

COALITION



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**Gen. Martin Dempsey,
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
addressing Coalition Members
at USCENTCOM**

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EDITORIAL

Coalition for Peace security and stability

● Col. Mamdoh Al-Ameri, Jordan

The United States and the coalition partners started combat operations in the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility in October 2001 with the launch of Operation Enduring Freedom. This multinational contingent is the primary instrument USCENTCOM uses to carry out its stated mission of working with national and international partners to promote development and cooperation among nations, respond to crises, and deter or defeat state and transnational aggression in order to establish regional security and stability.

Since 2001, USCENTCOM has relied heavily on coalition partners for prosecution of the war on terror, and this support is paramount to the command's success as it continues to execute multiple operations within its Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Since the outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, the responsibility of integrating the coalition with U.S. Forces has rested with the USCENTCOM Coalition Coordination Center (CCC) located at command Headquarters in Tampa, Florida. The CCC supports the strategic objectives of the commander by coordinating the identification, development, and movement of coalition resources necessary to satisfy force capability requirements within the command's AOR.

The CCC's role is analogous to that of U.S. military Service chiefs. Although it does not actually train, equip, and deploys the coalition forces, the CCC is responsible for coordinating with the organizations performing those missions. Upon notification of a country's interest in contributing forces, the CCC engages that country's Senior National Representative (SNR), the U.S. Defense Attache (DATT) assigned to that nation, and the coalition operations offices of the operational commander to coordinate and facilitate the deployment of coalition troops. It is common for the CCC to provide the contributing nation, through the SNR or DATT, with information requested by his legislative body to support the decision to deploy forces.

Building, sustaining, and improving the coalition are evolving processes. Having all the Coalition Countries involved in them is the most effective and lasting method to achieve buy-in and permanency. The Combined Planning Group (CPG) is one of the initial coalition-manned organizations created in USCENTCOM. A part of the J5 Directorate, the CPG consists of U.S., Allied, and hand-selected coalition members tasked with advising the USCENTCOM commander with strategic--to operational-level plans and assessments, and political-military and civil-military analysis in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Integration of Coalition Forces to support the U.S. Central Command mission is resource intensive, at times tedious, but always enlightening. The full cooperation and close coordination of the entire military community are essential to coalition development and sustenance. Including coalition partners in planning and decision making at the command by integrating the staff and keeping communication flowing both ways is the only way to ensure partner nation buy-in and the continued strength of this coalition or any other. Indeed, the war on terror demands the cooperation of all nations striving for stability and prosperity in the world. Strong, integrated, military coalitions will continue to play a large role in this effort.

● Director, Coalition Public Affairs



NEWS IN BRIEF

By CENTCOM Public Affairs

Panetta Welcomes Jordanian Leaders to Pentagon



Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta met Thursday Feb 23, with a Jordanian delegation led by Lt. Gen. Mashaal al-Zaben, the chairman of Jordan's joint chiefs, and Lt. Gen. Prince Feisal bin Hussein. The Jordanian delegation is in Washington for the 34th U.S.-Jordan Joint Military Commission, the Defense Department's annual bilateral consultation with the Jordanian armed forces.

Knighting ceremony for GEN David Petraeus



GEN David Petraeus, was conferred award of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Orange Nassau with swords in the Netherlands.

Eager Lion to Take Place in Jordan



The U.S. and the Kingdom of Jordan will conduct Exercise Eager Lion, part of a long history of multilateral military exercises in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan this May. The exercise includes more than 15 countries from five different continents and more than 10,000 participants. The focus of Eager Lion is to strengthen military-to-military relationships of participating partner nations through a joint, whole-of-government, multinational approach, integrating all instruments of national power to meet current and future complex national security challenges. The exercise promotes cooperation and interoperability among participating forces, builds functional capacity, practices crisis management and enhances readiness.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff addressing Coalition Members at USCENTCOM

By MAJ Shawkat Osman - Bangladesh

USCENTCOM, Tampa (March 23, 2012) - It was Friday, March 23, 2012. The Coalition Members were proud to receive the highest ranking U.S Military Officer, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin E. Dempsey. He came to the Coalition Village accompanied by the CENTCOM Commander General James N. Mattis to address the Coalition Members. The Coalition Village III (CVIII) main conference room was full to capacity and eager for the opportunity to listen to the General.

General Dempsey in his speech emphasized the importance of the joint effort by the Coalition Countries in fighting the war against terrorism. In replying to a question by one of the Senior National Representative (SNR) about the future of the Coalition, he reiterated on the contribution of all the Members of the Coalition Countries towards the common aim. He was receptive

to get suggestions and questions from the audience. In a question by the Coalition Public Affairs Director about the cultural awareness training before deployment, the General agreed upon issue and said that the cultural training before deployment plays a vital role in achieving success. A minor mistake in the field can create much damage to the long achieved success.

General Martin E. Dempsey is the Principal Military Advisor the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council. He has wide experience of serving during peace and war across the globe as Platoon Leader to Combatant Commander. Members at the Coalition Village were honored to get the opportunity of having such a legendary Distinguished Visitor like General Martin E. Dempsey.



Gen. Martin Dempsey respond to a question posed by one of the Coalition Members during his visit



Bangladesh National Day Reception



Ltc Monirul Akhand

National Day of Bangladesh was celebrated on March 15, 2012, at USCENTCOM. The Ambassador of Bangladesh to USA, His Excellency Akramul Qader and the Defense Attaché BG Mohammad Abdul Moeen attended the program. Leadership of USCENTCOM, SOCOM and Macdill AFB, Senior National Representatives, distinguished citizens of Tampa and US/Bangladeshi community attended the event. Director J3 of USCENTCOM Rear Admiral Donegan was the Senior most US officer present. The program started with the national anthems of Bangladesh and USA followed by brief presentation by Senior National Representative of Bangladesh Ltc Akhand. The Ambassador gave a short speech highlighting the rich history of Bangladesh which was followed by a speech by Brig Gen Andrew Smith, Director Combined Planning Group. A friendship cake was jointly cut by the Bangladish, USA and coalition members resembling long lived cooperation and partnership between coalition countries. The program ended with a very entertaining cultural show and a Bangladeshi dinner. On March 16, H.E. Akramul Qader and Brig Gen Moeen made an office call with Chief Of Staff USCENTCOM MG Karl Horst to discuss bilateral issues including possibility of increased cooperation between USCENTCOM and Bangladesh Armed Forces. Events like this can truly prove the strength of the Coalition under USCENTCOM and how all the Coalition members and the civil society can unite against global terrorism.

The Senior National Representative of Bangladesh

USCENTCOM observes

Armed Forces Day celebration of Armenia

Ltc Arman Mkrtchyan/Armenian SNR

On Feb 1, 2012, a reception on the occasion of the establishment of the Armenian Armed Forces was organized in the US CENTCOM (Coalition Coordination Center) CCC.

At this significant occasion, among others, participated also the USCENTCOM Chief Of Staff, MG Karl Horst, Director CCC, Commodore Michael van Balen, Chairman of the Coalition BG Jens Praestegaard, Director of Combined Planning Group (CPG) BG Andrew Smith.

Twenty years passed from the memorable days when the Armed Forces of the newly-independent Republic of Armenia were created.

The creation and history of the Armenian Armed Forces form an organic part of the historic reality of the establishment of the Armenian statehood. For both of them the beginning was February 1988 – the beginning of the struggle for Nagorno-Karabagh, the restoration

of the Statehood and the establishment of the National Armed Forces. The Armenian Armed Forces (as well as the Armenian Statehood itself) had to overcome several difficult stages in the course of its formation.

During those years the Armed Forces performed a multifold task. While in the process of creation, the Armed Forces both defended the Armenian boundaries and people, and had to combat and defeat a major war.

Armenian Armed Forces, during the past years, have also seen phases of significant reform aimed at reorganizing, upgrading of its armaments and professional level of the staff, its standards and capacities. This is still an ongoing process. As of today, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia are actively involved in international military cooperation, including peacekeeping and stabilizing operations in Kosovo and Af-



ghanistan. Armenia proudly accomplished the task with the US and Polish troops in Iraq in 2008. The Armenians have lived side by side with many countries of the world and its people for more than forty centuries; the history of the military cooperation with those countries can be traced back to the ancient times. The episodes of historical and present-day cooperation can be enumerated continuously. The significance of this cooperation cannot be overestimated. It has established a firm foundation for mutual cooperation in the present-day geopolitical situation.

These traditions are being kept alive in modern times too. The military cooperation among the countries will further expand to continually contribute to the strengthening of the friendship between the nations, a friendship, based on common civilization and values that has cast deep roots in the hearts, souls and minds.

The Armenian Armed Forces will spare no effort to preserve peace and security for themselves and for all allies and partners.



A Noble Cause

Story by Rob Rowen



It is often said “**when you pull a thread you may be surprised at what happens.**” A good example of that is how a simple request from a member of the Coalition created an organization working internationally and having many past Senior National Representatives on its Advisory Board. In November 2007, Typhoon Sidr took aim on Bangladesh and in its fury killed thousands and left tens of thousands homeless. The devastation was overwhelming and the SNR for Bangladesh was heartsick. He was invited to a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by myself and asked if I could help in any way.

I am sure he was thinking a some small donations would be the best he could help for, but he was surprised when we got on the phone with a Sri Lankan Buddhist monk named Bhante Wimala who was in Kenya at the time and he agreed to go to the devastated areas to see what could be done to help the unfortunate people. Working with local people and the Bangladesh Army and funded by the Tampa Bay community and many others

he was able to start a building program.

The result was 100 homes were built and some simple building to house 2 Mosques, a Buddhist and a Hindu temple. Bhante Wimala was adamant that these were as essential as the homes as people need a place to gather and find spiritual solace. Months later this same monk as my guest visited Central Command’s Coalition Village. He had many talks with the SNRs and was impressed on the comradely and relationships and the



President of Global Action Coalition and an unofficial member of the Coalition Forces

desire for peace he felt from all he met. At that time the Nepal SNR, Bharat Gurung and his replacement shared the huge needs Nepal had after the many years of fighting with the Maoist forces.

I was determined to help and I called upon some of the same members of the Tampa community to join me in this quest. I envisioned Nepal to be the first step in action needed to be taken to help our less fortunate countries.



“Many of the SNRs of that time and some since were inspired to help and have expressed an interest to be available as Advisors. Though many are doing this as individuals, some see this as an extension of the work they are doing to promote world peace.”

Though the work in Nepal may seem small, over 1,000 children are being given lunch at school, new schools are being started and simple items like school supplies and sweaters have been given to these children, the result has been an incredible increase in school attendance and grades.

This is a country with 50% of the children are suffering from malnutrition and school attendance is below 50%. In 2012 the plans are to start working in other countries in Asia and Africa. March 21st Global Action will be hosting a Jazz Evening for Nepal at the Palladium and all Coalition Officers are invited to attend and be recognized. It is those small threads that end up making huge differences and who knows maybe one of the children will be the next Mahatma Gandhi or Mother Theresa.



HISTORY OF GASPARILLA

By MAJ Shahid Rizwan / Coalition Public Affairs Office,
Pakistan Army

On Jan 28, 2012, people of Tampa Bay celebrated the famous and traditional festival of "Gasparilla" which has been part of their history for more than two centuries. This reflects the rich history of the city and enthusiasm of the people. As part of the community, Coalition members and their families were also invited to witness this traditional festivity. Sequel to this, elaborate and exclusive



arrangements were made to entertain the coalition families which have truly left very happy memories. This rich and traditional festivity has developed the eagerness to know the history of the Gasparilla, therefore in the following to paragraph an effort has been made to highlight the historical facts of the festival.

HISTORY OF GASPARILLA– The Legend

The name and foundation of Tampa's traditional Gasparilla Carnival come from legendary pirate Jose Gaspar, "last of the Buccaneers," who terrorized the coastal waters of West Florida during the late 18th and early 19th century. Gaspar, given to calling himself "Gasparilla," served as a lieutenant in the Royal Spanish Navy for five years until 1783 when, upon seizing command of a Spanish sloop-of-war, he with his fellow mutineers set sail for the Florida straits. And so the young Spanish aristocrat-turned-pirate began an adventurous life as outlaw of the sea.

Although few facts are known of the life and death of the famed Gasparilla, accounts from his own personal diary boast the capture and burning of 36 ships during his first 12 years as a pirate. Crews of captured ships were given the option of joining Gaspar's ranks or walking the plank; fates of captive ladies were determined largely by his moment's fancy.

The number of ships that fell prey to Gasparilla and his buccaneers during later years is not known, but he continued to ravage Florida waters until December 1821. Deciding it was time to retire from pirate life, Gaspar had just convinced his crew to split up their accumulated fortune, disband and live out their lives in peace and luxury. But the sight of a merchant ship sailing northwestwardly toward Orleans was all too inviting for the greedy adventure-seekers. One last thrill, and they would end their careers

in grand style – Gaspar and company could not resist, and so set out to pillage the seemingly unassuming merchantman. Closing in on their prey, the pirates realized, to their chagrin, they had chosen a United States Navy warship in disguise for their final folly. And final it was. A bloody battle ensued, leaving Gasparilla's flagship burning to

ruin. As the story goes, just as the commanding officer of the U.S.S. Enterprise was boarding the defeated ship, Gasparilla seized a heavy chain, wrapped it around his waist and neck and leaped into the water, brandishing his sword in a final gesture of defiance as he sank into the sea.

HISTORY OF GASPARILLA TODAY

The first invasion was so successful and well-received by the people of Tampa that a city-wide demand was voiced to make the Mystic Krewe organization permanent and to replicate the carnival each year.

Tampa has upheld its tradition by celebrating Gasparilla every year with only ten exceptions since that infamous first invasion. Today, Ye Mystic Krewe numbers over 700 of the city's most prominent men, who uphold their mascot Gaspar as a "hearty old swashbuckler with courtly manners and possibly – just possibly – prankful habits."

In 1954 the Krewe commissioned the building of the world's only fully rigged pirate ship to be built in modern times. Named the Jose Gasparilla, the ship is a replica of a West Indiaman used in the 18th century. She is constructed of steel at 165' long by 35' across the beam, with 3 steel masts standing 100' tall. During the year she is usually docked at the Tarpon Weigh Station on Bayshore Blvd. for the public's viewing pleasure. In the past, Gasparilla has been celebrated on the second Monday in February.

A break in tradition came in 1988 with the move to a Saturday festival. The change allows surrounding communities to take part in the celebration. In 2002, the festival was moved to the last Saturday in January. In addition to the traditional invasion and parade, the Gasparilla celebration encompasses a full week's worth of activities held throughout the city. This January, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla will lay siege upon Tampa once again.

SOFEX 2012 to be held in Jordan from May 7-10



www.sofexjordan.com

SOFEX is a premier international exhibition and conference that features the largest fully-integrated Special Operations Forces equipment and solutions in the world. Bringing together the world's leading special operations and homeland security manufacturers with high-ranking defense officials and government decision makers, SOFEX is a unique global gathering for showcasing the latest counter terrorism and homeland security solutions to combat today's ever-increasing security challenges.

The 9th edition of the SOFEX series will be held at the King Abdullah I Airbase located near Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The event is held biennially under the Patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II, who will be launching the activities of SOFEX 2012 supported by the Jordan Armed Forces.



U,S, advisers teach self defense to Afghan Air Force women

By Staff Sgt. Nadine Y. Barclay, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing



KABUL, Afghanistan (March 07, 2012) — Advisers from the 439th and 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadrons recently taught a class to four Afghan Air Force female personnel about the importance of using self-defense to escape a violent situation.

The training prepared the female students physically and mentally for what they could experience if placed in a dangerous scenario. The students learned that true self defense is more than just personal protection and learning a set of techniques to escape from an attacker.

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Kenneth Tatrai, 738th AEAS Pohan-toon-e-Hawayee lead security forces adviser and self-defense instructor, discussed the potential benefits that would come from learning self defense.

The course consisted of the basic principles of personal security and self-defense in order to help the students mitigate risk in their lives whenever possible.

Although fake yells and laughter filled the training room, the students used strike pads to demonstrate how they would react. The training included strikes, break holds and demonstrations of the sensitive areas of the body to aim for when engaged with an attacker.

Among the participating advisers, one particularly shared the women's concerns about size and capability against someone twice their size.

"The ladies expressed interest in learning new skills, and this is one that I thought was important for them to have in their tool kit," said Vanden Bout. "It increases their self confidence, and also increases the likelihood that they can escape safely from a dangerous situation."

Vanden Bout, who organized the training, stepped up and demonstrated exactly how the training would work if attacked for real by taking down her large simulated attacker.

"I feel more confident in what I learned and in myself. Today has given me the confidence to know that I can really do this if I had too," said Afghan air force Lt. Nafisa Adeb. "I know I'll remember today and what I learned when I need it."



Project management in a combat zone



● By: MAJ Éric Landry, Canadian Forces

In 2002, while I was studying project management at the École des hautes études commerciales in Montreal, I never imagined that I would someday apply the principles I was learning to a counter-insurgency campaign in the heart of one of the most volatile regions of Afghanistan. After only two weeks here, Ltc Michel-Henri St.-Louis, commander of the 1st Royal Battalion, 22nd Regiment Battle Group, informed me of the full scope of the mission that would be my main effort for the coming months.

Since 2006, when the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) began in Kandahar Province, the Horn of Panjwa'i — the district's western point — has been more or less continuously occupied by insurgents. Enjoying considerable

freedom of movement, they maintain a firm grip on the local people. In 2007–2008, when I was the Task Force Kandahar Plans Officer, I was responsible for planning a push to the west. The problem we faced then was the lack of a good ground link between zones controlled by the Afghan national security forces.

Now the stars are in alignment, and my team will resolve this situation once and for all. We must build a broad, solid, safe road, not only for the people but also for the Afghan and Coalition Forces. Once completed, this road will both constrain the insurgents' freedom of movement and allow us to travel quickly from east to west.



Master Warrant Officer (MWO) Willy MacDonald (second from left) and Maj Jon Hamilton (second from right) with graduates of the ANA Basic Warrior Training course at the Kabul Military Training Centre.



Maj Éric Landry and (MWO) Alain Champagne conduct a shura with village elders to explain the challenges of the Sperwan Ghar-Mushan road project and to discuss their concerns.

Photo : Cpl Patrick Deselliers, Recce Sqn 1 R22nd RBG

The most complex mission ever

Building a new road is a complex project under the most favourable conditions. Building a road on one week's warning, with a team drawn from three different countries, in an area that has been under Taliban control for more than two years and where the people have yet to be told about it — that is the most complex mission I have ever received in my life.

Coalition Forces partnered with the Afghan National Army in villages to the west can hardly wait for this road to be built. Since they started operating down there, they have been resupplied only by air, so the faster the road reaches the west, the better. Incidentally, the winter weather is not always on our side: the rainy season, with its cold nights and limited periods of sunshine, makes the task that much more difficult.

For several hundred years, Afghan fields have been irrigated by a complex underground system that has proved its worth. The sponge-like ground where the road being built presents major technical challenges that engineers at all levels of the chain of command are trying to resolve.

The availability of construction materials and the characteristics of various types of soil are important factors that my marketing courses never prepared me

to evaluate. The members of my squadron can rely on experts to have the know-how to handle technical problems; this allows us to stay focussed on security issues. Consequently, the task of co-ordinating all these efforts falls to the combat team's command post.

The project team

The project team includes armoured elements from the tank squadron, infantry, Canadian and American engineers, civil-military co-operation operators, with troops of the Afghan National Army as the spearhead of the operation. The Afghan soldiers are responsible for meeting with the local people and informing them of alternative routes to minimize the impact of the project on their daily lives. A U.S. regiment that specializes in building infrastructure used most of its soldiers to build the roadbed. Bulldozers, compactors, graders and excavators labour from sunrise to sunset to push the road to the far western end of our area of responsibility.

Engaging in dialogue



Maj Éric Landry, Commanding Officer and his Squadron Sergeant-Major, MWO Alain Champagne, meet with villagers before hiring them to work on the road from Sperwan Ghar to Mushan.

Compared to the time it took to establish where Autoroute 30 would go, decisions here get made at the speed of light. In a few days, I met throngs of people who will be affected by the project. First of all, Haji Baran, the District Governor, is a strong supporter. The new road will bring a measure of peace to local

people who will be able to travel in security. Thanks to the better communications made possible by the ground link between the various commercial centres or bazaars, there is potential for a positive impact on the economy of the Horn of Panjwa’i.

On the whole, the road will bring good things; however, some individuals — for example, the farmer who loses part of a field, or a homeowner who has to get out of his house — will have a different opinion. Although the local government agreed to it, most people we meet have not been told about the project so we have to take the time for a thorough explanation of its impact and to engage in dialogue with local leaders — not only to get their backing, but also to hear their suggestions. As well as shuras, or official engagements, when we’re out on the ground we have to conduct many impromptu face-to-face meetings. These involve explaining the proposed route, the potential for damage arising from the construction, the by process by which ex gratia payments are made to satisfy claims, and — above all — the security aspects of the project.

Security — foundation of a better future

The preparation work required for the construction of 20 kilometres of road eight metres wide, with 25 metres of disengagement zone on each side, puts a heavy burden on the local farmers,

especially considering that they have made do for 400 years with a road only three metres wide. The construction of the new road will limit the insurgents’ freedom of movement, which is why they are putting up more and more of a fight as we advance west. The growing number of improvised explosive devices that we have found since the project began shows that this area has been under insurgent control for many months. The coalition forces are working in close partnership with the Afghan national security forces to protect the local population and the American engineers who have undertaken to establish this new line of communication, an artery vital to the future development of Panjwa’i District.

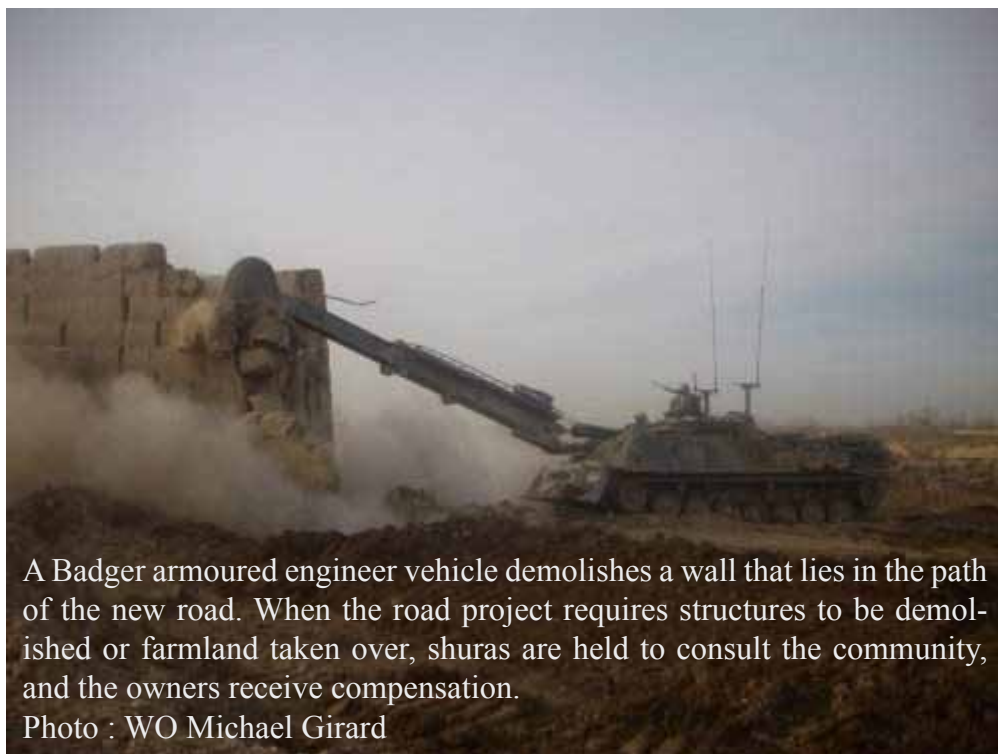
My vision

The complexity of this project demands the closest possible co-operation from every member of the team. In a counter-insurgency campaign, the aspect that takes the most energy is the synchronization of our efforts in the fields of development, security and promotion of local governance. My project is a perfect demonstration of all three lines of operation.

After a week of work, we have encountered our share of pitfalls, but I am no less optimistic about the months to come.

For years to come, this road will be the backbone of west Panjwa’i. Stimulation of economic development and improvement in the security situation for local citizens will be the evidence of Canadian troops’ achievements in Afghanistan.

● *Maj Éric Landry was deployed in Afghanistan as the officer commanding the armoured squadron of the 1st Battalion Royal 22e Régiment Battle Group.*



A Badger armoured engineer vehicle demolishes a wall that lies in the path of the new road. When the road project requires structures to be demolished or farmland taken over, shuras are held to consult the community, and the owners receive compensation.

Photo : WO Michael Girard

Coalition Social Events at a Glance

A good number of delegations visit USCENTCOM regularly. The visitors get an idea of CENTCOM's activities. Visitors get the opportunity to exchange views with the command, staff and coalition members who are working at USCENTCOM. There are opportunities to meet civil communities and media personnels also. Some of the important events are there in the pictures below.

Photos taken by Maj Shawkat , CPAT



Coalition members at the Gasparilla Parade



Armenia Day Celebration at USCENTCOM



Chief of Staff, Poland visits USCENTCOM



Coalition members at the Goslin Party



Ms Nimra Yousaf,(3rd from the left) holds her “Best Student Award” which was presented to her by South Tampa Chamber of Commerce on 18th January 2012.

She is daughter of COL Malik Muhammad Yousaf Awan from Pakistan



British Army Medics help shape future of healthcare in Helmand in Afghanistan