



The Alamo



Volume 3, Issue 4

20 October 2006

ANA Staff Operation course

By: Col. Ben Gonzales (Ret.)

The Staff Operation Course (SOC) is an eight week, intensive course designed to acclimate the Afghan National Army Officer (ANA) to the demands of staff operations and intense need for coordination and producing feasible and rational courses of action (COA) for the commander, especially in combat environment.

The SOC transitioned from just a few weeks of military decision making to 5 weeks of added subjects to the present course of eight (8) weeks of staff operations in a counterinsurgency environment. Normally, the SOC consists of 30 to 45 ANA students from middle to senior ranks and come from the various corps, training commands and General Staff. The SOC has gained a reputation of being a difficult course to pass but very rewarding because the student must perform and pass the examinations in order to achieve the coveted award of the diploma.

The days of just getting something together for the ANA is now over in the KMTC and the demands for standards and achievement are stressed throughout

the training. The course author, Col Ben Gonzales USA (Retired) indicated that the standards have been raised and SOC is closely monitored for student participation and performance. He stressed that all students must perform on a daily basis and demonstrate excellence in all staff



ANA Instructor facilitating the Staff Course

work. Col Ben Gonzales, who is known as "Shir Khan" by his past students indicated that "if it is worth doing, then do it to the best of your ability". In our current situation, there are no awards for second place.

Commander's Corner

I don't know about each of you but for me it is hard to believe that we have been on the ground doing our mission for 21 weeks now. That means that I have missed three Gharib Ghar climbs. Last Friday was climb number 18. As long as I stay ahead of Sgt. Foust I don't mind missing a few climbs. With our Transfer of Authority around the first of June 07 we only have 31 weeks remaining to make a difference. When I look at where I had the biggest impact in fostering growth and change for the ANA and making a difference, the first thing that comes to mind is **RELATIONSHIPS**. BG Wardak and I have a bond over the past 21 weeks that will be a life time friendship. I believe there are four essential ingredients necessary for a strong relationship. **COOPERATION, INTEGRITY, SINCERITY and COMMUNICATION**. These four elements result in developing the foundation of a relationship, and that foundation is **TRUST**. Trust in a relationship is hard to build and easy to destroy. As a mentor to BG Wardak I am excited about this next 31 weeks because now that we have built a trusting relationship, together I am sure we will achieve two or three times

(Continued on page 2) Command Corner

CSM Forum



Time is passing quickly. Hopefully you have set goals for yourself and your ANA counterparts. Stay focused to accomplish your goals. If you put them off, you might not complete them.

I hope everybody realizes how fortunate we are at Camp Alamo. I honestly believe we work and live in one of the finest facilities in Afghanistan. All of the KBR employees work hard to keep us well fed, and our camp maintained at the highest level. Lt. Heron and the MWR team ensure our program works, and the PX is open and well stocked. Lt. Col. Smith and the Garrison Soldiers/Sailors/Airmen coordinate all Camp Alamo projects and work with KBR to fulfill all our needs. I would like to say "thank you" to everybody that makes Camp Alamo a great facility!

We must stay focused on the mission and on safety. Think safety at all times. Complacency can creep up on you if you are not careful and then somebody will get hurt. Remember, the Commander and I have an open door policy and are willing to discuss any issues or concerns that you have at any time. Please notify your chain of command before using the open door policy unless you feel it might cause problems.

Confidence... thrives on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection and on unselfish performance. Without them it cannot live. ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Robert Foesch
Command Sgt. Maj.

(Continued from page 1 Command Corner)

more than we have over the past 21 weeks. I hope that you have built a life time friendship with your counter part. If you have the potential for growth is endless. I have a sentence below my email signature block that say's "Success is about relationships, and it starts with me". Because I take ownership in the development of my relationship with others there are three virtues that I try to always maintain. One, I want to be **AUTHENTIC** (I am who I am and not trying to be someone I am not), two I want to be **PROGRESSIVE** (I want to continually learn and grow) and finally I want to be **EFFECTIVE** in everything I do.. We should all be very proud of what we have accomplished over the past 21 weeks and there is no doubt that all our efforts are **MAKING A DIFFERENCE** in creating opportunity and prosperity for the people of Afghanistan.

James R. Lyman
Col.
Commanding

On Leadership:

Management is about arranging and telling. Leadership is about nurturing and enhancing.

Thomas J. Peters

Are you Managing or Leading your ANA counterpart.

French Cell News

By: Capt. Oray

After nearly four and 1/2 months Maj. Frentz, French liaison officer and Capt. Petermann, mentor for a platoon leader course took wing to France on Friday, October 13, 2006.

Maj. Frentz rejoined his cadets military school located in Aix-en-Provence, south of France and hopes to be appointed next year as a French liaison officer either at the Field Artillery school at Fort Sill or at the USMC school in

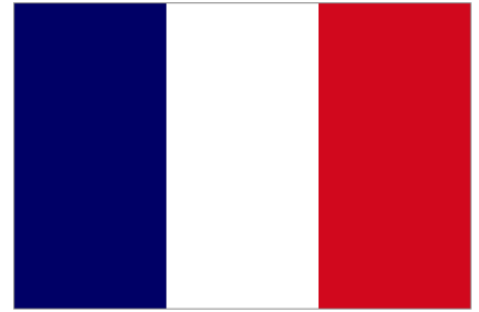


Quantico.

Capt. Peterman rejoined his Commando training center in Montlouis (Pyrenees mountains, close to the Spanish boarder).

Both of them were proud to serve alongside their US, British and Canadian comrades under the orders of Col. Lyman and TAG V.

As to Capt. Ducrocq, he's waiting for a flight to return to the Army management school.



Their replacements arrived on October 5. They are part of the french cell already on duty in KMTC since July 31st and will leave in March.



Capt. Missonnier, Jean-Claude, 51, Special military school of Saint Cyr, Coetquidan, is adviser for the first platoon leaders course.



Capt. Massena, Thibaut, 50, training command headquarters, Tours. He replace Capt. Ducrocq in charge of advisor for the second platoon leaders course



Capt. Oray, Wenceslas, 32, training command headquarters, Tours, liaison officer.

MWR Up Coming Events

<p>Religious Services</p>	<p>Protestant—1230 Every Friday at KMTC Chapel Catholic—1330 Every third Friday at KMTC Chapel Protestant—0900 Every Sun at Phoenix LDS—1500 Every Sun at Phoenix Catholic—1730 Every Sun at Phoenix</p>
<p>Bazaar</p>	<p>Every other Thur.</p>

Garrison Team

By Lt. Col. T. W. Smith, Garrison Commander and Senior Master Sgt. Rob Spaulding

We in the Garrison have had an interesting month, to the say the least. As Col. Lyman is frequently heard saying, "It's a **Great** day in the **A!**" (A stands for Afghanistan if you hadn't figured that out yet) and we have a had some **Great A** moments recently.

We all know the holy month of Ramadan is here and because of customs during this month we have had some interesting issues to deal with. One such custom is that everyone eats at the exact same time. We all know that the trainee population at KMTC is increasing on a daily basis and if you haven't ever thought about feeding close to 5,000 people at once...well let's just say it requires a lot of thought on how to do it.

We went to work and determined that one solution would be a GREAT BIG TENT. This tent was 100 ft x 200 ft and it is the first **Great A** moment I want to highlight. Now what would life be like if all we had to talk about was our suc-



cesses? I happen to think it would not be nearly as interesting as being able to mention, on a rare occasion of course, some of those almost successes. This tent unfortunately was not what we ordered. In fact, it was what we specifically said we did not want, but when life gives you lemons you make lemonade. Right? Not exactly. You do your best to keep your sanity and you hope and pray that the GREAT BIG TENT doesn't fall down.

In this case the end of the story is the tent fell down and to quote SGT Foust, "It's a miracle the *&%@# tent even made it up!" The moral of this story is that not every **Great A** moment is a success story. We sometimes miss the mark, but the true success comes when you



learn from your mistakes, maintain a sense of humor and keep a positive atti-



tude. We have worked hard to solve this problem and provide KMTC with a quality product. When we are done they will have a Fest Tent that can be used as classrooms, extra space for the DFAC, and possibly even a barracks to relieve some of the problems with space they have in trying to house all of the new recruits.

The second **Great A** moment came in the form of laundry. How many of you have set your alarm clock for 3:00 a.m. so you can possibly be successful in gaining control of one of the six washing machines we have here on the Alamo? I have and to my surprise I wasn't the only one. We have worked extremely hard to get additional washers and dryers here since the TAG advance team arrived in May.

Success was in our sights when the



What we received!

CONEX that is to become the second laundry facility arrived. KBR deserves a lot of credit for working hard to get it

ready for business. A couple weeks ago we received the wonderful news that the Alamo was going to get six brand new washers and dryers; success had finally come. Then the delivery truck showed up at the front gate with boxes labeled, "twin tub washing machines." On closer inspection we discovered that these boxes did not contain a dryer and I am not real sure if we could even call the thing inside the box a washer.

As each of us learn on a daily, and sometime minute-by-minute basis, nothing is easy here. We haven't figured out how our request for a washer and dryer got misinterpreted or exactly how "we want a Kenmore washer and dryer" is translated into Dari, but as you see in the



What we asked for.

photos what we received and what we asked for were two different things.

To wrap this story up let me say that everyone from KBR to Camp Phoenix and even CSTC-A is working hard to support each of us here at Camp Alamo.

On a daily basis we need to keep in mind that success is a lot like beauty; it's in the eye of the beholder. Would everyone understand the definition of a washer and dryer back home? Yes. The only questions would be what brand and what color. Things are different here and to be successful we need to always remember what BG Pritt told us during his town hall...Glacial Speed! Step-by-step we will eventually make a huge impact and when we combine all of our **Great A** moments into one we will be able to say in unity, "We made a difference in their lives." At this time I can't tell you when we will get washers and dryers so stay tuned for part two of the "**Young and Washerless**" and see what they deliver next.

Facilities Engineer Officer

By: Captain Schoenbeck

Some great new things you may have seen!

Your Facility Engineer Office is hard at work making life better day by day. For instance: the Alamo parking lot is getting signs. Signs for parking, signs for no parking, signs that say "Do Not Enter", and individual parking signs. Pay particular attention to the "Do Not



Enter" and "One Way" signs on the jersey barriers right as you enter the parking lot.

We have already placed signs for Visitors and places where nobody should park. Please check out the sign before you park next to it. Also, remember that if your vehicle has sensitive equipment, it belongs inside the Alamo. You will need a ground guide to park. If you can, vehicles should be combat parked (backed into the parking space).

Now for the big project. Bldg 210 renovation. That's the main building with Command and staff, convoy ops, range control, and the MWR computers. The supplies are on order and more than likely the Sea Bees will be here sooner than we are ready. Just so everybody knows most people in bldg 210 will be affected. The cards are going to be shuffled and the S-6 and FEO both need your patience and understanding. When it's all said and done bldg 210 will be a better place for everybody.

Lastly, here's one thing you probably haven't seen. Wood. That's right plywood and 2X4's are getting harder and harder to come by these days. KBR hasn't received a wood shipment in several weeks. On this issue the FEO and KBR would ask for your patience. We simply do not have the materials to complete many work orders. On top of that the scrap wood pile is very thin and do-it-yourself projects will be limited as well. Again please be patient. This country

moves at "glacial speed" and everything is difficult.



Capt Schoenbeck, 1ST Weber, and SGT Bullock visit a local village to inspect the water wells being built under the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP).

MP Notes

By: CPT Graves

The MP section has noticed an increase of people moving vehicles within the Alamo with out ground guides. Please remember basic safety 101. There is a reason to have ground guides inside the camp. We do not want anyone hurt because someone was not doing the right thing.

Also we need to watch our speeds. Recently, I was almost hit by a vehicle because it came around a blind corner here in the Alamo and the driver was driving way to fast and had no ground guide.

Please remember when you are outside the Alamo and on KMTC the ANA is watching you at all times. The ANA take mental notes on how we behave and they will mimic that behavior. Slow down and take your time we do not need to have anyone hurt or worse yet hurt someone else.



ANA MPs providing Security to a recent Range Control Operation

Range Control

BY: SSG Rader

Last month saw many new changes to the Range Complex here at KMTC. We are rebuilding the main Range Road and paving is halfway complete. With this month being Ramadan the KMTC Range Control is still making there daily checks of all ranges and training areas. They are a great group of soldiers to work. Extremely competent and very professional as they oversee and manage the Range Complex

With the Engineer AIT going strong our Demolition range is getting quite a work out. This photo is one of the cratering charges being set off by the ANA Engineers.

"ESSAYONS"



HHC Mentor

By: LCDR Roundtree

The Dynamic Duo can be found each day at the KMTC Motor Pool Compound assisting and mentoring the KMTC Maintenance Company personnel on the finer techniques and science of running a military motor pool. The Dynamic Duo made significant improvements in the motor pool after coming "on-board" (a Navy term not to be confused with the game of checkers).

Sgt. Long, Hermiston Oregon, from the 1186th MP unit, is not above providing hands-on instructions to Maintenance Company personnel. His expertise in Maintenance provides the guiding arm the Maintenance Company needs to continue their goal of self sustainment.

His active participation and desire to make a difference has been strategic to the Maintenance Company. He re-

(Continued on page 5, HHC Mentor)

(Continued from page 4 HHC Mentor)

established basic operator maintenance by performing Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) prior to operating vehicles. Comfortable around work tools, Sgt. Long is shown below providing assistance in repairing a water trailer (buffalo) used by training Kandaks



on the hot and dusty ranges of KMTC.

Sgt. Long, a man of many talents, is also the “Poster NCO” at the motor pool and mentors the Maintenance NCOs by living and projecting the desired/required characteristics a good NCO should possess. Sgt Long’s daily actions are setting the standard by which the Maintenance Company NCOs are trying to emulate.

Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Roundtree, Savannah Georgia, currently works and lives in Yokosuka, Japan. He is assigned to the Over Seas Surface Support Unit and is just as busy as his partner Sgt. Long. Lt. Cdr. Roundtree, affectionately referred to as the “Commander” is the driving force behind infrastructure upgrades and basic processes for running an efficient and effective Motor Pool. Not a stranger to instructional duties, “Commander”



Roundtree is shown instructing, with the assistance of an interpreter, the use of maintenance and dispatching boards to the Motor Pool Management

His and Sgt Long’s determination to help the Maintenance Company reach their vision, “Be the Model (the Best) Motor Pool in the Afghanistan National Army” results in long hours and busy days mentoring and ensuring mission accomplishments. The Dynamic Duo

has been successful in facilitating the Maintenance Company Leadership in developing a Business Plan to aid and guide efforts toward achieving the vision.

The plan is divided into four Key Focus Areas (People, Process, Customers, and Operations) to ensure a balance approach in maximizing scarce resources. The Plan’s specific goals are:

PEOPLE

Obtain and maintain at least 70% of the MTOE/TDA requirements.

All Soldiers (100%) are able to drive every vehicle maintained/assigned to the Motor Pool.

PROCESS

Increase organic maintenance capability by 2 percent or more each year.

CUSTOMERS

Increase customer respect and appreciation of Motor Pool services.

OPERATIONS

Evolve into one consolidated Motor Pool for KMTC.

Increase safety awareness and conduct safe Motor Pool operations.

Although there are visible improvements in the Motor Pool, the Commander and Sgt. exclaims that “we ain’t seen nothing yet” and “the best is yet to come”. So stay tuned boys and girls to this same Bat Channel.

Health Tips: Traveler’s Diarrhea

By: Capt. Marylynn Bernard ARNP

My guess is that everyone at the Alamo has experienced some form of diarrhea since arriving in Afghanistan. I would like to dedicate this month’s health tips to Traveler’s Diarrhea, the most common illness among developing country travelers. Even though we are living and not transient visitors, the symptoms and cause of this type of diarrhea can still be applied. The following excerpt is taken from an article on this subject from the American Academy of Family Physicians, 2005.

Who can get Travelers Diarrhea?

Anyone can get this type of acute diarrhea. Studies show that about one half of persons who travel to a developing country will get it. As most of you know, it comes from certain bacteria,

parasites, and viruses that are transmitted through food and water.

How can I tell if I have traveler’s diarrhea?

This form of acute diarrhea is defined as having three or more unformed stools in 24 hours with at least one of the following symptoms: fever, nausea, and vomiting, abdominal cramps, feeling urgency to have a bowel movement or bloody stools. One out of 5 persons will be confined to their beds for about a day.

What causes traveler’s diarrhea?

In the U.S. most cases of diarrhea are caused from viral pathogens. In contrast, diarrhea in developing countries is caused mainly by bacteria, particularly Escherichia Coli . Diarrhea lasting more than 2 weeks could be related to protozoal parasites for instance, Giardia lamblia and other species.

How is traveler’s diarrhea treated?

Mostly, this type of diarrhea will resolve in 4 to 5 days on its own, though treatment with antibiotics and Imodium will alleviate the symptoms within 24 hours. Be careful taking Pepto-Bismol, an over the counter anti-diarrheal medication when also taking doxycycline, a common anti-malarial medication. These two medications taken together should be avoided. Additionally, keep yourself hydrated, replacing lost electrolytes and eating foods such as salt crackers or broth.

How can I prevent traveler’s diarrhea?

Of course be mindful of the water and food you eat. Watch for posted signs that state the status of the water source, i.e, potable/ drinkable or non potable / not drinkable. Bottle water is mostly safe just make sure the cap or seal is not broken. Most all of us eat at the DFAC, not in the local economy. Even so, please keep in mind that unsafe foods could be unpeeled fruits, raw or undercooked meats, seafood, and unpasteurized dairy products. It is very important to make sure you wash your hands upon entering the DFAC and use hand sanitizers frequently throughout the day.

Need more information? Stop by the TMC for additional information.

Provincial Commanders Visit KMTC MEPS

By: *Capt. Marylynn Bernard, USAF*

On October 11, 2006 Provincial commanders from many of the Afghanistan districts visited the MEPS medical recruitment section. Fourteen Afghan ANA Commanders were briefed on the medical examination process, ask questions to the ANA Medical Director of MEPS and toured the facilities. The meeting was extremely successful; many of the issues that were brought up by the commanders were directly answered by the medical director. It is always a good day for the

US mentors to witness the ANA closing gaps in their communication process and working together to build their own future.



Provincial Afghan Commanders and Capt. Bernard pictured outside of MEPS Medical Recruitment Section

Troop Medical Clinic Notes

By: *LT Heron*

- Flu shots will be available by mid-November for US Military personnel only.
- Check the Medical Roster for people still needing shots.
- If you really want to stop smoking/chewing we are here to help.
Come check out our new TMC for all of your health care needs.

CAMP ALAMO'S NEWEST ARRIVALS

All at Alamo will have noticed the arrival of the new British ANA NCO Training Team (NCOTT). We will have stuck out not only due to the pale skin and bleary eyes of the advance party, who endured a 36 hour journey on five flights from the UK, but also because we are Royal Marines and as such speak a dialect unrecognisable to most outside the Corps.

Working alongside the Officer Candidate School (OCS) under the umbrella of the UK Leadership Training Team (LTT), the NCOTT is made up of a HQ element and two teams. Each team will mentor Afghan instructors in the training of junior and senior NCO's both at KMTC and forming Mobile Training Teams to deliver courses to individual Corps' around the country. We were fortunate that the out-going team had been considerate enough to prepare a good handover package to ease us into our role, with some continuity being maintained through three members of the old team remaining in place.

The week-long handover also gave the team a chance to carry out some in-theatre training on the ranges that will prove invaluable on the local routes, but also did a lot to build a team spirit in a group of Marines (and one sailor – the 2nd in charge) that have been brought together from all areas of the Corps. Our American cousins should note however, that the establishment of the Royal Marines is roughly thirty times smaller than that of the USMC - so if one Marine doesn't know another, they almost cer-



tainly have a mutual friend!

Since the old team left on 6th October, the team has begun mentoring our first Squad Leaders Course and has thus far been generally impressed with the quality of instruction by KMTC staff. This bodes well for the future and is a credit to previous mentors. We have also begun preparing for the first Mobile Training Team that will run both Squad Leaders and Platoon Sergeants courses for the 201st Corps at Pole-Charki, Kabul next month.

Outside of our work, we've settled into the gym in an effort to burn off the belt-fed cookies available from the galley (with some taking more advantage than others).

If you bump into us in camp, here a few terms which may make communication a little easier.

Bootneck slang

Bootneck
Scran
Galley
Wets
Icers
Redders
Oggin
HOOFING!

Meaning

Royal marine
Food
Dfac
Drinks
Cold
Hot
Water
Great!

Finally we'd like to congratulate Cpl Beavan on his new moustache. We think it looks hooofing!

Training Assistance Group Newsletter

Tag
41st BCT
APO AE 09320

Contact Information:
1st Sgt Don Weber
E-mail: Donald.w.weber@us.army.mil