

***Building Bridges to Afghanistan  
Improved Ninewah Security May  
Mean Fewer U.S. Troops***

# ***Coalition Bulletin***

*A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism*

*Volume #44 August, 2007*




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**Cover photo:** Members of the Force Protection Company (FP Coy) interact with Afghan kids during a dismounted patrol in Kandahar City.

Photo by: Cpl Dan Pop

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*In the midst of the security challenges, Iraq's leaders are being asked to resolve political issues as complex and emotional as the struggle for civil rights in our own country. So it is no wonder that progress is halting, and people are often frustrated. The result is that it has been harder than anticipated for Iraqis to meet the legislative benchmarks on which we have all been focused.*

**George W. Bush  
President, U.S.**

# Editorial

The 44<sup>th</sup> issue of Coalition Bulletin comes at a defining moment when the future scope and mandate of operations in Iraq are under serious deliberations in the USA. Domestic politics and political corrections notwithstanding, the developments in Iraq are clearly suggestive of major gains made by the Coalition in the realm of security; shortfalls if any appear to be in political and reconciliatory effort. Understandably, the latter falls under the realm of nation building and we all know too well that this is a long process which more than anything else requires strategic patience. Considering the tremendous political and social transformation being sought in a society that is marred by historical misgivings and misperceptions, it actually demands matching commitment, perseverance and resources. It is therefore opined that leaving the job half done will bring no good to Iraq, the region as a whole and more importantly to the world peace at large.

Positive developments in Afghanistan are reflective of the relentless efforts of ISAF. Having undertaken numerous successful operations, the situation appears to be ripe to undertake a major developmental offensive to win over the populace. Having suffered major setbacks militarily and with loss of numerous mid level leaders during last six months, Taliban clearly appear to be on the defensive. If at this juncture serious efforts are made to politically engage with the insurgents, it will significantly erode the popularity base of irreconcilable elements.

While the efforts in Afghanistan continue, major sustainable security gains remain dependent upon effective management of the menace of narcotics, which according to UN has reached an all time record this year. Afghanistan is now contributing over 90% of world opium, which merits an immediate attention, preferably at two tiers. While a long term approach is good and understandable, the immediate requirement is to simultaneously pursue a short term approach as well, seeking immediate effects. This calls for a re-look at the strategy being followed and commitment of international community including ISAF. Unless serious efforts are directed towards it, effective severance of the money trail that is critically impinging upon the security dynamics of the country will not be possible.

Like always this bulletin is also dedicated to men and women from many countries that comprise this coalition operating in the CENTCOM area of operations, extending their services to train, equip and develop the security and developmental infrastructure. The readers shall find in the bulletin, stories reflective of wide range of capacity building and developmental efforts being undertaken in the AOR.

Before I end, it will be apt to welcome the new Deputy Commander Lt Gen Martine Dempsey; we assure him of a whole hearted Coalition support and look forward to an extensive and rewarding interaction with him. I would also take this opportunity to welcome the Chief of Coalition Public Affairs Team LTC Muhammad Arif, and wish him very best for his tenure of assignment with the Coalition.

**Ahsan Mahmood**  
*Brigadier-General, Pakistan*  
*Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group*



## Coalition Generals Announce Progress in Iraq



*Story by Sgt. Matthew McLaughlin  
Combined Press Information Center*

**BAGHDAD** — Two Coalition representatives held a press conference at the Combined Press Information Center. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James Dubik, commanding general, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner, Multi-National Force-Iraq spokesman talked about recent events in Iraq and the road ahead.

Bergner talked about progress around Iraq. Operations in Tarmiyah resulted in the death of Abu Ibrahim, an Al-Qaeda in Iraq leader who oversaw terrorists' operations in the northern belts of Baghdad. Bergner said Ibrahim was an Al-Qaeda emir for Tarmiyah who coordinated VBIED attacks in Baghdad and also led Al-Qaeda in Iraq operations in the Taji area.



**U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Commanding General, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner, Multi-National Force-Iraq spokesman talked about recent events in Iraq and the road ahead. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Carl Hudson.**

“He kidnapped and murdered Iraqis including a nine-year-old girl to intimidate local citizens,” Bergner said.

“Bergner introduced Dubik, noting his achievements as commander for I-Corps and the 25th Infantry Division. Dubik took command of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq in June.

Dubik said his role in the war effort focuses less on fighting forces and more on “ministerial capacity.”

“That is the ability to raise, equip, train, sustain, provide bases and to provide adequate funding for the security forces over the long term,” Dubik said.

Dubik said there has been progress and challenges on this front. From 2005 to 2006, the ministries of defense and interior spent more than \$2.5 billion more on defense of Iraq than the year before. There was another \$2 billion increase in 2006. The ministries continue to deal with many challenges, but Dubik said they, along with Coalition forces, will keep pushing on.



# Dust, Dirt and Phenomenal Dignity



*Story by Kristina Davis*

*The Maple Leaf, National Defence Canada*

KANDAHAR - Her head was shaved and her wide brown eyes were at once timid and mischievous.

The school - a visibly shelled apartment complex - was three stories in some places and only two in others. Lopsided, the roof of the yellowish building had caved in, yet it still housed the school and countless families. Behind the apartment was a slide and the makings of a teeter-totter. She smiled broadly for a picture and was so delighted at seeing her round, dirty face captured in the image. She was going to school - at least that day.



**She was going to school, at least that day... Photo by Lt Christian Courtemanche, CF PAO**

More than 2,500 CF personnel are in Afghanistan serving on Operation ATHENA. From medics to mentors, drivers and gunners, force protection, advisors, loadmasters and pilots, it's a diverse team.

Journalist Kristina Davis, with National Defence Canada's "The Maple Leaf" newspaper, spent two weeks in Afghanistan talking to CF personnel both inside and outside

that proverbial wire. Candid, dedicated, determined and above all professional, they told their stories - some funny, some heartbreaking and some just plain peculiar. Their experiences are both provoking and enlightening.

Since that time, some CF members have lost their lives, a sobering reminder of the realities of the mission. They, each



**Captain Richard Nolan of the Civil-Military Cooperation Team checks the recently completed road improvement project in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Through the assistance of CIMIC, the road will allow villagers to get their products to local markets quicker. Photo by Lt Christian Courtemanche, CF PAO.**

and every one, were remembered in personal and public ways - and then the work continued.

That work, from launching the Tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle, to mentoring Afghan National Army soldiers, to facilitating the digging of a village's first well, clearly energizes CF personnel. They also sit down for chai, eat stuff that would make the preventive medicine technician blanche and speak Pashto with flair. Amid the dust and the dirt, there's a dignity to the country and its people.

So despite that danger, the treacherous terrain, the relentless heat and dust that seems to hang in the air like a soggy towel, there remains a reality: there's still one little girl, among many, who just wants to go to school.



# Building Bridges to Afghanistan



**Story and photos by Army Capt. Ashley Dellavalle  
Task Force Rugged Public Affairs Office**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan- One-hundred-degree temperatures swelter Bagram Airfield while the sweating Afghan National Army Engineers learn to assemble a Bailey Bridge, which will be used for future missions in Afghanistan.



**Afghan National Army Engineers of 4-3 Kandak, 201<sup>st</sup> Corps Command, assemble a 40-foot Bailey Bridge in preparation for emplacement of a Bailey Bridge during future missions in Afghanistan.**

The week-long training for the ANA Engineers of 4-3 Kandak, 201st Corps Command, began July 16 after their trainers, leaders and Soldiers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Charlie Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, of Fort Riley, Kan., were refreshed on building a Bailey Bridge.

In addition, two noncommissioned officer bridging experts, British Sgt. Stuart Christer of the 26th Engineer Regiment, Task Force Helmand, and Army Staff Sgt. John Joyner of Champion, Mich., from the 36th Engineer Brigade, Task Force Rugged, joined the team to teach the Afghans bridge building.

The Bailey Bridge is a portable, pre-fabricated bridge designed specifically for military use. Bailey Bridges can span up to 200-foot gaps and don't require special tools or heavy equipment for construction. Depending on the span and the number of trusses, Bailey Bridges can hold up to 100-ton loads. One of the major advantages of the Bailey Bridge is easy constructability.

"The bridge is like putting together Lego parts," said Joyner. "It's a fairly simple bridge to assemble once you set the base

plates and rollers correctly. We are training the Afghan Engineer soldiers on the bridge system so that they can emplace the bridge themselves."

The finished Bailey Bridges will allow International Security Assistance Forces and Afghan National Security Forces along with Afghans the ability to travel more efficiently across water crossings and gaps in the land. This is the first time ISAF is teaching Afghans how to build bridges. The 50 ANA soldiers learning the process are very enthusiastic.

"The ANA love working and living side-by-side with American Soldiers," said Abdul Ahad, deputy commander of the Engineer Company.

The ANA continues to expand their capabilities in engineering. Training their soldiers on the bridging mission will allow them to train other ANA soldiers to also build bridges.

"Bridging is important to our mission," said Ahad. "The bridges that we build in the future throughout Afghanistan will allow the districts of the nation to be linked and will tie the country as a whole together. It's

the ANA's job to help provide these links to the people of Afghanistan."

The company is confident in their abilities to build a bridge for their nation.

"It doesn't matter where in Afghanistan- north, south, east, or west, or time-day or night, we are ready to build bridges and help our people," said Ahad.



**Army Staff Sgt. John Joyner of the 36<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade briefs the Afghan National Army soldiers on safety measures during the Bailey Bridge training at Bagram Airfield.**



## Improved Ninewah Security May Mean Fewer U.S. Troops



Story and photo by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service



**U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adam Johnson provides security over workers from a flour factory during a raid in Mosul, Iraq.**

**BAGHDAD** — Insurgent attacks in Iraq’s Ninewah province have dropped significantly and if the trend continues, fewer U.S. troops will be needed in the region, an Army commander in the area said Friday.

A sign of the improved security situation in the province is the fact that the province - which includes Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city - will transfer to Iraqi provincial control sometime next month, said Army Col. Stephen Twitty, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division’s 4th Brigade, during a briefing with Pentagon reporters via telephone.

The Ninewah provincial government has made great strides and can stand on its own with minimal help, Twitty said. “We have a very mature provincial government here,” he said.

The Coalition provincial reconstruction team in Mosul and the brigade staff will continue to coach and mentor the provincial government. “In nine months I have seen this government mature, so they will be able to operate pretty much independently and run the provincial government pretty much independently,” Twitty said.

On the security side, the two Iraqi divisions in the province are already under the command of Iraqi Ground Forces Command. “We still continue to see a need for the (provincial reconstruction team) to be here and will probably see a need for some type of Coalition forces up here,” Twitty said. “That

may or may not be a robust force like I have, and it’s going to be based on the security situation here.”

He said the security situation is showing great promise. When his brigade moved into the area in December, there were between 15 and 18 attacks per day. Today, that number is down to between seven and nine. “But we must not call victory yet, and we must continue to look at the situation up here,” he said.

He said he will look at the possibility of reducing Coalition forces in the province.

About 19,000 Iraqi police and 20,000 Iraqi Army Soldiers are in Ninewah and are taking on the job of fighting and defeating terrorism, Twitty said. He described an example of Iraqis shouldering the burden that occurred May 16, when terrorists launched a car-bomb offensive. “The Iraqi Security Forces stood their ground and destroyed the majority of the (car bombs) ... so they could not reach their final destination, decisively defeating the attack,” he said.

Iraqi Security Forces have “the will, the personnel and most of the equipment to fight,” but still face challenges, the colonel acknowledged. Logistics, medical support, aviation support and engineer expertise and equipment are shortfalls. “These are the areas that the Iraqi Security Forces must develop and that the Iraqi government must provide for their forces,” Twitty said.



# Afghan Children Return from Poland Field Trip



**Story and photos by Spc. Micah E. Clare  
4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—School field trips provide critical exposure to new experiences and knowledge



**The Afghan students who just returned from their field trip to Poland wave while at the Polish military compound at Bagram Airfield**



**An Afghan student shows off his souvenirs while at the Polish military compound at Bagram Airfield**

about the world, and for nearly 30 Afghan school children this was never more true when they recently visited Poland.

Sponsored by the Polish Minister of Defense, Afghan students ranging from 10 to 16-years-old were chosen to spend two weeks sightseeing in the eastern European country of Poland, said Jacek Matuszak of the Polish Public Information Office. The trip not only opened up the world around them, but also showed them another way of life other than the one they are familiar. They were chosen as the best, most promising students from eastern Afghanistan's Paktika province by the provincial Minister of Education, Matuszak explained.

The students were flown to Poland July 26 where they visited communities and cities along the scenic Baltic Sea. "We had the opportunity to take them to either our sea or mountains," said Matuszak. "But we figured being from Afghanistan they had seen enough mountains."

The children were treated on behalf of the Polish government to a variety of child-friendly activities. "They went to museums, zoos, sport events, dances; they did a lot during their stay," said Matuszak.

The kids also interacted with Polish children and played soccer and volleyball together, as well as becoming familiar with billiards and electronic games.

During their visit, they were also given the benefit of state-of-the-art medical facilities, Matuszak said. They were all given check-ups and some were given treatments for various illnesses.

"It was such a fun experience," said Imran Jabar, a 12-year-old boy from Waza-Khwa Central High School, who has never before left the country.

"The sights were amazing, especially the big, beautiful cities. [At a military family social event] I enjoyed the dancing the most, the Polish dance so beautifully, very different from traditional Afghan dances."

Yet of all the experiences shown them, perhaps the most valuable was meeting people living in a free country.

"What meant the most to us was how friendly the people there were, they were always smiling," Jabar said. "Living in such freedom is something we dream of here [in Afghanistan]. I can't wait for our country to someday become just like that."

The children's teachers, who went with them, were very happy to see their student's horizons widened.

"We wish our children to see, first-hand, the progress of other countries," said Abdul Ghani, Jabar's teacher. "This trip has opened up their minds to learning more about the world like nothing else could. Several of them have already asked about a continued education in Poland."



# CTF 150



**CTF-150 (French Command 4<sup>th</sup> Apr – 31<sup>st</sup> Jul 2007)**

*Story by Cmdr. Cyrille Le Bris  
French Liaison Office*

The command of the task force (usually lasting from four to six months) rotates between different participating countries. On 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2007, leadership of the CTF – 150

passed from the Royal Navy to the French Navy. Since then, Rear Admiral Alain Hinden has commanded the task force from on board the French flagship “Somme”. During the French leadership, French CTF – 150 staff was composed of 38 officers and petty officers. Nevertheless, not all of the staff members were French. Servicemen of US, UK, Belgium and Germany also worked hand in hand with their French comrades. The French anti-submarine destroyer Dupleix and the French frigate Jacobet (during the period) also contributed some operational time to the CTF – 150. This is the fourth time that France has been honoured with the Command of this task force. During this command, a primary



### **French Command and Supply Ship Somme**

CTF 150 conducts Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. It comprises warships from numerous coalition nations, including France, Germany, Pakistan, United Kingdom and the United States. The task force, established in December 2001 under United Nation resolution 1373 in response to the September 11 attacks, operates under the command of the US 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet but is not linked to US-led efforts in Iraq. The task force is primarily made up of ships from the US, Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, and Canada, with Pakistan and New Zealand being the only two non-NATO members participating. Australia, Portugal, Japan, Spain and Turkey have also participated in the task force. CTF-150 is a major component of Coalition Maritime Campaign Plan (CMCP), with the aim of maintaining peace and stability on sea lanes of communication and prevent illegal activities like human trafficking, drug and weapons smuggling and piracy.

concern of Rear Adm. Hinden has been the increased incidents of piracy off Somalia where pirates don't hesitate to hijack merchant vessels, even at more than 200 nautical miles from the coast. On 1<sup>st</sup> August the command of the CTF – 150 was transferred to Pakistani Navy



**French Anti Submarine Destroyer Dupleix**



## Pakistan Navy Takes Over Command of CTF 150

*Story by Cmdr. Syed Zain Zulfiqar  
Pakistan Liaison Office*

Pakistan Navy assumed command of Coalition Maritime Task Force 150 on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007. French Navy Rear Adm. Hinden handed over command to Commodore Khan Hasham Bin Siddique at a ceremony held at US NAVCENT HQ, Bahrain. This is the second time that the command of CTF-150 has been entrusted to Pakistan Navy. Present at the ceremony were Vice Adm. Noman Bashir, Commander Pakistan Fleet, Pakistani Ambassador Iftikhar Hussain Kazmi, US Ambassador William Monroe, French Ambassador Malika Berak and a host of other distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion, US Combined Maritime Forces Commander Vice Adm. Kevin Cosgriff pointed out that the responsibility of controlling the CTF 150's area are demanding and critical as it covers over two million square miles of ocean, 6,500 miles of coastline and 14 nations. He said that, as a coalition, we are committed to maintaining security and stability in the region, because it supports global stability, economic vitality and regional prosperity. Lauding the Pakistan's contribution, he said that Pakistan was once again being given command of CTF-150 "in recognition of its professional competence and commitment to the just cause".

The new Task Force Commander said that Pakistan has made a conscious choice to side with the free world in this ongoing struggle and Pakistan Navy's joining the coalition maritime campaign over three years ago is a clear



**Commodore Kham Hasham Bin Siddique**

manifestation of this policy. He said that despite the resource constraints, Pakistan has contributed ships with embarked helos and surveillance aircraft sorties on regular basis since 2004 to further the cause of Coalition Maritime Campaign plan. Highlighting the geo-strategic importance of Pakistan,



**Pakistani Commodore Khan Hasham Bin Siddique and French Rear Admiral Alain during the Combined Task Force 150 change of command ceremony**

he said that the role of Pakistan as major littoral state in the North Arabian Sea is central to successful execution of any MSO in the region. He stated that throughout the past six years following the traumatic incidents of September 11 Pakistan has remained steadfast and forthright even in the face of heavy odds. To commemorate the occasion, reception cum dinner was hosted on board the PNS TIPPU SULTAN berthed at Mina Salman. The event was attended by high ranking military and civilian officials and over 200 guests including businessmen, Pakistani community and the media.



## International Military Engineers Work Together in Afghanistan



Story and photos by Army 1st Lt. Kenya Virginia Saenz  
Task Force Pacemaker Public Affairs Office



**Polish Pvt. Piotr Oparski, Polish Engineer Platoon, works on the final touches of a culvert in Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan, as a scoop loader hauls the rest of the dirt**

Afghans and multi-national forces are currently working hand-in-hand on a variety of expansion construction projects here.

Soldiers from the 864th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy); 1st Construction Company, 100th Republic of Korea Engineering Group; and Polish 1st Engineer Brigade, are working together to construct metal building systems (K-Spans), roads, ditches, culverts and sewage lagoons here.

TF Pacemaker Headquarters Support Company Soldiers, led by Army Capt. Eric Parthemore, from West Liberty, Ohio, are not only engaged in supporting the battalion, but also manage the missions of the multi-national forces.

The Polish engineers provide both additional capacity and leadership to multiple horizontal construction projects. Polish soldiers, led by Polish Army 1st Lt. Radoslaw Teleżyński, are working to improve the roads here by ensuring that proper drainage and sewage structures are constructed before the rainy season begins. The Polish army has been deployed in places such as Lebanon, Syria, and Africa to support many humanitarian missions since the war on terror began in 2001.

“I didn’t know what to expect or what missions we would have, but working with American Soldiers has been a great

experience. They have been very helpful,” said Teleżyński. I have been able to learn different training techniques from the American Soldiers and compare them to our techniques. I changed our technique to what works best to accomplish the mission successfully.”

Polish Pfc. Rafaz Soboń added, “This is my first deployment and it has been a new and interesting experience. We learned about different cultures in class, but it is better to learn from first-hand experience.”

The 1st Construction Company from the Republic of Korea focuses on K-Span construction. According to Parthemore, the Korean engineers are especially meticulous and bring a vertical construction capability to the HSC that it does not have. The company is commanded by Korean Capt. Bo Geol Choi from Seoul, Korea. Once completed, the K-Spans will enhance maintenance operations and provide more space for supply support activity here. Even though K-Spans are not common in Korea, the soldiers were previously trained by civil engineers in their country, said Choi.

“We are very proud to be part of this mission. Our main goal is to bring the proper engineering assets for future Coalition forces,” says Choi. “There have been a few challenges over the language gap as well as different working systems, but over all, the construction progress and the relationship with American Forces are going well.”

Korean soldiers, Sgt. Chi-Keun Lee and Cpl. Min-Gi Kim agreed, “It is fun learning about different cultures, even though sometimes we have to use hand signals to communicate with each other.”



**Korean Sgt. Chi-Keun Lee interprets for Korean Capt. Bo Geol Choi, as he meets with Army Capt. Eric Parthemore, Task Force Pacemaker, to discuss the engineering work of the K-Spans.**



# Royal Engineers Take on the Difficult Task



*Story and photos  
courtesy of UK MoD*

The Development and Influence Team, known as the DIT, is operating directly behind International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops, who have been conducting an operation to drive out the Taliban from an area in the Upper Gereshk Valley.

Local people are warned when an ISAF operation is about to take place and most move away from the area temporarily. Once the fighting is over, the DIT follows in behind and meets the local population as they return to their homes, once it is safe to do so.

The twelve man team of ISAF soldiers is commanded by Lt. Richard Keast, from Penryn in Cornwall:

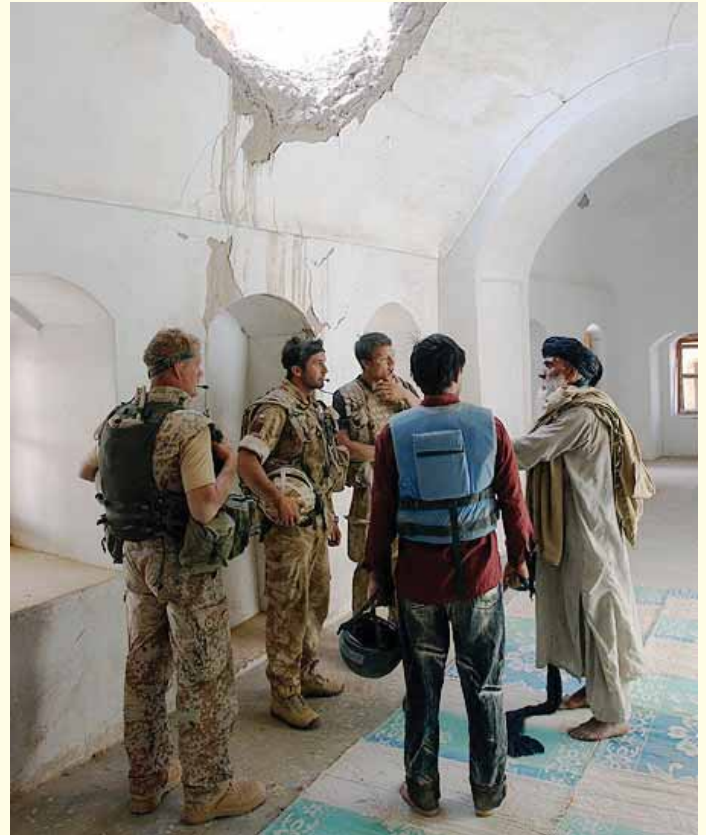
“The main aim of what we do is to get the reconstruction and development effort started as soon as possible after the fighting has ceased in an area,” he explained.

Staff Sgt. Tony Everson, from Plymouth, is the team’s second-in-command.

“We fit into the operation right behind the fighting troops, we come in, speak to the local population, see what they immediately need and what we can do for them. We can provide the locals with basic fresh water, electricity and help them with basic road improvements.”

Meeting and interacting with the local population as they return to their homes is a critical part of the operation. The operation’s success relies heavily on the ability of the DIT to reach its goals:

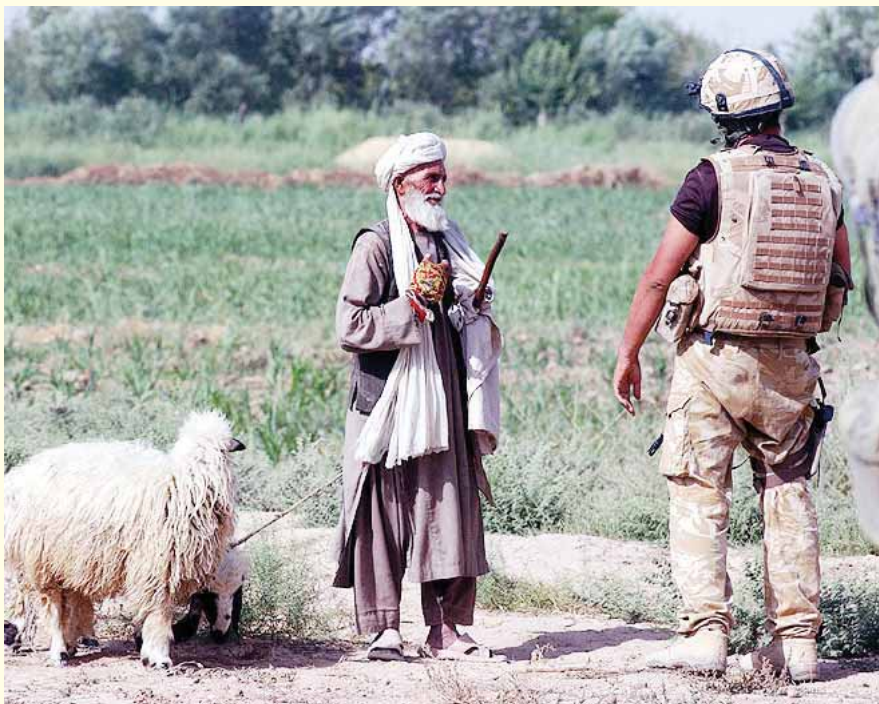
“You might think that the hardest part of an operation is the fighting, and certainly from the soldiers’ perspective that is the most difficult bit,” explained Lt. Col. Angus Watson,



**A village elder shows the Development and Influence Team the damage years of fighting has inflicted on his village’s buildings**

commanding officer of Battle Group South.

“But the longer term aspect of an operation, creating that environment which the local Afghans will want to live in and improving their quality of life, that is the most difficult thing, that is the thing that really takes the time.”



**The Development and Influence Team talk to a local Afghan farmer**

The ten British soldiers in the team are all members of the 26 Regiment Royal Engineers. They are responsible for providing security, often referred to as force protection, when the team is out on patrol. They also have the skills, equipment and spares to repair water pumps and electrical generators, providing villages with basic utilities.

The engineering element of the team also identifies simple projects that will improve the local infrastructure; repairing roads, basic bridge improvements and the clearance of irrigation ditches. These projects are funded by ISAF and the Afghan government, but it is the local population who are employed to carry them out.

The development of an area must be an inclusive activity involving government, soldiers and villagers working together to improve the local infrastructure.



## Iraqi Doctors Treat Fellow Iraqis During Medical Engagement



*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Angela McKinzie  
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division*

**BAGHDAD** — Since the beginning of the war Americans have provided basic medical care to Iraqis, but more and more Iraqi medics are treating their own countrymen.

Members of Task Force Vigilant, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y., coordinated with Iraqi medics and doctors to conduct a combined medical engagement outside Victory Base Complex, Friday.

“We coordinated for medics from the Iraqi Army and Iraqi doctors to participate in the operation,” said U.S. Army 1st

The medical engagement was fully staffed with Iraqi medics, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and doctors.

For the families of the Iraqi Family Village the engagement provided basic medical care that had been unavailable.

“Most of the Iraqis who live in Iraqi Family Village have no tribal ties to anyone, so their medical care is limited,” Cornelison said. “And since most of them do not have money they can’t afford medical care.”

Cornelison also mentioned the majority of the people in Iraqi Family Village live in abandoned buildings, schools and offices to make ends meet.

Because many Iraqis cannot afford even basic medical



**Staff Sgt. Jafar Jabak, right, a medic with 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, looks at a boy’s pupils during a combined medical engagement outside of Victory Base Complex. The boy complained of being dizzy.**

Lt. Randall Cornelison, Task Force Vigilant force protection officer, from Moore, Okla. “Having the Iraqis treat their own shows the citizens the capabilities of the (Iraqi Army) and doctors.”

Although Task Force Vigilant hosted the medical engagement, the Iraqis were solely responsible for providing basic health care to their own.

“Today is a good day to show the Iraqi people we can help them,” said Dr. Zetad Tarque, an Iraqi practitioner of internal medicine. “It is my job to help them and I am glad that I am able to.”

care, dental care for them was never attainable until the medical engagement. The engagement was also fully staffed with U.S. and Iraqi dentists.

“A lot of the Iraqis do not have the money to practice good oral hygiene,” said Dr. Suhaib, an Iraqi dentist. “We can provide them with basic dental care today and schedule follow-up appointments with the patients who need it.”

Like Suhaib, the other Iraqi doctors at the medical engagement agreed to provide follow-up care to the patients who needed it. They also provided free referrals to their clinics.



# 100 Days of Mission Flight Operations



*Stories and photos courtesy of DEU MOD*

With more than 150 reconnaissance operations and 450 flying hours, the five German Tornados are an important instrument for the reconnaissance tasks to be carried out for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The high quality imagery is in great demand with NATO.

Acting within the framework of a mission based on the German Bundestag mandate of March 9, 2007, the Tornado crews of Tactical Reconnaissance Wing 51 'Immelmann' produce imagery for the surveillance of Afghanistan. Their highly sophisticated camera



**Col. Poschwatta, commander operational wing**

systems provide Headquarters ISAF in Kabul with important information on the infrastructure, supply lines and patrol routes in the country.

After 100 days of mission flight operations, the Commander of Operational Wing MeS, Col. Thorsten Poschwatta, takes stock, "The success we have achieved so far is due to the high level of motivation and professionalism among the servicemen and women of the operational wing."

## Commander ISAF Visits the German Operational Wing Mazar-e-Sharif



**General Dan McNeill at the air photo interpretation station of the Operational Wing Mazar-e-Sharif**

As part of his field visit to the Regional Command North (RC North), the Commander ISAF (COM ISAF), Gen. Dan McNeill, visited the Operational Wing Mazar-e-Sharif. After a briefing by the Wing Commander Col. Thorsten Poschwatta about the structure and responsibilities of the unit, McNeill showed a particular interest in the air photo interpretation station, where the photographs taken by the Recce Tornados are interpreted. Gen. McNeill thanked the Wing for its excellent execution of operations. "I can assure you that the work you do for the ISAF forces is highly appreciated by NATO in Kabul," Gen. McNeill stated.

Since 15 April, the Recce Tornados have flown their reconnaissance missions from Mazar-e-Sharif to enhance the security of the ISAF forces. The reconnaissance Tornados based in northern Afghanistan are directly subordinate to NATO.

## A Large-Scale Logistic Project



**A technician is checking a Tornado**



**Tornado in the sky**

The most important task at the beginning of the mission was to transfer the assets necessary to provide all airfield functions and support the related technical-logistic conditions to Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan. Consequently, about 200 military personnel and 690 tons of materiel were transported to the theater of operations within less than four weeks. The experiences gained from the Bosnia and Kosovo missions helped to ensure that this large-scale logistics project ran smoothly.



# A Primary School from Turin



*Story and photos  
courtesy of Italian MoD*

August 20<sup>th</sup>, an inaugural ceremony marked the project “Turin-Kabul” a primary school in the Afghanistan capital.

The humanitarian project estimated at \$447,393 was supported by donations from different public firms of the Commune in Turin, the Foundation C.R.T., the Foundation “Company of St. Paul” and the Rotary Club.

The principal structures of the project consist of playground equipment and a playing area for children in Khushhal Park, the restructuring of educational classrooms near the University of Kabul, in the amplification of



**Inaugural ceremony of a primary school in the Afghanistan capital**

an existing school in Qalacha, and finally in the construction of thirteen artesian wells in different districts of Kabul.

The thirteen artesian wells, which satisfy the demand of around 700 people, began operation in November. The

wells and park were celebrated November of last year. The remaking of the two classrooms is still in progress, near the University of Kabul.

Attending the inaugural ceremonies of the school was the Ambassador of Italy at the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan S.E. Ettore Sequi; the Military Attaché at the embassy Gen. B. of Apuzzo; the Senior Italian Officer Gen. D. Battisti; the Commander of ITALFOR XVI Col. de Fonzo; the Head of the Municipality, and the Didactic Manager of the school.

Words of gratitude were expressed toward ITALFOR and Italy by the Didactic Manager. Ambassador Sequi and the Col. de Fonzo noted the project “Turin-Kabul”, improves the conditions of the Afghan people subsequently consolidating the relationship of friendship between Afghanistan and Italy.



**Afghan pupils of the new primary school**

## *Annual Outback Coalition Dinner*



## *Pakistani Independence Day Celebration*





Pakistani Commodore Khan Hasham Bin Saddique, Vice Adm. Kevin Cosgriff and French Rear Admiral Alain Hinden salute their flags during the Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 change of command ceremony. U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Joshua Cassatt