



Task Force Jungleer

Oregon's Embedded Training Team Newsletter

41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Forward), Task Force Phoenix III Issue 5

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Commander's Comments:

As we wind down this rotation, we begin concentrating on the 41st rotation. The re-deployment plan, and manifest for the first two planes to leave country is complete.

Three of our NCOs will attend military schooling before leaving active duty. SGT Johnston and SGT Clayton will attend PLDC and SSG Kindel will attend BNCO the last part of their active duty tour.

The rest of the Oregon team is still spread across Afghanistan. The brigade headquarters is in Jalabad mentoring the ANA 2nd brigade. LTC Dunn is leading the team with MAJ Perez as the S-1, MAJ Fraser the S-4, SFC Lucas OPS NCO and SSG Martin LOG NCO. MAJ Derrickson is a team Chief with a Kandak in Herat. MAJ Simshaw, CPT Fones, CPT Repp, 1SG Weber, SSG Kindel, SGT Johnson and SGT Johnston, are all ETTs in the Kandahar region. SGT Clayton is in Gardez and I am at Camp Phoenix as the task Force Deputy Commander for Maneuver.

The 76th Infantry Brigade treats the Oregon team as their own soldiers. They continually provide us the opportunity to learn the integral parts of running the task force. These opportunities include working along side Romanians, Mongolians, Italians, French, and British ETTs. The Oregon team mentored the ANA very well, allowing them to learn and in turn learning from them. Everyone developed life long friends in Afghanistan. I look forward to working with them again in a year. I know the team is ready for the re-deployment back home; a year is a long time away from the families.

We look forward to the end of this deployment and are always aware to maintain our guard against the insurgents that are still trying to destroy the ANA and the coalition forces.

COL Dave Enyeart
TF Phoenix DBC-M

SGM Comments:

As I write, we have personnel from Task Force Jungleer spread all across the country. The Afghanistan Military Training Center keeps training new Kandaks, creating the need for us to thin the lines and cover down on new ANA units. I remain impressed and awed by the individual and collective accomplishments of the Soldiers of Task Force Jungleer! Everyone works very hard to insure the ANA can operate on their own in the quickest time possible.

I thought we would never move through the harsh winter. We experienced continuous days of rain/sleet/and snow across all areas. Some areas experienced knee deep snow, at the same time others experienced flooding and mud slurry pits. Each time we started to feel sorry for ourselves, we would reflect on what the average Afghan family must endure and our situation did not seem nearly so desperate. Not since before the Taliban has Afghanistan seen so much rain and snow. The local Afghan's credit our presence with the change in weather as well as the change in their general condition across the country.

The Holiday season saw us spread around the countryside. All of the active duty units we work with, and all of the contractors supporting us in country, did an excellent job to insure we had the best season we could have. It is the thoughts and prayers from home that keep us moving on our mission. Since we are spread so far apart, I could not include pictures of everyone on the team. This edition I tried to picture some of the things that we do with the ANA all over the country.

Thank you for your continued support!

1SG Donald Weber
2nd BDE ETT
Operation Sergeant Major

Pictures from Afghanistan:



Physical fitness is a critical part of ANA training that develops and sustains the ability to complete missions. Here the ANA are conducting the pushup phase of the physical fitness test. The physical fitness test, literacy test, weapons qualification, time in service, time in grade, professional development training and leader evaluation are used to select soldiers for promotion. This is a new concept for the ANA, and occasionally, a leader will want to promote a person because he is a really good guy or is related to an influential person.



All coalition forces conduct training for the ANA either prior to mission or during a break in missions. Here the Special Forces (SF) are training the ANA in how to conduct a building search. The SF conducts the training without the assistance of an interpreter.



After drawing on the white board they will use local available building simulations to practice the skill. After practice they conduct an “after action review” to reinforce the things that work well. In most cases, they will conduct another practice of the training topic adding another task to the exercise.



After the training and rehearsal is complete they head out on their mission. Here the ANA are going out on a joint mission with the SF group and the Afghanistan Militia Forces (AMF), out of Dae Rawood. The AMF belong to local government personnel, and the hope is that they will become part of the ANA. In the meantime, the US hires them to provide security at the FOB's and on convoy operations. On this particular mission they came back with three detainees and a cache of enemy ammunition.



During the winter months, travel to mission sights becomes a real challenge. After you leave the “ring road,” travel is generally on very rough dirt-gravel roads, that turn into goat trails and stream beds as you travel further from the population centers. This picture is just outside of Dea Afghan, where in the summer it was a fairly easy movement from one village to another. At the time of this picture, the Ford Ranger, with the ANA, crossed the river just before the US HMMWV. The water came up to the bottom of the door of the HMMWV. Two weeks later, a HMMWV got stuck in the river, and the water went completely over the HMMV, as they conducted recovery operations.



While traveling to one of the villages, we passed this mud hut, with the home owner removing the snow from the roof. The roof generally consists of poles strung across the walls, with some straw placed on top of that. Then they put more mud on top of the straw. If they don't keep the snow removed from the roof, it will collapse on the occupants.



In some of the remote villages, the local personnel don't know there is an Afghanistan National Army (ANA). As a result, it is necessary to go out with the ANA to talk about the new National Government. Here the ANA presented an Afghanistan flag to the elder of one of the villages. While there, they ask for information about the Taliban, and insure the people they can contact us if there is any threat to the village.



Another valuable mission to demonstrate support for the country is the Medical Capstone (MEDCAP). At a MEDCAP, the US will conduct sick call for the local nationals in conjunction with Humanitarian Assistance (HA) operations. At Takato, they set up the medical station, with a tent to treat females. The women squat down to wait for a medical person. It is critical to take enough female medics and interpreters to treat the women. At the MEDCAP in Mayadan, the women would not come to the tent. One man

requested the medical team come to his home, because his wife was distended from giving birth three days previously. When they went out to the home, another 20 women came to that location to receive assistance.



It is common for the locals to wear sandals or go bare footed all year long. This boy came to the MEDCAP because his feet hurt. He had frostbite, causing his feet to turn blue up to his ankles. At a MEDCAP, they hire local medical students to go out and treat the civilians. At first, they thought they would have to amputate some of the toes. After the medical student treated the feet, they think they will be able to save the toes. One of the conditions is for the boy to follow a medical treatment plan. It is common for them to take all of the medication they are given, the same day they receive it, and not take it according to the prescription plan.



While at the MEDCAP, the ANA ran a HA Station. Here at Takato, they are handing out blankets to the civilians. They also handed out pioneer tools, including saws, shovels etc.



At Tarin Kowt, the 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, conducted an HA mission to delivery desks to a recently built school. The 528 Engineer Battalion, brought a significant amount of clothes and toys to deliver to the children. Here the ANA are handing out the shoes to the children. The ANA commander would find the correct size pair of shoes for each child, and hand it out to them. This girl appears to be very pleased with what she received.



The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) is another important part of rebuilding Afghanistan. At the official opening ceremony of the PRT located at Oruzgon Province, the Mullah (religious leader) and teacher brought students from the local school to sing a national song for the opening.