

# COALITION

*Issue 66*



**Coalition Partners Honor  
Poland with Ceremony**





---

**Chairman**

BG Gilles Lemoine, France

**Chief of Coalition Public Affairs Team**

Col. José D. Arias, Dominican Republic

**Coalition Bulletin Staff****Senior Editor**

CPT Dritor Papa, Albania

**Editorial Staff**

LTC Michel C. Escudie, USA



LTC Ali E. Al Kuwari, Qatar



MAJ Ghazanfar Iqbal, Pakistan



CPT Ehab El-Saheb, Jordan



---

**Editor's Note**

By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the Coalition is pleased to bring you stories covering the activities of the International Security Assistance Force. As ISAF and the Coalition are separate entities, ISAF stories will be denoted by the NATO logo at the top of each page when they appear.

---

Front Cover: Herat, Afghanistan - Italian soldiers conduct a patrol during training at Camp Arena, ISAF, Regional Command West Headquarters (ISAF photo by U.S. Air Force TSgt Laura K. Smith)

Courtesy of: [www.nato.int/isaf](http://www.nato.int/isaf)

Back Cover: Kandahar, Afghanistan--Senior Aircraftman Joe Ralph, a soldier from the 3rd Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment A-flight, hands a bottle of water to a local child during an International Security Assistance Force patrol. (ISAF photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Collins, U.S. Navy) Courtesy of: [www.nato.int/isaf](http://www.nato.int/isaf)

---

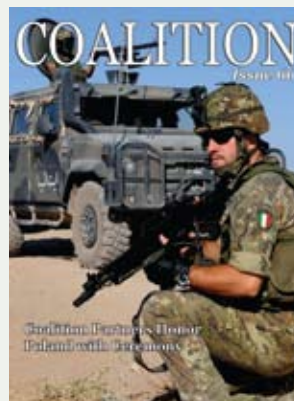
The views expressed in the Coalition Bulletin cannot be attributed to any one nation. They are items considered newsworthy by the volunteers from various nations that make up the Public Awareness Working Group (PAWG). Contributions from all Coalition countries are encouraged. All contributors to the Coalition Bulletin are responsible for adhering to PAWG policy pertaining to the accuracy and copyright laws in the content they provide.

For questions concerning PAWG policy, contact the Coalition Bulletin editor at +1 (813) 827-1728, or write to us at [coalitionmagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:coalitionmagazine@hotmail.com) For an electronic copy of the Coalition Bulletin, visit: [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil)

# IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Coalition Partners Honor Poland with Ceremony
- 5 Finnish Air Force's Expeditionary Unit Passes NATO Evaluation
- 6 Operation Rah-e-Nijat ('Path to Salvation') Pakistan Armed Forces' Crackdown on Taliban
- 8 The Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team at Work for Afghanistan
- 10 Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team
- 11 Polish - British Exercise
- 12 Georgia's Significant Contribution to ISAF Mission
- 14 Provincial Reconstruction Team of Ghowr Supervise Projects Implemented on Lithuania's Funding
- 15 U.S., Pakistan Air Forces Conduct Air Refueling Information Exchange

---

**Cover Pages**

# EDITORIAL



On Saturday April 10, 2010, a monumental tragedy unfolded when Poland's President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria and several other senior public figures were killed in a plane crash outside the western Russian city of Smolensk.

President Kaczynski and senior officials were en route from Warsaw to attend an event marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre near Smolensk, where 22,000 Poles were massacred by Soviet forces in 1940 during World War II.

In what is called by Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk "the most tragic event of the country's post-World War II history" the Army chief of staff General Franciszek Gajgor and other senior Polish military officers also died. General Gajgor, according to the militaries that met him, was a powerful thinker, a diplomatic statesman, a superb military leader and a strong and highly respected voice in the councils of NATO. We have lost a great supporter to the fight against terrorism.

We offer our condolences to the people of Poland on the irremediable loss and pray that God with his infinite grace would grant the deceased eternal rest.

In this issue we emphasized the outstanding contributions of the Italian Provisional Reconstruction Team (PRT) located in Herat, the major city in western Afghanistan. They have the mission of supporting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the development of a stable and secure environment within their assigned AOR.

We have articles about the Kapisa PRT, a U.S. military team inserted with French Task Force La Fayette and the PRT of Ghawr, which is being funded by Lithuania.

We also highlighted the recent deployment of the 31st battalion of the Georgian Armed Forces to Afghanistan, as part of the NATO led ISAF mission in the Helmand province. The Georgian contingent is composed of 750 military servicemen and will get down to fulfilling the mission integrated into the USMC Regimental Combat Team.

Major Ghazanfar Iqbal introduced us to operation Rah-e-Nijat (Path to Salvation), a Pakistan Armed Forces' crackdown on the Taliban

At the end allow me to thank in the name of the Coalition Public Affairs team and myself to Captain Ehab El-Saheb from Jordan, our departing Public Affairs Community Relations Officer, who is finishing his duty assignment at this office and is going back to his country to continue serving with the same professionalism that he did during his time here.

Col José D. Arias  
Dominican Republic  
Chief of Coalition Public Affairs Team

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Afghan Doctors Attend Trauma Course

KABUL, Afghanistan (April 2010) - Thirty-six Afghan doctors attended a two-day emergency care trauma course at Kabul Ataturk Hospital.

ISAF's Regional Command-Capital (RC-C) sponsored the seminar that covered the theory and practice of several trauma subjects.

Twenty doctors from the Afghan National Army, 10 doctors from the Afghan Health Ministry, six doctors from Ataturk Hospital and two doctors from the French hospital attended the seminar.

[nato.int/isaf](http://nato.int/isaf)

## New Hospital Opens in Herat

KABUL, Afghanistan - The Herat Department of Health along with the Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) opened a new hospital in the Gazar Gah district, on March 18.

The medical center is composed of a large main entry area which also serves as a waiting room, a wing for women and children, and another for men, which also includes general services.

The hospital, valued at €95,000, was completed by local contractors with funds made available by the Italian Ministry of Defense.

[nato.int/isaf](http://nato.int/isaf)

## First AF-PAK Hands grads deploy overseas

WASHINGTON (April, 2010) - "It's been my experience my whole career, that if you go into a country and you make an effort to speak their language, it has an enormous impact," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands Program inaugural class on Nov. 12, 2009.

Roughly five months later, the first group of 32 soldiers and airmen from a cross section of career specialties boarded their plane at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, near Baltimore, in the late hours April 21 and departed for Kabul.

The service members have completed a rigorous 16-week training program consisting of culture and intensive language training at the Defense Language Institute, in Monterey, Calif., followed by service-specific deployment training.

[centcom.mil](http://centcom.mil)

# Coalition Partners Honor Poland with Ceremony

*Story by Captain Dritor Papa  
Albanian Armed Forces  
Senior Editor of Coalition*

TAMPA, Florida (April 15, 2010) — Coalition partners and representatives from U.S. Central Command gathered at MacDill Air Force base on April 15 to offer their sincere condolences to the Polish Liaison Team after the tragic plane crash that took the lives of the Polish president, first lady and other high level military and political leaders on April 10.

The service was held at the Base Chapel and was attended by more than 300 people, including special guests, representatives of the local Polish community (Priests of Mercy of God Polish mission St. Petersburg, Polish Center of John Paul II and the Polish Highlanders Association.)

The service started at 3 p.m. with a processional song followed by an opening prayer and an introduction of reflection given by the Polish Senior National Representative, Colonel Zbigniew Lenarczyk.

In his speech, Col Lenarczyk welcomed and thanked the participants for showing their deepest condolences and their sympathy for this unimaginable tragedy that hit Poland, taking the life of the Superior of the Polish Armed Forces, President

of Poland, Lech Kaczyński with his wife among the 96 passengers of that tragic flight of April 10, 2010.

Maj. Gen. Jay W. Hood, Chief of Staff of USCENTCOM, opened his speech regretting being joined together in such a somber occasion.

On behalf of General Petraeus, Commander of USCENTCOM, he emphasized the shock and sadness of all the people in the U.S. Central Command for the tragedy suffered by Poland and their friends.

“The loss of President Kaczyński, first lady Maria Kaczyńska, Chief of Defense Staff General Gagar and many senior government leaders traveling with them in memory of 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre is a tragic loss and we grieve with you. The power of Polish national character has been toughened over the centuries through many challenges and hardships and this ensures that you will not only get over this tragedy but also a stronger Poland emerges,” Hood said.

The service concluded with the respective anthems of Poland and the United States.



Several CENTCOM and Coalition officials gathered on April 15 to honor those lost in the plane crash that claimed the life of Poland's president and other top leaders. (Photo by Captain Ehab EL-SAHEB, CPAT)



# Finnish Air Force's Expeditionary Unit Passes NATO Evaluation

*Story and Photos Courtesy of the Finnish Office at USCENTCOM*

The 2004 Government Report on Security and Defense Policy set the Air Force the objective of generating a capability for participating combined military crisis management operations by a case-specific decision of the nation's political leadership. To achieve this objective, the Air Force launched in 2005 a project called Migratory Bird for setting up an expeditionary unit.



This subsequently led to the forming of a unit designated the Finnish Rapid Deployment Force Fighter Squadron (FRDF FSQN), which has around 250 personnel and was

trained and equipped within the space of approximately two years. The new unit was subjected to a multi-phase evaluation process conducted by NATO. A multinational evaluation team then undertook to assess the capabilities of the unit's six F-18s and staff to cope with a crisis management operation.

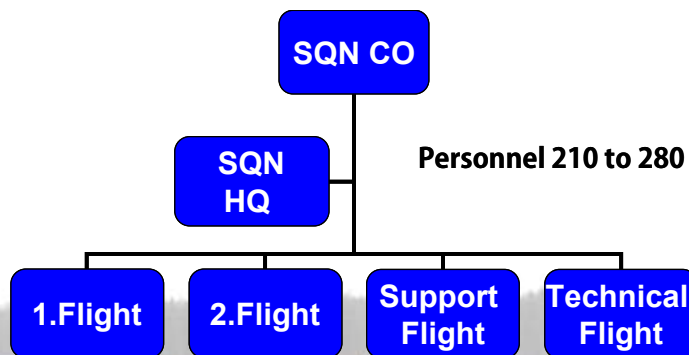
In the fall of 2009 the unit deployed to the German Air Force base in Trolenhagen, Northern Germany, for the final evaluation. Nearly 100 evaluators from a number of NATO countries scrutinized the performance of the unit on a 24/7 basis.

The operational phase of the evaluation terminated on Sept 23, and by Sept 25 the evaluation team had compiled the results from specific areas of interest and was in a position to announce officially that the FRDF FSQN had passed the evaluation process as the first non-NATO air force unit.



The passing of the evaluation means that the unit is now officially available for crisis management operations. The approval will be valid for three years and can be regarded as an important recognition of the skills and capabilities of the Finnish Air Force on an international level.

## Finnish Rapid Deployment Force – Fighter Squadron (FRDF FSQN)



- Defense White Paper in 2004 gave the Air Force the goal to develop a unit for international crisis management operation
- The task is to develop a unit of 4 flying F-18s and about 200 airmen. Only the flying detachment, no large scale air base units
- Finland should operate as a part of a larger multinational air force unit / wing
- Full operational capability in 2010

# Operation Rah-e-Nijat ('Path to Salvation')

## Pakistan Armed Forces' Crackdown on Taliban

*Story by Major Ghazanfar Iqbal  
Pakistani Armed Forces  
Media Engagement Officer*

Operation Rah-e-Nijat ('Path to Salvation') is a military operation launched by Pakistan Armed Forces against the Taliban and other terrorists in the South Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) that began on June 19, 2009; a major ground offensive was subsequently launched on Oct. 17, 2009. It is part of the ongoing War in North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan.

On June 16, 2009, in the aftermath of the successful victory and recapture of the entire Swat valley, the Pakistan Army began a massive troop build-up along the southern and eastern borders of South Waziristan. Pakistan decided to take the fight to, the then, Tehrik-i-Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud's mountainous stronghold, ordering an expansion of its recently concluded offensive against Taliban fighters in the Swat valley. The government called on the army to launch a "full-fledged" military operation to eliminate all the terrorists/Taliban from South Waziristan and its surrounding areas.

Pakistan's decision to launch the offensive against terrorists signaled a deepening resolve of Pakistan's willingness to

eradicate terrorism from the stronghold of the terrorists. Pakistan Armed Forces enjoyed the full backing and support of the general public in its fight against these hardcore terrorist elements. As the recent wave of terrorist attacks has heightened revulsion against the Taliban, Pakistani People fully endorse and support the operations being conducted by the Pakistan Armed Forces against the Taliban/terrorists.

The Pakistan Army started the campaign with 28,000 troops entering South Waziristan against the Taliban on October 17, 2009. The Pakistani Army advanced across South Waziristan from three directions—Razmak in the north, Jandola in the east and Shakai in the west. Pakistan Air Force played a pivotal part in softening up militant hideouts. The Taliban forces, led by their recently killed leader, Hakimullah Mehsud, were estimated between 10,000–20,000 along with 500–5,000 Uzbek supporters. The Pakistan army, with support from paramilitary groups in South Waziristan has cleared and secured the major resistant centers like Poacher (Home town of Baitullah Mehsud), Kotkai (Home of Hakimullah Mehsud), the town

1

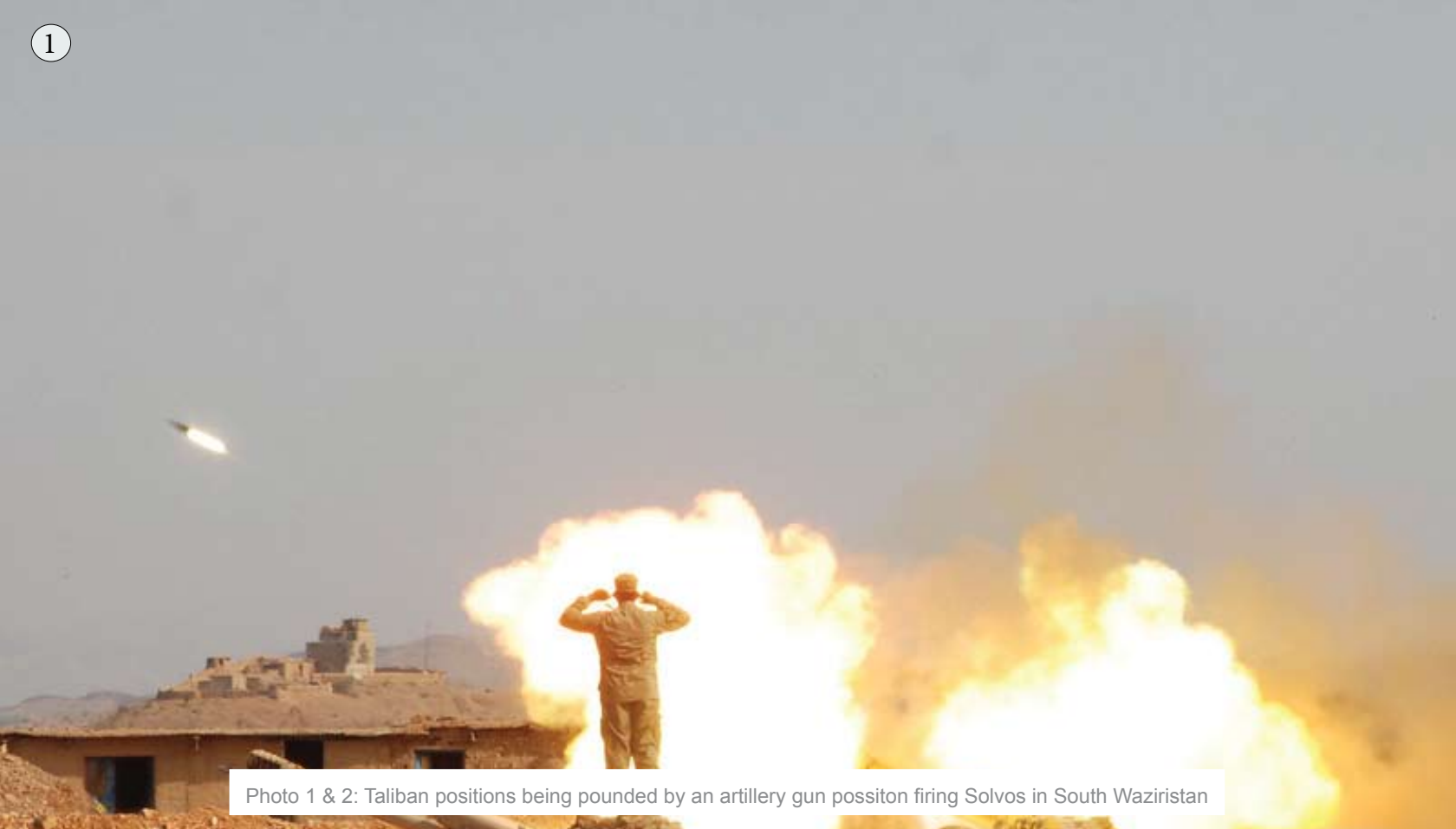


Photo 1 & 2: Taliban positions being pounded by an artillery gun position firing Solvos in South Waziristan



of Kaniguram, a stronghold of Uzbek fighters and Sararogha. With great dedication, perseverance and consistent resolve, Pakistan security forces have cleared all major strongholds of the terrorists. Only mopping up operations to rid the areas from left over terrorists are being conducted by Pakistan Army



with support from Pakistan Air Force. In different operations Pakistan Armed Forces have arrested/killed 17,742 terrorists. For all this to happen, Pakistani nation has paid a heavy price. Since 9/11, 30,457 innocent people have been either killed or injured in different terrorist attacks in all parts of the country. In 2009 alone there were around 10,000 civilian casualties in the wake of sporadic wave of suicidal and bombing attacks,

unleashed by terrorists, across the country.

Pakistan Army has also paid a very heavy price in its ongoing operations against terrorists; 2, 273 of its valiant soldiers and officers have lost their lives and 6,512 soldiers and officers have been injured in different operations, as of the recent past. In year 2009 alone, an estimated ten soldiers' casualties every day were recorded due to the intense fighting between Pakistan Army and the terrorists. Local civilians of South Waziristan were also severely affected as they had to evacuate some areas due to impending military operations against the terrorists. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), 11,080 families (80,000 individuals) of FATA had registered themselves

with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Tank District and Dera Ismail Khan District before the start of the operations. Pakistani nation and its Armed Forces have sacrificed and contributed substantially in ongoing Fight against Terror that must be acknowledged and appreciated by the international community in order to display solidarity and cohesion with the people of Pakistan.



Photo 3 & 4: Pakistani Army Soldiers taking position during an anti terrorist operation.



# The Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team at Work for Afghanistan

Story and Photos Courtesy of the Italian Office at USCENTCOM

The Italian PRT is located in Herat, which is the major city in western Afghanistan, situated in the valley of the Hari River.

Herat is the third largest city of Afghanistan, with a population of 397,500. The main community in Herat is the Persian speaking Tajikis: they are roughly the same as the Persians of eastern Iran. Situated in a fertile area, Herat is a very old city with many historic buildings, although these have suffered damage in many conflicts during the last few decades. The city is dominated by the remains of a citadel constructed by Alexander the Great. During the Middle Ages Herat became one of the important cities of Khorasan, it was known as the Pearl of Khorasan. Herat lies on the ancient trade routes of the Middle East, Central and South Asia. The roads from Herat to Iran, Turkmenistan, Mazar-e Sharif and Kandahar are still strategically important. The city is the gateway to Iran, collecting the highest amount of customs revenue for Afghanistan.

The Italian PRT operates in this “Earthly Paradise” facing day by day difficulties but also many satisfactions for the accomplishment of the mission in support of the local people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GI-RoA), since March 2005. Actually the Italian PRT assists the GI-RoA to extend its authority, in order to facilitate the development of a stable and secure environment within the assigned area of operations, and it enables Security Sector Reform and reconstruction efforts.

The Italian PRT consists of two components: one is civilian and comes from the Italian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) while the other is a joint military.

The ITA PRT civilian team from ITA MEA, through the Italian Organization for Cooperation, leads: political and diplomatic aspects of PRT activities; reconstruction process IAW the Government of Afghanistan national development priorities and, in particular, support in specific aspects of the Security Sector Reform (SSR). The civilian team keeps a great coordination with the PRT Commander but its chain of command is linked directly to the Minister of External Affairs office. The military framework of the PRT comes from Italian infantry regiments that rotate every six months. The core of the military component within the PRT comes from the Civil-Military Cooperation Group, which is the engine of the PRT, originated by the NATO Ci-MiC Group South located in Motta di Livenza, North East of Italy.

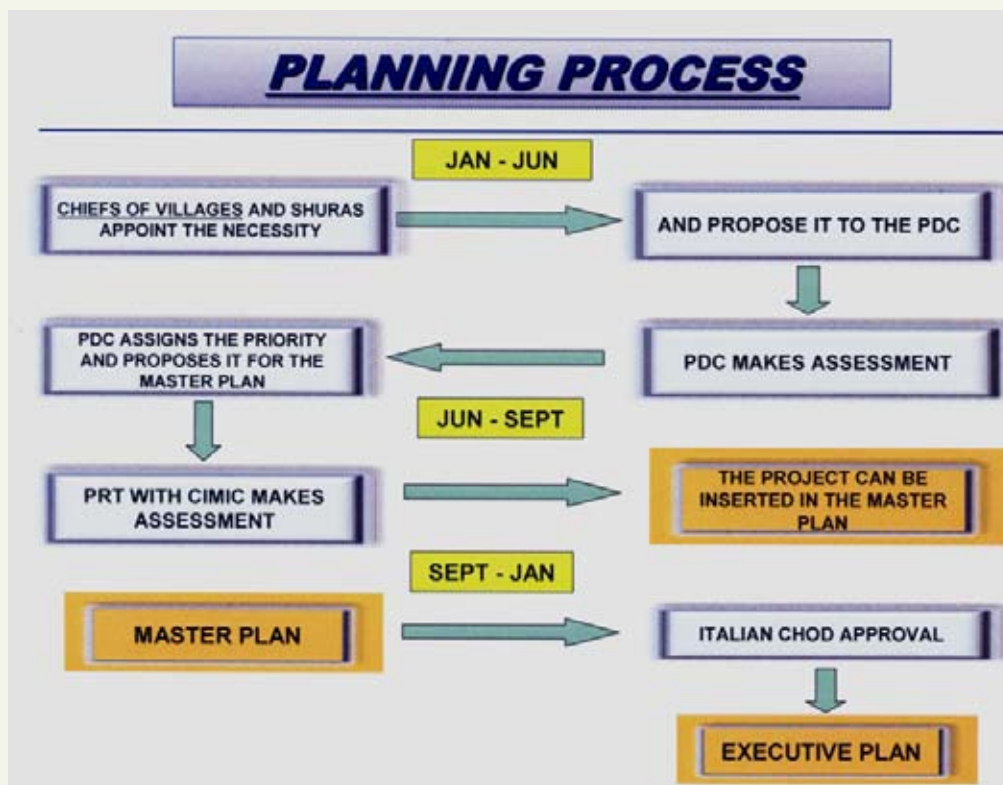
The civilian team receives funds according to special and urgent project after the approval of Italian MEA.

The military component has its own funds from Ministry of Defence for small scale projects. Moreover it is possible to start projects on emergency basis to provide prompt relief to the population.

The coordination of the 16 districts which fall under Herat province is a big challenge for the PRT. The 16 districts are: Herat, Injil, Gulran, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Kushki Kuhna, Kohsan, Zinda Jan, Karuk, Obe, Cheshti Sharif, Pashtun Zargun, Guzara, Ghoryan, Ad-raskan, Farsi, Shindand. It means that the project priority is a sensible point.

The planning process to employ “military funds” is started by the chiefs of the villages and Shuras who appoint the necessity and assigns the priorities, PRT make the assessment and subsequently the plan is submitted to Italian Chief of Defense Staff for approval, and finally the projects are inserted in the master plan. Below in fig.1 is reported the planning process for military funds.

There are different approaches a PRT can take to gain acceptance



from the local as well as international actors in its sphere of influence. Italy used an innovative method to ensure its PRT in HERAT to gain a good reputation: one year in advance of the installation of the PRT in 2005, cooperation with NGOs and other actors in the region were agreed upon and generous subsidies were paid. Nowadays the “Italian way” to keep and preserve a good reputation and acceptance from the local people is: be friendly, become familiar, achieve consensus, reassuring and discreet presence, and respect of traditions, religion and culture. Despite subversive activities perpetrated by insurgents in the past days, to intimidate ISAF Coalition Forces and to discredit their increasingly consolidated image in the population, Regional Command West continues relentlessly in its effort for reconstruction and development, to ensure even more appropriate governance to GI-RoA; below are reported the most recent projects developed and executed in the past weeks.



# Inauguration of Two Roads Which Link to Herat Airport

At the presence of Mr. Nuristani, Herat Governor, Gen. Veltri, RC-W Commander and Hon. Arlacchi, member of European Parliament as special guest, PRT Commander inaugurated the asphalt works of two roads which take to Herat airport. The projects were constituted by works of construction and asphaltting of two roads linking the Ring Road with the two main gates, civilian and military, of the Herat Airport in Guzara District. In detail the two roads that had a cost of 38,752.00 euros (2,500,000.00 Afg) for the civilian one and 44,257.00 Euros (2,900,000.00 Afg) for the military one, consist in the construction and asphaltting of a segment of 220 m length for each road, eight meters wide and completed by construction of new gutter. All the local authorities present to the ceremony expressed their appreciation and thanked the Italian PRT for the extraordinary contribution to their Country's reconstruction, with truly and deep appreciation words for Italian military's operate in cooperation activities.



General Veltri, RC West Commander, cut the ribbon with Herat governor Mr. Nooristani. (ISAF photo by OR-9 Pala)

## Inaguration of the Bridge in Zeerko Valley of Shindand District

PRT was undertaken to throw a bridge across the Darya-ye Shindand in Zeerko Valley. The bridge makes possible to link continuously the villages on the two banks of the river, ensuring the access to the services in any season for all people living in the area.

The bridge is about eight metres wide, enough for the two traffic lanes and the two side pavements. The structure, made up of pre-stressed reinforced concrete, covers the distance of about 160 meters which separates the two riversides by 11 bays. Through this great work, the PRT



Gen. Alessandro Veltri, Commander of RC-W and local authorities inaugurate strategic new bridge

wants to satisfy the needs of the people and contribute to lay the groundwork for a process of growth in this area particularly underdeveloped. In fact the bridge will ensure also the link with the chief town of the district, making transport and communications easier. The whole duration of works become much longer of planned one, due to security problems that made the whole area not secure for manpower and vehicles of the Contractor. Despite this, during the last six months, through a deep cooperation between PRT and Construction Company, the works went on and today we can see a completed bridge, marking an important step on the road of cooperation between Italian and Afghan people. Total amount of the works: 1,000,000.00 Euros (65,000,000 Afg).

## NAZIFA COMES BACK HOME

The first days of March, Nazifa Noor Ahmed, 8 years old child, went back home and saw again her parents and her 7 brothers after she had medical care in Italy (lasted 19 months) for a lymphoma of Hodgkin. Nazifa went to Italy in July 2008 with her father and Dr. Faccani and she was hospitalized in S. Orsola-Malpighi Hospital in Bologna, in oncology and haematology pediatric ward. She suffered several surgical operations and long times of chemotherapy. At the end of this process she was declared clinically cured and she could come back in Afghanistan.



Gen. Alessandro VELTRI, Commander of RC-W and Nazifa Noor AHMED, lay the foundation stone of the new Women Business Center

# Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team

Courtesy Story:  
[www.isaf.nato.int](http://www.isaf.nato.int)

KAPISA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The provincial reconstruction teams (PRT) are military units that focus on the development and reconstruction of their assigned province.

The Kapisa PRT is a U.S. military team inserted with French Task Force La Fayette that enforces different development projects in the province. The PRT is composed of 80 people; among those 60 are experts in engineering, agriculture and foreign affairs and 20 are American civilian specialists who work shoulder to shoulder with the Soldiers in different competency domains.

Road repairs represent 15 percents of their projects. The remaining funds are devoted to construction of schools, clinics, government buildings and even cellars. They lead other projects linked to training.

“We work a lot of projects with the Afghan populace, but we are concentrated mainly on security, development, governance of their country,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Lori Adams, the Kapisa PRT deputy commander, during an operation in the Nejrab District of the province. “Beyond the help we can bring them, it’s important to have a strong relationship with the people of Kapisa, so we can be aware of their concerns and help them develop projects on their own.”

The detachment, accompanied by United States Agency for International Development members, often visits the Nejrab hospital to have meetings with Dr. Mustapha, the main doctor at the hospital, and check on how the different programs are advancing.

The “Strong Food” program is one of those programs in the advancing stages. For the local doctor, the first steps are to create a program to identify malnourished children. After that’s complete, the next step would be to provide them with the “Strong Food,” which is a paste made up of almonds, sugar, powdered milk, liquid vitamin supplements and vegetable oil that helps restore appetite and weight.

Last February, aside from visiting the district hospital the engineers of the PRT met with the contractors in charge of construction for the new Nejrab courthouse.

“Today, I come to see my counterparts to speak about the advanced work and to understand his methods,” said Tech Sgt. William Cobb, an engineer for the PRT. “I am not in a supervisor role because he is the only one who can support the successful implementation of the project.”

After the visit with the contractor, the American team went to the Nejrab market to do some shopping and speak with the residents of the district.

During their visit to the district the PRT handed out radios and stickers that help support OMID, TF La Fayette’s radio station.

Later that day, USAID members met the local responsible for “U.N HABITAT,” a United Nations program for human settlements, M. Kushkaki.

“We spoke about the evolution of the program, which started 3 months ago,” said Jannie Kwok, the USAID representative with the PRT. “Progress is important because today it exists in separated classes for men and women. Those enrolled in the program are really happy to learn how to read and write, it’s really a big change in their lives. The next step for educators is to encourage training in milk industry trades and wider in agriculture domain.”



U.S. Air Force Capt. Darrick Lee, Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team public affairs officer, distributes hand-crank radios and radio OMID stickers during a visit to the Nejrab village in Afghanistan’s Kapisa province, Feb. 16. (Phot by ISAF Public Affairs)



# Polish-British Exercise

Story and Pictures Courtesy of:  
[www.mon.gov.pl](http://www.mon.gov.pl)

Nearly 180 soldiers from 10th Mechanized Battalion of Świętoszów took part in an exercise held in southern England in January and early February to prepare for the eighth tour of duty in Afghanistan.

A very tight program of the exercise included patrolling, protection of meetings with tribal elders - shura, organizing checkpoints, and training for combat operations.

Each day soldiers improved their patrolling capabilities. On the road patrol they encountered a series of incidents, including the need of Improvised Explosive Devices disposal or fighting Taliban with British troops mocking Taliban insurgents. Finally, exercise focused on training proper procedures for heli-borne evacuation of injured personnel.

“The exercise let us check my troops’ capabilities in real-life situations. It is important particularly in the context of our coming participation in the mission in Afghanistan,” said deputy commander 1st Lt Jan Bochnacki.

This was another in a series of multinational exercises of the troops of “Black Division.” Świętoszów dragoons have so far participated in the exercise and exchanged experience with troops of among others, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Germany and USA.



Pictures taken during the exercise showing checkpoint and combat operations



# Georgia's Significant Contribution to ISAF Mission

*Story and Photos  
Courtesy of the Georgian MoD*

The 31st Battalion of the Georgian Armed Forces (composed of 750 military servicemen) is heading for Afghanistan. The Georgian militaries will take part in the NATO-led ISAF mission in the Helmand province. The Georgian contingent will get down to fulfilling the mission integrated into the USMC Regimental Combat Team.

A farewell ceremony was held at the Vaziani military base on April 7, 2010. The event was attended by Defence Minister Bacho Akhalaia, Chief of the JS Major General Devi Tchankodze and other military top officials as well as State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Giorgi Baramidze and parliamentary members. Among the foreign guests at the ceremony were United States officials including the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia John R. Bass, Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command and Brigadier General Paul W. Brier, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe.

During the ceremony Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski and Deputy Chief of the JS Col. Arsen Tsukhishvili addressed the Georgian soldiers. The U.S. Commander expressed

his gratitude to the Georgian people, government and armed forces for a sustained and active support provided in the international security operation—"It is great honor for us that Georgian and U.S. servicemen will serve in the mission shoulder by shoulder." In his speech made at the ceremony Arsen Tsukhishvili declared—"we firmly believe the Georgian Battalion will be capable to accomplish the mission assigned with dignity and professionally."

Towards the end of the ceremony the 31st battalion was handed over the special flag. On their way to Afghanistan the soldiers were blessed by the Chaplain Father Davit.

"Any sort of military operation in itself is a difficult task and the role of soldiers in all this affair is hard and burdensome. As regards the preparedness level of the Battalion personnel, we all are too satisfied with achieved results. The Georgian militaries were being retrained by the U.S. marines for several months getting them ready for a special peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan. I believe that this Battalion will be one of the best one," stated Defence Minister of Georgia Bacho Akhalaia.



Picture of the 31st Battalion prior departure to Afghanistan





Handing over the Unit Flag

The 31st Battalion of Georgian army underwent the intensive six-month preparation course for participation in the international security operation ongoing in Afghanistan under the aegis of NATO. Georgian militaries went through the intensive tactical preparation under the guidance of Training and Advisory Group of the US marines.

The Intensive preparation course was held at the training bases of Vaziani and Krtsanisi Training Center. The Battalion personnel were in the Germany as well, where the soldiers passed through intensive exercises in the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC). The overall preparation level of the Georgian militaries was positively assessed by both the Center experts and the U.S. advisors and trainers.

One Company of the GAF has already left for Afghanistan to engage in the ISAF operation from the Nov. 22, 2009.

Georgian unit is accomplishing the mission there incorporated in the French Battalion and conducts force protection mission in RC-C in Kabul.

**Georgian Armed Forces participation in ISAF mission:**

From 2007 one Georgian military doctor-surgeon participates in ISAF RC-W operations as member of the Lithuanian PRT in the Chagcharan, Ghowr Province. Before that, in 2004 Georgia deployed 50 military personnel in Kabul in support of the first presidential elections in Afghanistan.

With the President Saakashvili's initiative and the approval of the Parliament, Georgian Armed Forces began their ISAF mission: Since November 17, 2009 the 23rd Battalion of Land Forces 2nd Infantry Brigade (173 military servicemen) have been involved in the NATO-led ISAF mission. Georgian Infantry Company is performing their duties integrated in the French contingent in Camp Warehouse in the RC-C AOR.

From the beginning of April 2010 Georgian Infantry Battalion started deployment to Afghanistan under U.S. command in Helmand province (RC-S AOR). Georgian participation in ISAF mission is our response to the U.S. Presidents call for forces commitment to Afghanistan.

Participation in international missions provides our military members the opportunity to obtain practical experience and to demonstrate our nation's readiness to cooperate with Coalition and NATO Forces.



Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command addressing the troops

# Provincial Reconstruction Team of Ghowr

## Supervise Projects Implemented on Lithuania's Funding

*Story and Picture,  
Courtesy of: www.kam.lt*

Last February, Commander of Military Contingent of the Lithuanian-led Chaghcharan PRT Col. Gediminas Macijauskas and Head of the PRT's Civilian Component, Deputy Head of the Lithuanian Special Mission in Afghanistan, Ambassador Linas Linkevičius visited Sangow Bar village of Ghowr where Lithuania had opened small hydroelectric power plant.

Representatives of PRT met with villagers' council, took

cent meetings with Provincial Governor. L. Linkevičius stressed that provincial authorities foresee devoting more attention for development of regions of the province. L. Linkevičius invited council of the village to cooperate more actively with institutions of the province and to take part in the development programmes initiated by Central Government.

Small hydroelectric power plant was built in Sangow Bar in 2007 under financing from Lithuania. The plant provides electricity for around 300 families of the village, directly to each household.

Lithuanian-led PRT headquartered in Chaghcharan, the capital city of Ghowr, took up responsibility for security in the province in June 2005. PRT is a joint military-civilian mission operating under International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Civilian component of PRT is in charge of coordination and fulfillment of long-term development



interest in the security situation in surroundings of the village, asked locals about their spending winter, participation in provincial development processes, cooperation between locals and institutions of provincial administration.

"We find it important to know whether assets for provincial development are used properly therefore we follow the situation not only in the provinces where Lithuanian-financed projects are underway but also where they have already been completed," said Commander PRT-10 Col. G. Macijauskas.

Peacekeepers also brought support for the most impoverished families of Sangow Bar village - warm clothes, wraps, school means for children.

Head of PRT Civilian Component L. Linkevičius familiarized representatives of the villagers' council with results of re-

cooperation projects in the province, while the main task of the military is to help Afghan Central Government extend its authority in the province, and to ensure security and environment for civilian activities. Military-civilian mission in Ghowr is simultaneously led by Commander PRT-10 and Deputy Head of Lithuanian Special Mission in Afghanistan as head of civilian element of PRT.

Together with around 150 of Lithuanian military and civilian personnel representatives of Denmark, Georgia, Japan, the USA, Croatia, Romania, and Ukraine, including Lithuanian Special Mission, United States Department of Defence, and USAID, work in Ghowr. PRT-10 currently providing security in Ghowr is formed on the basis of the 1st Territorial Unit of the NDVF Dainava Military District.



# U.S., Pakistan Air Forces Conduct Air Refueling Information Exchange

Story Courtesy of:  
[www.af.mil/news](http://www.af.mil/news)

Pilots and aircrews from the U.S. and Pakistan air forces participated in a joint aerial refueling information exchange as part of an on-going effort to enhance cooperation and develop the air refueling capabilities of both nations in early March at Pakistan air force base Chaklala.

U.S. Air Force pilots and aircrews from the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, forward deployed to the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgystan, arrived at PAF Chaklala March 3 to conduct the information exchange with their Pakistan air force hosts.

Upon arrival, the Airmen invited PAF pilots and aircrews aboard their KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft to familiarize them with Air Force air refueling equipment and procedures.

U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Michael LeFever, the senior U.S. Defense Representative to Pakistan, hosted Pakistan Air Commodore Tahir Ranjha, the PAF air transportation director and Air Commodore Khalil Ahmed, the PAF Chaklala commander, aboard the KC-135 aircraft.

“Events like these promote understanding and enhance our military-to-military relationships while also boosting capabi-

lity and expertise,” Admiral LeFever said. “In addition, with the planned arrival of more F-16s to Pakistan later this year, developing PAF air refueling expertise is critical to increasing their airborne endurance and enhancing their ability to counter the violent extremist threat in their country.”

Over the last three years, U.S. civilian and security assistance to Pakistan totaled more than \$4 billion. U.S. assistance has included support for medical aid, school refurbishment, bridge and well reconstruction, food distribution, agricultural and education projects, 14 F-16 fighter aircrafts, five Fast Patrol Boats, 115 self-propelled Howitzer field artillery cannons, more than 450 vehicles for Pakistan’s Frontier Corps, hundreds of night vision goggles, day/night scopes, radios, and thousands of protective vests and first-aid items for Pakistan’s security forces.

In addition, the U.S. funded and provided training for more than 370 Pakistani military officers in a wide range of leadership and development programs covering topics such as counterterrorism, intelligence, logistics, medical, flight safety, and military law.



Air Force pilots and aircrews from the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron arrive to conduct an information exchange on air refueling operations with their Pakistan air force hosts March 3, 2010, at Pakistan air force base Chaklala in Pakistan.  
(Courtesy U.S. Air Force photo)





KANDAHAR, Afghanistan--Senior Aircraftman Joe Ralph, a soldier from the 3rd Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment (RAF) A-flight, hands a bottle of water to a local child during an International Security Assistance Force patrol.  
(ISAF photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Collins, U.S. Navy)