheen Weapons Range Facility. The German Special Forces units stationed at Camp Marmal, Mazar-E-Sharif, Afghanistan were joined by a Norwegian Sniper Platoon

and two CH-53 assault helos based out of Uzbekistan to conduct a combined weapons training and aviation CAS exercise. This marked the first time the CH-53s were used for CAS and the range facility allowed the air controllers, pilots and gunners to conduct day and night time operations training. The helos can station out of MES airport and be available for Close Air Support for the units operating in the 209th RCAG.

This exercise also marked the first time the Camp Shaheen Range was used for aviation training. The weapons range comprises a 25 square KM piece of MOD property south of Camp Shaheen and is the primary live fire facility for the ANA 209th Corps and the Coalition forces (ETT/OMLT/USA SF) based at Camp Shaheen / Camp Mike Spann respectfully. The range is also used extensively by the coalition partners locating in the MES area including, Swedish PRT, Norwegian QRF, Afghan National Police Regional Training Center and German Special Forces.

The Camp Shaheen Weapons Facility has earned a reputation amongst the ISAF and ANA communities as a top notch weapons training site with the capability of handling multiple live fire events simultaneously. The range has hosted over 54 live fire events and over 2200 personnel in the past 2 months including, mortars, artillery, armored tracked vehicles, snipers, and several MTTs from KMTC. Additional planned improvements such as permanent firing positions for the D30 howitzer, MOUT, and Combat Engineering Lanes will bring new training capabilities enabling the 209th RCAG to lead the way with practical, salient, and robust live weapons training for the ANA, ANP and their partners.



"Night Vision Fireworks" German Special Forces (ISAF) IR laser designate targets for CH-53 door gunner CAS training on Camp Shaheen Weapons Range Facility - (photo by LCDR Russ Coolman)

September Was the Month of the Generals

MG Durbin and BG Pritt of the US Army along with BG Smith came to Camp Spann to validate Corps OMLTS. COL Kuhl from the German Army assumed Corps Senior OMLT Mentor duty on 18 September 2006. LTG Eikenberry also visited the 209th Corps. The visit was centered around checking on the welfare of ANA troops and Coalition Forces. Last but not least RADM Tomlin from NAVELSG flew from the US to visit the Navy Embedded Trainers and evaluate their integration into the RCAG.



"Sunset on the Firing Line" German Special Forces (ISAF) CH-53 conducts twilight door gunner CAS training on Camp Shaheen Weapons Range Facility (photo by LCDR Russ Coolman S3 Range Supervisor)



From left to right – COL Kuhl (German), BG Pritt (US), MG Taj Muhammad (Afghan), MG Durbin (US), BG Smith (England), and COL Tan (US)

9/11 A Day Of Remembrance

On 11 September 2006 the US military remembered their victims that were unknowingly and unjustly taken from them by terrorist on this same dreadful day in 2001. They respected the dead with a moment of silence at the same time that the two planes hit the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon, and at the time those brave men and women fought to protect their fellow Americans and died in doing so in a field in Pennsylvania.

That horrific day launched the Global War on Terrorism. A battle was fought right here in Mazar-E-Sharif. America lost its first CIA Agent Mike Spann for which this camp was named. To commemorate and honor the bravery of, then MAJ Mark Mitchell the brave soldier who lead and sustained the Battle of Qala-I-Jangi and those men who fought under him, there was a DFAC Dedication Ceremony in his name. Unfortunately LTC Mark Mitchell was unable to attend this dedication as he continues to serve on another tour in Iraq. He wrote this to his fellow comrades in arms:

On the occasion of the dedication of this facility in my name, I would like to humbly thank all those who have made this great honor possible.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the brave warriors, including Mike Spann, who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Liberation of Mazar-E-Sharif and the Battle of Qala-I-Jangi. Their dedication and bravery was instrumental in securing the first major victory in the Liberation of Afghanistan and the War on Terrorism. They gave their lives in order that their fellow citizens, both the great and the noble people of Afghanistan and their true friends in America, might live in peace. To have fought alongside them has been the greatest honor of my military service.

Secondly, I would like to thank all the citizens of Mazar-E-Sharif and Northern Afghanistan who supported the Northern Alliance and the cause of freedom in the face of tyranny of the Taliban and their evil companions, Al Qaeda. Their honor and legendary generosity are only exceeded by their determination to control their own destiny. May they always enjoy the peace and prosperity that true freedom brings.



LTG Eikenberry (left) seen here with the 209th ANA Deputy Corps Commander - BG Naibi (middle) and US Garrison Commander – CAPT (Sel) Hassien (right) after visiting with the ANA Corps Commander – MG Taj Muhammad.



RADM Tomlin (center) and his staff visit with the Navy Embedded trainers.

News Letter can be found on the share drive under workgroup, then Spann News Letter. You may e-mail your friends and family back home.

Do you want to recognize your staff or an event in your local newspaper? Send all write-ups and pictures to LCDR Hulbert at: shari.hulbert@us.army.mil

Finally, I would like to thank the soldiers and officers of the 209th Afghan National Army Corps and the Embedded Training Team, 209th Regional Corps Advisory Group, 41 BCT at Camp Spann. The continued training and development of the Afghan National Army is essential to the long term freedom and prosperity of Afghanistan and, truly, all of Central Asia. Your efforts in this endeavor have brought great honor to you and earned the appreciation of the Afghan and American people.

As we commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001, let us remember not just those who lost their life on that terrible day but all of the victims of intolerance and hatred and resolve mightily to work together in a spirit of friendship and tolerance to guarantee the liberty and prosperity of our great nations. *DE OPPRESSO LIBER!*

Many US troops honored this date by having an American flag flown for their families, friends, and schools. Over 100 flags were ceremoniously raised and lowered by CSM Callanan and SKCM Hernandez on that hot day. COL Tan addressed his US troops and voiced his appreciation and their untiring dedication to duty, God, and country. MG Taj Muhammad, Corps Commander of the 209th Afghan National Army, thanked the American troops for their dedication to the liberation of Afghanistan. He recognized that not only the soldiers themselves are making sacrifices but that the families at home are doing the same. The Coalition Forces were also present to show their unity with and appreciation of the US men and women who serve their great nation.



DFAC Dedication to LTC Mark Mitchell who bravely led the Battle of Qala-I-Jangi.



These dedicated US Army soldiers proudly show combat patches from past and present missions in fighting that Battle on Terrorism. From left to right – SPC Roth, CPT Grabowski, and CSM Callanan.



CSM forms up the US troops to honor the brave men and women who lost their lives 11 September 2001.



member of the 209th Corps, deployed to southern Afghanistan, with the 2nd Kandak. He died heroically for his country to gain peace and independence for the citizens of Afghanistan. Our prayers go out to his wife, daughter, family, and community.

SFC Fuga initially mobilized in December 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In July 2006 because of his commitment, he voluntarily extended his tour of service until January 2007, as an Embedded Trainer to the Afghan National Army. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal and Combat Infantry Badge. He joined the Missouri Army National Guard in 2003 and proudly served the military for 28 years. His dedication to country was apparent. Awards included the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Driver and Mechanic Badge, and Expert Infantry Badge.



CPT Primo (right) dedicates a flag to his family back home, in Honor of 11 September 2001. Flag ceremoniously raised by SKCM Hernandez (center) and CSM Callanan (left).

Camp Mike Spann Honors Two Of Their Own:

SFC Michael Fuga



09 September 2006, CPT Smith stands guard over the memorial in honor of SFC Michael Fuga. SFC Fuga, a

CW2 Scott Dyer



ODA says goodbye to one of their own in an informal ceremony 12 October 2006.

Promotions

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ON THEIR PROMOTION:

SGT Bigelow
SGT Sanderson
SPC Hubbard



SPC Bigelow (right) is promoted to Sergeant by COL Tan



After his promotion SGT Sanderson (middle) proudly stands with CSM Bertsch (left) and CSM Callanan (right)

Do you want to recognize your staff or an event in your local newspaper? Send all write-ups and pictures to LCDR Hulbert at: shari.hulbert@us.army.mil

A Word Of Advice From Your TMC

War on Leishmaniasis

When I was told I was coming to Camp Spann at MeS I was happy that I would not be dealing with RPGs and mortars everyday or worry that the Taliban would be climbing over the walls in the middle of the night. Not until I was here a couple of weeks did I realize we had an enemy just as worrisome living within our own HESCO walls. I am talking about the sand fly. If you are bit by a sand fly you can be infected with a parasite (leishmania) and contract the disease Leishmaniasis. Some of you may have seen the people here that had the skin lesions caused by this parasite.

- 1 - Wear permethrin treated uniforms
- 2 - Wear long sleeves and pants from dusk to dawn
- 3 - Apply DEET to exposed skin
- 4 - Avoid laying on or near the ground



CPT Darrel Stutts, PA that runs the TMC



Leishmaniasis wound of the arm. CPT Stutts advises if any soldier has a similar looking wound that has not healed and is greater than two weeks old, get evaluated!

Community Service

The 209th US, ISAF, and ANA Work Hand and Hand With The Community To Bring A Smile To A Childs Face

On 12 September 06 after months of planning and stockpiling school supplies from home the US and ISAF in combination with the fifth Kandak ANA distributed school supplies to over 1700 children, at Ustad Salak School, in the Pusht-I-Baqh province. Fun was had by all. This trip would not be possible had it not been planned by many dedicated soldiers and families back home who believe in improving the public education system for the many boys and girls of Afghanistan. Prior to this visit MAJ Matarusso, the past CERP manager, and Senior Chief Volkl, the present CERP manager, met with the village elders, principle, and teachers to discuss some of the schools needs. One need that was supported by the fifth Kandak ANA and ETT's was providing needed wall lockers for the teachers to store school supplies. On 10 September 06 many civilian contract workers, ISAF, and US soldiers sorted and divided the supplies to ensure no child was left without. Games and entertainment was planned. When it was discovered that there was not enough paper to go around MAJ Hanson took it upon himself to take off his cover and pass it around the DFAC to illicit donations. Not only was there enough money donated for paper but there was enough to spare to add to the candy supply!



A Trip To Be Remembered

On 11 October 2006 the US medical group in combination with the 5th Kandak ANA made a trip to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Orphanage in Mazar-E-Sharif. Through the thoughtfulness and donations from family, friends, and military members back home the conex storage box was overflowing with clothing and shoes, enough to fill a five ton! The medical team waited anxiously for enough donated items to be able to make this trip possible. The CERP manager met with Officials from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to assess the potential of building the orphanage a place of their own. For now the staff said they have been settled in this rental facility for around a month.



The 209th Corps ANA Celebrate Their First Mass Promotion Ceremony

As part of the celebration of Afghanistan's Independence Day the ANA Minister of defense announced the 209th first promotions. The first mass promotion 20 September 2006 resulted in over 200 soldiers and 30 sergeants receiving a higher rank. LCDR Edwards stated "what was more impressive is that the Ministry of Defense accepted all ANA soldiers selected for promotion, resulting in a 100% acceptance rate". The mentors that aided their ANA counterparts through this process were: LCDR Edwards, CPT Nilsson, LT Boatright, CPT Ikeler, CPT Premo, CPT Grabowski, and CPT Hinojosa.



COL Tan places the rank on this comrade in arms.



ANA soldiers stand in formation prior to ceremony.



MG Taj Muhammad addresses his troops and gives his vision for the future.



Ceremonial Weapons and Koran

A Word From The Command Sergeant Major



This message is for all military and civilian personnel in the 209th RCAG. The following two soldiers have been given special details:

- CPL Loiseau has volunteered to paint the 41st Shoulder Patch on the water tower between MWR and the Gym. This will be done before the end of October.
- Specialist Blackwell has been put in charge of all the bulletin boards and paper postings on Camp Mike Spann. She has been assigned also to come up with any ideas to make our postings and living area more “home like”. She already suggested the repainting of our BHUT’s.

I have requested work orders for the following:

- A steeple for the chapel
- Cover for smoking areas outside (The area where we watch movies is one area)
- Area sidewalks

With regards to area sidewalks I will change that request to a paved or hard packed level “track area” around and through Camp Mike Spann. The purpose of this would be so we all have an area to run inside the Camp and not on a treadmill. I would like to see this “track” wide enough for two people to run side by side, and long enough so 1 lap would equal 1 mile. I am not certain if that is possible but each and everyone of you can provide me with your thoughts and input on this one area.

As you all know the up coming months of November and December is our Holiday season. We all need to be very supportive of each other at all times and especially during the next two months. I do not believe I need to elaborate any further on this.

I have an open door policy 24/7 so long as your Chain of Command is aware of your need or desire to see me. Let’s all stay safe, work hard, concentrate on our mission here, and get the job done. I thank all of you for your service

Man in the Arena

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

President Theodore Roosevelt

SPORTS



From left to right front row: SKCS Ducharme, LT Taylor, SSgt Boerner, LT Uybo, SKC Wotzka, LTJG Bunt, TSgt Casares, SGM Klanjec, A1C Dills, SSgt Fencel, Capt Sweet, SSgt Berry, MSgt Dunham, Capt Stutts, SrA Flenory

It has been an ongoing rivalry between the Air Force and Navy each one trying to out-trump each other in Friday weekly football.....**THEN CAME THE SMACK.** CAPT (sel) Hassien commenting on the Air Force stated "knowing that the Navy is the superior service, the Army remains afraid and unwilling to form a team and accept the challenge on the fall field". In an attempt to out trump the Navy MSgt Dunham stated "if the Navy continues their streak of injuries on the football field, the Camp Spann Football Commission is going to start mandating pre-game physicals for all sailors wishing to partake in this rough, gruesome sport!". Little did MSgt Dunham know that the RCAG Commander would have to put the hammer down...NO MORE FOOTBALL.... The final score Navy 3/ Air Force 2.



From left to right: Goran Schunemann, SGM Klanjec, SGT Engle (front), SGT Washburn (back), and Stephan Hodin.

SGT Washburn organized a weight lifting competition 15 September 2006. Competitions included bench pressing, overhead press, squats, and dead-lift. In bench pressing Goran Schunemann lifted 118% of his weight, SGM Klanjec – 116%, Stephan Hodin – 165%, and SGT Engle – 152%. Way to go!!!!!!

Care Packages From Home

So many soldiers and civilians have had their family, friends, and churches send clothing and school supplies from home for the children of Afghanistan. You have touched their lives for years to come. If you know someone who wants to get involved back home packages can be sent to:

Commander
RCAG-N Mazar-E-Sharif
Camp Mike Spann
APO AE 09318



Exercise! The Equipment Is There For You