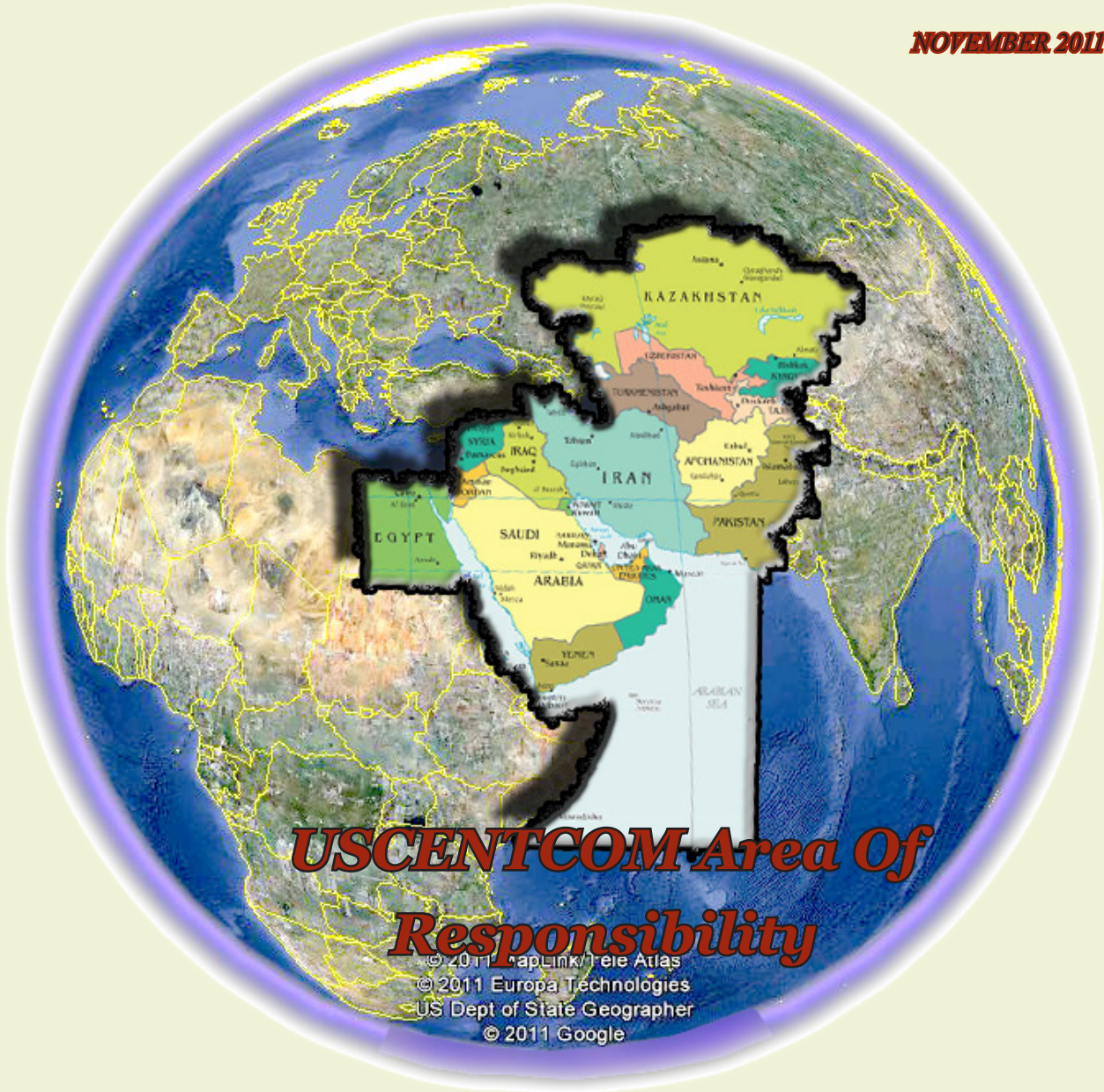


# COALITION

Issue 74

NOVEMBER 2011



**USCENTCOM Area Of  
Responsibility**

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*NESA research team  
visit*



*Canadian remembrance  
day*



*General Mattis Social  
with SNRs*



*MacDill-airfest 2011*

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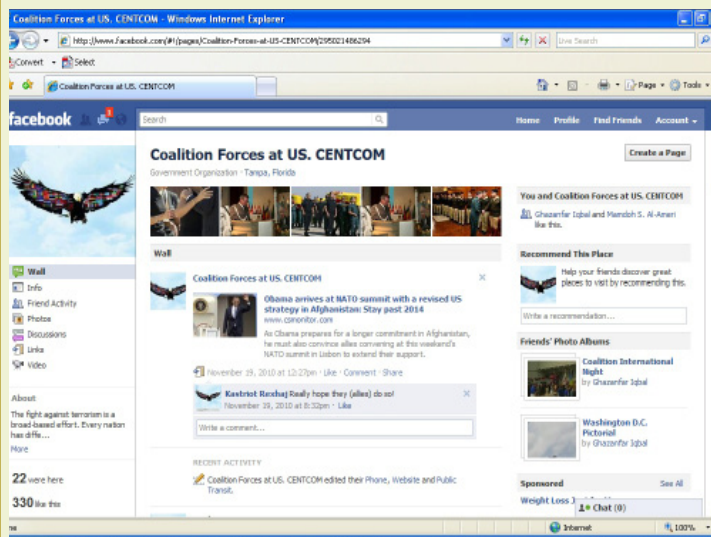
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## Editor's Note

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Responsibility



Back Cover  
A group picture of representative of Co-  
alition countries at HQ USCENTCOM



## EDITORIAL

**T**he mission of the Coalition Forces in Afghanistan is to bring lasting peace and stability, and while that primarily involves the use of military personnel to secure the country, it also requires reconstruction and development initiatives. A cornerstone of the Coalition strategy is to boost the size and effectiveness of Afghan security forces in the hope they will eventually take over.



Coalition troops are engaged more in peacekeeping and reconstruction than in fighting. Activities include rebuilding damaged schools and hospitals, restoring water supplies and damaged infrastructure and supporting mediation and local governance.

In order to do so, Coalition has deployed several Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in different parts of the country. One of these strong Teams is the Jordanian TF. The Jordanian Armed Forces stand proud as a Muslim Nation, alongside its Coalition Force partners, and continue to combat the insurgency and spread goodwill to the people of the nation of Afghanistan. As part of the Kingdom's humanitarian mission in Afghanistan, Jordanian Female Engagement Teams are working to raise the awareness of Afghan women's rights and provide educational and health assistance. The presence of Female Engagement Teams with forces has helped in facilitating the process of communication with families, children and women who are in dire need for aid and assistance to them, taking into account their circumstances and their conditions and the privacy of their community. The training team also contributes to train Afghan forces on all the tasks and skills that help them carry out their duties to be able to achieve security and order there. Jordanian TF also routinely holds religious seminars and radio programs focusing on the Aman Message, which seeks to clarify the true image of Islam.

When thinking about security and protection we must take into account both our own and other people's interests. Development without security is unachievable, and security without development is meaningless.

COL Mamdoh Al Ameri  
Coalition Public Affairs Director  
Jordan Armed Forces

## NEWS IN BRIEF

By CENTCOM Public Affairs



**U.S. General James Mattis Meets with Egyptian military leader**

Gen. James Mattis, Commander United States Central Command, departed Egypt after calling on senior Egyptian counterparts in the Ministry of Defense. Gen. Mattis spoke with Lt. Gen. Anan, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces and Field Marshal Tantawi, Commander and Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces to discuss issues of military cooperation within the region and the strong cooperation between our forces.

The Egypt visit is part of a multi-country visit Mattis is making to the region to increase his awareness of regional issues. As he departed Cairo, he passed his best wishes to the people of Egypt in this history-making time.



**U.S. General James Mattis consults Pakistan Military Leader**

U.S. Central Command Commander Gen. James Mattis departed Pakistan after visiting and consulting with senior Pakistani military and security officials. Gen. Mattis discussed regional military cooperation and highlighted the many sacrifices of the Pakistani military as a result of their ongoing operations in the tribal areas.

### **U.S. General James Mattis visits United Arab Emirates**

Gen. James Mattis, Commander of U.S. Central Command, departed the United Arab Emirates. While there, Gen. Mattis met with Gen. Muhammad Bin Zayid Al-Nuhayyan, the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince. Gen. Mattis said he appreciated the country's recent support of the international effort in Libya and thanked him for the U.A.E.'s leadership.



## Beyond the 10th year in Afghanistan Security Force Assistance and International Security

By William B. Caldwell, IV. and Derek S. Reveron  
<http://www.isaf.nato.int>

Ten years ago, Afghanistan was politically fractured, economically irrelevant, and socially repressive. The Taliban government, recognized by only three countries at the time, reduced the nation's GDP per capita to under \$170, almost completely destroyed public infrastructure, and ruptured Afghanistan into a conglomeration of belligerent localities, geographically isolated from one another. Afghanistan hosted al-Qa'ida and we soon learned what the latest National Military Strategy of the United States underscored, "In this interdependent world, the enduring interests of the United States are increasingly tied to those of other state and non-state actors." Afghanistan is no exception.

While Taliban totalitarianism attempted to destroy Afghans' future, the international community has attempted to reverse societal regression. To be sure, Afghanistan still has many challenges, but it is also not the fragmented society it once was either. Insurgent groups still conduct attacks, primarily in the south and east, but much has changed in ten years—Afghanistan is now sovereign, the international community is heavily invested in the future of Afghanistan, and their

society is slowly recovering. With international assistance, GDP has increased to \$1,000 per capita, almost all Afghans have access to basic health services, and school enrollment increased from 900,000 (mainly boys) to almost seven million (37 percent girls). Women now serve in Parliament and even train to be pilots in the Afghan Air Force. Most of the country is now connected via mobile phones, highways, and common purpose—assuming responsibility for its own security, which remains threatened by various insurgent groups.

Internationally, Afghanistan is not the pariah it once was and it is on the verge of helping to link Central and South Asia along a new Silk Road. India is providing \$2 billion worth of assistance; Uzbekistan is building rail links in the north; and China is investing in the east. In short, Afghanistan is attempting to normalize its international relations and is on a path that President Obama outlined at West Point on December 1, 2009 to "deny al Qaeda a safe haven...reverse the Taliban's momentum and deny it the ability to overthrow the government... and strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan's security forces and government so that they can take the lead responsibility for Afghanistan's future." In contrast



to other ethnically-diverse countries wracked by years of war, Afghans overwhelmingly favor a unified, multi-ethnic country where ISAF members are welcomed as guests.

To be sure, progress is dependent on international support for Afghanistan, but as agreed at the NATO summit in Lisbon last fall, Kabul will increasingly assume lead responsibility for its development and security. This process started in July of this year when the first seven areas began to transition lead security responsibility from NATO to Afghanistan. Far from an anomaly, this international approach to enabling other governments to provide security for their people is a contemporary feature of U.S. national security. As former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates wrote, “building partner capacity: helping others defend themselves or, if necessary, fight alongside U.S. forces by providing them with equipment, training, or other forms of security assistance... [because] building the security capacity of other countries must be a critical element of U.S. national security strategy.” These ideas are being practiced in Afghanistan every day and have enabled the Afghan Surge.

## Recruit and Train

Every day, more than 32,000 Afghan personnel are in training at 70 sites across 21 provinces in Afghanistan, and in selected courses in the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. The results are evident. In just two short years, the Afghan National Army went from using Soviet-era equipment to more modern NATO weapons. Weapons qualifications rates increased dramatically and Afghans learned to conduct convoy operations. Soldiers once unable to count or read are now enrolled in mandatory literacy training.

An unfortunate reality is that those eligible for military and police service had their educations stolen by decades of war. While Afghans have a proud warrior ethos and tactical intelligence, they lacked the ability to write their names or count to ten. To make up for the shortfall, all illiterate Afghan soldiers and police recruits are enrolled in mandatory literacy programs to ensure they reach the international standard for literacy. Currently, about 3,000 Afghan teachers are following Afghan Ministry of Education guidelines to help recruits overcome the illiteracy barrier. We see the effect in the force and see literacy as the essential enabler. Literate soldiers and police can now account for the gear they are issued and know that they are receiving their full pay. And soldiers now receive a living wage through electronic banking. Finally, literate soldiers can read the service manuals for the equipment they are issued and perform the necessary services and repair equipment to ensure the significant investment in vehicles and equipment is maintained and accounted for properly. The international investment in the literacy program is showing progress; the literacy rate in the army and police will be twice that of the population in 2012.

## Professionalize and Sustain.

Since 2009, international focus has been on fielding trained infantry to meet the needs of counterinsurgency with addi-

tional combat fighting formations. Attrition in the Army remains stubborn, but the force will continue to grow another 47,000 over the next year with increased emphasis on specialty or vocational training. Today, Afghans are studying to be mechanics, engineers, and personnel specialists. There are now 12 vocational schools that provide Afghans the skill sets they need to sustain the force the international community invested so heavily in. Shifting from an ISAF-enabled infantry to a professional and self-sustaining Afghan force will occur over the next several years, but with an indigenous training base, a process that is on-going.

Since the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan was created in November 2009, investing in Afghan human capital has been a priority. Through the “Afghan First” program, NATO is supporting indigenous industries to supply uniforms, equipment, and services to the Afghan military and police. Under the Afghan First



*Afghanistan – A Croatian soldier operating out of Camp Marmal*

program, about 17,000 Afghan jobs were created; this facilitates the development of legitimate commerce, reduces cross-border transactions, and institutionalizes transparent procurement mechanisms. Further, supporting local industry reduces international dependency and lays a foundation for sustainability.

Building enduring systems and institutions is a central feature of the NATO strategy in Afghanistan. Lessons from other conflict-prone societies suggest that sustainment is essential to secure short-term gains and give a war-stricken society a chance to recover. Given the investment made over the last ten years and the priority of supporting Afghanistan’s stability, the international community and the Afghan government reaffirmed a long-term commitment to a better future for the Afghan people at last fall’s summit in Lisbon. Specifically, NATO and Afghan leaders agreed to “sustaining and improving their capacity and capability to counter threats to the security, stability and integrity of Afghanistan effectively, and contributing to regional security; and doing so with full respect for Afghan sovereignty and leadership, in a manner consistent with and supportive of the Afghan constitution and international law and recognizing the sacrifices and the ongoing endeavors of the Afghan people for achieving peace.” To realize these goals, army and police professionalization continues apace.

The effects are evident. Dr. Ashraf Ghani, who now oversees the security transition process for President Karzai, noted, “The Afghan National Army has had an enormous change both in quality and in numbers.” He told us that perceptions of the Afghan Army

and Police are at least two years old. More importantly, the Afghan people agree. In a November 2010 Asia Foundation poll, 92 percent of Afghans viewed the Afghan National Army favorably, while 84 percent viewed the police favorably. In a May International Council on Security and Development poll, 82 percent of northern Afghans saw the army as effective compared to 67 percent of southern Afghans. There are regional differences, but with international support and training, Afghan soldiers and police are beginning to show progress. And the Afghan people increasingly trust and value their soldiers and police. This is evident in the thousands of Afghans who report to military and police recruiting stations every month, which is the surest sign that Afghans want to take charge of their future and relieve NATO forces of lead security responsibility. The challenge remains to make the gains enduring and the Afghan forces self-sustaining.

## ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIP

The progress made over the past two years would not have been possible without the generous support of the international community through partnership. Before the creation



of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan there were disparate efforts with insufficient resources to properly train and equip the Afghan Army and Police. Today, there are 35 countries (Ukraine and El Salvador are the newest) providing trainers who are training both new recruits and Afghan trainers to take their places. This is a clear sign that the international community is committed to giving Afghanistan the tools to control its borders, provide security for its people, and contribute to regional security.

Countries increasingly recognize that training Afghanistan's police and military is essential to long-term stability in Afghanistan and Central Asia. Further, developing, employing, and sustaining the Afghan National Army, Air Force, and Police ensures Afghanistan can be a net contributor to international security rather than a consumer. With a growing indigenous training base, over the next several years, the government of Afghanistan will not be dependent on foreign trainers and endeavors to become a regional hub for peace-

keeping training, pilot training, and vehicle maintenance. Reflecting on ten years of United States involvement in Afghanistan, we recognize the greatest long-term effect we can have is through partnership. Through partnership, the training base has expanded and the benefits of partnership are evident in the fielded force. Our Afghan counterparts know the languages and terrain of Afghanistan and share unique cultural insights with NATO forces. Most importantly, we see hope here that was not here two years ago; with the proper resources, Afghans can do this mission, which is supported through security force assistance.

## INSIGHTS FROM COMMAND

Our experience in Afghanistan resonates across conflict from the last 20 years and informs our thinking about future military operations. While NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan personnel are working hard with Afghans to develop Afghan security forces, we are reflecting on the challenges, successes, and opportunities the mission created. Among these is the importance of international cooperation, which undergirds efforts in Afghanistan. This is apparent in listening to the different languages spoken from Kandahar to Kabul. Far from an anomaly, partnership remains a key feature of efforts in Afghanistan and more broadly for international security.

The collective international experience in Afghanistan must inform future thinking about the roles and missions of the U.S. military. U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Martin Dempsey pointed out in the Army Operating Concept that, "future Army forces require the capability to conduct security force assistance and civil military operations (such as military support to governance, rule of law, and institutional capacity building) in a multinational environment with partners and among diverse populations to support allies and partners, protect and reassure populations, and isolate and defeat enemies." While we practice this daily, we continue to redefine the configuration and employment of conventional assets to build the capacity of Afghanistan's security sector. We must capture the lessons and deliberately incorporate them into U.S. thinking and doctrine.

The U.S. military appears to be at a new, albeit familiar crossroads. In the 1980s, the United States recognized the importance of joint operations and worked to improve cooperation among the military services. In the 1990s, coalition warfare became the norm and interoperability took on an international character. In the 2000s, military operations incorporated interagency capabilities, which leveraged a whole of government approach to counterinsurgency and stability operations. In the 2010s, it is imperative we recognize security force assistance is a core function of military operations. It is time to evaluate the shift from combat operations to security force assistance and work together to consider the implications for the size, shape, scope, and doctrine of future forces. Ten years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, we must be ready to enable partners through security assistance to eliminate security deficits that threaten international peace and security.

**William B. Caldwell, IV**, is the Commanding General of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A).

**Derek S. Reveron** is assigned to NTM-A and is a professor at the U.S. Naval War College.

# A Fabulous Evening by the Hosts

By MAJ: Shahid Rizwan/ CPAT

In order to recognize efforts of Coalition forces in on-going war against terrorism, the community of Tampa organized a wonderful evening at Tampa Club on 20 September 2011. Approximately, 40 members of Coalition along their spouses attended the event at one of the tallest building of “Down Town Tampa.” During this event, the hosts acquainted the participants about the culture of Tampa and provided an excellent opportunity to see the panoramic view of the bay area. The sun set view from the vantage point was breathtaking which mesmerized the visitors. It also gave an opportunity to know the history of the Tampa and develop a personal touch with its habitants.

The visitors were also informed that the current location of Tampa was once inhabited by various indigenous cultures, most recently the Tocobaga. It was spotted by Spanish explorers in the early 16th century, but there were no permanent American or European settlements in the area until 1824, when the U,S, Army established a frontier outpost called Fort Brooke at the site of today’s Tampa Convention Center. The village of Tampa began as a small group of pioneers who settled near the fort for protection from the Seminole population in the area.

Tampa grew considerably as a result of World War II. Prior to the United States’ involvement in the conflict, construction began on MacDill Field, the predecessor of present day MacDill Air Force Base. MacDill Field served as a main base for Army Air Corps and later Army Air Forces operations just before and during World War II, with multiple auxiliary airfields around the Tampa Bay area and surrounding counties.

Today, Tampa is a part of the metropolitan area most commonly referred to as the Tampa Bay Area. It is historically, culturally and economically a very rich place in the country.



The progressive development of the City really reflects the hard work and dedication of the community which is still endeavoring to make it more beautiful and attractive with every passing day.

At the culmination of the event, Chairman Coalition Brigadier General Praestgard thanked the hosts and organizers for arranging a beautiful evening for the coalition members and their families.



A panoramic view of Tampa bay

# Germany's National Day and German - American Friendship Day

Story by German Liaison Team

*T*wo major events in the beginning of October were long marked in the German community's calendars - Germany's National Day on October 3rd and German - American Friendship Day just 3 days later on October 6th. The German SNR Brg.Gen Bach invited guests from U,S, CENTCOM, the Coalition and the Tampa Bay area community, who all were enjoying German hospitality and traditional German dishes as well.

October 3rd is Germany's National day, because in 1990 at this particular date, the then two existing Germanys reunited again and became what nowadays is known as the Federal Republic of Germany. After the end of WW II in 1945, only one part of

Germany had a chance to give democracy a second go, namely West Germany. This historically seen second German democracy was to be a functioning parliamentary democracy with a strong Federal Chancellor and a Federal President who plays a nominal role only.

While the West of Germany drew "anti-totalitarian" conclusions from German history, the East, that was the Soviet zone of occupation and later East Germany, had to put up with "anti-fascist" consequences. These served to legitimize a Marxist-Leninist-influenced party dictatorship.

In the 1980s the post-War fabric gradually began to tear. The crisis in the Eastern bloc began in 1980,







with the founding of an independent trade union, “Solidarnosc”, in Poland, followed by the imposition of martial law at the end of 1981. Three-and-a-half years later, in March 1985, Michael Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union, who in January 1987 uttered the almost revolutionary statement: “We need democracy like the air we breathe.” A message, which was an added boost to civil rights activists in Poland and Hungary, in Czechoslovakia and in East Germany.

In fall 1989 the pressure from the protests in East

Germany in both German states welcomed it. In the first (and last) free elections to East Germany’s Volkskammer (parliament) on March 18, 1990 the East German electorate voted by an overwhelming majority for those parties that demanded swift unification of Germany.

In summer 1990 a treaty to this effect was negotiated by the two Germanys, as had the treaty concerning the union of two different currencies. Parallel to this in the Two-plus-Four-Treaty West and East Germany reached agreement with the four powers responsible for Berlin and Germany as a whole, i.e., the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain



and France on the conditions with regard to foreign and security policy determining German unity. In terms of the old demand for “unity in freedom,” the German reunification was finally commenced on October 3rd 1990 with the approval of all the country’s neighbors.

The photo of celebrating Germans sitting on Berlin Wall and standing on Brandenburg Gate depicts the joyful atmosphere within entire Germany for a long anticipated event after 45 years of separation.

Germany became so great the communist regime could only have been saved by military intervention on the part of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev, however, was not prepared to do this. This ultimately caused the party leadership in East Berlin to capitulate to the peaceful revolution in East Germany: On November 9, 1989 the Berlin Wall fell – a symbol of the restriction of freedom similar to the Bastille in Paris two hundred years before.

With the Wall having fallen in 1989, it was to be another 11 months before Germany was reunited.



# Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), US troops re-establish presence in Nader Shah Kot

Story and photo by U.S. Army Spc. Cody Barber/RC-East  
<http://www.isaf.nato.int>

The combined force searched for weapon caches and suspected insurgents living in three villages located in the northern part of the district. Navigating through ankle-breaking terrain, troops with 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division descended upon the first village at daybreak. Instead of anticipated hostility, Afghan villagers greeted them with welcoming smiles, tea and flatbread.

U.S. and Afghan Uniform Police (AUP) discovered possible improvised explosive device-making material, along with small arms weapons in one of the houses.

The individual was one of the houses we were going to hit," said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Jason Sager, from Richmond, Ind. "That individual had more weapons than he was allowed and he also had more ammunition than he was allowed as well as possible IED-making materials so the confiscated it."

Even a small discovery like that can make a big difference in the end," said U.S. Army Capt. Mark Snowbarger, of Mogadore, Ohio. "Finding caches takes equipment off the battlefield from the bad guys. If they don't have their equipment, no Coalition forces can be hurt, no ANSF can be hurt and they can't intimidate the locals."

Afghan villages haven't seen U.S. or ANSF personnel for almost three years, so making their presence known and re-establishing contact with the locals

in the area was a good thing, said Sager. We had intel that [these areas] were supporters of the Taliban but since we have been to the area we have confirmed that the reports were wrong," said Sager. "Letting

the people see the Afghan National Army (ANA) and AUP out there working for them is always an important thing."



As the day and the mission neared completion, the combined patrol heaved on their rucks and set off back to base on foot.

For me, anytime I can bring my entire troop back to the camp with no injuries is a success," said Snowbarger.



U.S. Army Capt. Mark Snowbarger (far-right), from Mogadore, Ohio, sits with Afghan Uniform Police and local villagers to enjoy flatbread and tea during a village patrol in the Nader Shah Kot district



U.S. soldiers trek along the roads towards another village during a patrol in the Nader Shah Kot district Nov. 1. (Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Cody Barber, 11th PAD)



# NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA (NESA)



## CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—October 31, 2011

The Senior National Representatives Seminar began the afternoon with a Welcome Luncheon, during which participants were able to engage in a lively question-and-answer session with NESA Professor Richard Russell, who is leading the week-long seminar. After the luncheon, Professor Russell led a session entitled “Fallout in the Levant: Syria, Lebanon and Israel.” The session featured as speaker Mr. Bruce Reidel, Senior Fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institute, who presented his thoughts and ideas about the situation in Syria, Lebanon and Israel before taking questions from participants. Professor Michael Yaffe led the afternoon session discussion panel entitled “Emerging Regional Players : China and Turkey”. The discussion panel featured Dr. Soner Cagaptay, Director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Mr. Peter Brooks, Senior Fellow for National Security Affairs at the Heritage Foundation. They discussed the significance of these two nations for the future of the NESA region as a whole. Participants engaged the speakers in a question-and-answer session following the presentations. Professor Russell led the second session of the Seminar: “American Defense and Diplomacy Pressures.” Professor Russell introduced Dr. Nora Bensahel, Deputy Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, who gave a brief presentation on the substantial impact of the dire economic situation on American defense and diplomacy. Speakers and participants engaged in a lively question-and-answer session immediately following the presentations. Professor Richard Russell presented an analysis of the American Civil War to the participants. He discussed the significance of the Civil War as an example of internal national conflict, and contrasted the historic American conflict with recent de-

velopments, particularly the Arab Spring. Professor Russell and the Senior National Representatives participated in a question-and-answer session following the case study. The fourth day of the weeklong CENTCOM Senior National Representatives Seminar began with a discussion panel on the “American Political Scene.” NESA Profes-



sor Michael Yaffe led the 30 participants from 23 countries in the discussion which featured Dr. James Lindsay, Senior Vice President and Director of Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, as a guest speaker. Dr. Lindsay delivered a brief overview of the current United States political climate and highlighted the substantial effect of the American economic crisis on U.S. politics and the American populace. Participants engaged the speakers in a question-and-answer session following the presentations.



The final day of the weeklong CENTCOM Senior National Representatives Seminar included a visit to the historic Antietam battlefield from the American Civil War in the 19th century. NESA Professor Jack Gill led a tour of the battlefield and provided richly detailed information regarding the actual battle as it took place over 100 years ago. After the tour, NESA staff and the SNR participants gathered at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown, West Virginia for a commencement luncheon to honor the participants in their completion of the weeklong seminar. Professor Richard Russell gave NESA certificates to the 30 participants from 23 countries and thanked them for their attendance and active involvement during the seminar.

<http://nesa-center.org>

# Three Japanese ships Vist USCENTCOM \_Tampa

Story by Mr Rob Rowen

**O**n Monday, July 25th, three ships of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Training Squadron entered Tampa Bay to dock at Channelside in Tampa. You may wonder why Tampa? With all the major cities on the east coast of the United States a visit to Tampa Bay would seem improbable. This was also the 2nd visit of this squadron, the previous one occurring in 2006. For sure the welcome in 2006 was superb and the officers and crew felt very warmly received, but this time the Commanding Officer was Admiral Umio Otsuka and he was coming home, or to be more precise his second home. The Admiral was the first Japanese SNR to Central Command serving here from 2002-2003 as a naval captain and was a leader of the Coalition. He was Deputy Chair of the Coalition working with Rear Admiral Tony Parr, New Zealand and his energy and spirit was felt by all the Coalition where he made many friends and set a high standard for future Japanese Coalition Officers. While he was SNR he

served with some of these officers, Brig.Gen Jean Coulloume-Labathe (France), Brig.Gen Masood Khan(Pakistan), Brig.Gen Tor Sandli (Norway), Col.Henrik Friis(Denmark), Air Commodore Dirk Bos(Netherlands), Brig.Gen Angus Watt(Canada), Brig.Gen Jong Choe(Korea), Brig.Gen Chip Diehl(US), MG David Wilson(Great Britain) and Col. Mats Strom(Sweden )to name a few. For our friend “Umio,” which means “Man of the Sea,” this was a very special visit. His time here was something he has treasured deeply and you could feel the emotion he was feeling in his return. The only thing missing for him was a chance to see those former SNRs who he served with previously. The Coalition’s support in the war against terrorism has been always supported by the Japanese and their Navy. They have been very strongly involved in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the past their tankers have supplied a huge amount of gas to support the fight in Iraq and Af-





peace. Many of the officers visited with local officials and toured Tampa, St. Petersburg and MacDill AFB. Fifty seven of the young cadets from the Training Squadron had the opportunity to participate in a Home Stay Program having dinner and many staying overnight with American families.

This visit was another successful link in the beautiful relationship Japan and the United States shared and the local Navy League Chapter working with the Sea Cadet Program was able to raise \$5,000 to go to relief efforts to the earthquake and Tsunami victims. For both the Coalition and Central Command and the Tampa Bay community, this showing of the flag was a great three days that will be remembered forever.

ghanistan.

In the 3 days the ships were here they stayed very busy. There was a great reception on board the Flagship Kashima and the Asagiri tied alongside, followed the next day with a reception on the Tampa side at the Convention Center. On Wednesday morning a beautiful ceremony of laying of a wreath at the U,S, CENTCOM Memorial at MacDill commemorated those who have sacrificed their lives for



# MacDill AirFest 2011



by: MAJ Abdul-Rahman Khawaldah , CPAT

*From* 5-6 NOV 2011, on the eve of annual AirFest, people of Tampa Bay area witnessed a magnificent air show of Thunderbirds team of United State Air Force at MacDill AFB. On both days, hundreds of people from Tampa and surrounding areas poured in, to enjoy the maneuvers of latest fast moving aircrafts. This show provided an excellent opportunity to the common people of Tampa and surrounding areas to witness the state of readiness, pride, honor and professionalism of their servicemen.



## “Toy Drop 2011”

1LT, Alex “Kyle” Reed/ U.S. Army - Engagements Officer/USCENTCOM

*Special* Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) hosted an event called “Toy Drop 2011” which is a daytime, non-tactical airborne operation supervised by foreign/U.S. military jumpmasters and jumpers on 11 and 12 October 2011. From Coalition forces four members participated in this event. Operation “Toy Drop 2011” is an annual event for paratroopers to individually contribute new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to local children’s homes and social service agencies in the Tampa Bay area. Although the operation is called “Toy Drop”, no toys are dropped out of the plane, yet the name is name synonymous with toys and drop zones. By having foreign paratroopers “jumping” with U.S. paratroopers, it provides an opportunity to earn foreign nation’s “jump wings” and share this unique experience within the airborne community.



# 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 Major Abdul Rahman and Maj Shawkat , CPAT*



**General Mattis social with SNRs/SEP 2011**



**Afghan delegation visit USCENTCOM**



**NESA research team visit CV3 at CENTCOM**



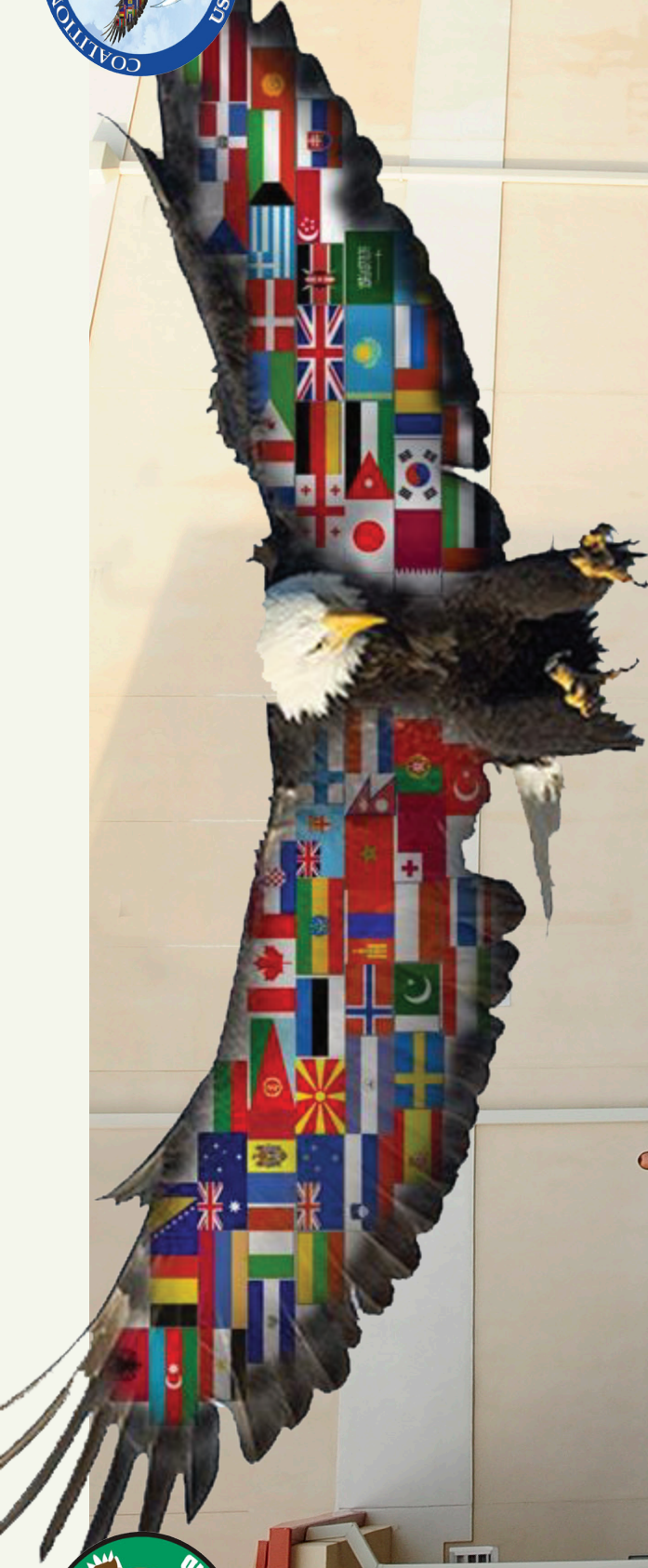
**South Tampa Chamber of Commerce Reception**



**Canadian Remembrance Day**



**Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at University of South Florida**



# A GROUP PICTURE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF COALITION COUNTRIES

Photo by : Hooks, Nancy SSgt /USCENTCOM