

# COALITION

*Issue 69*

*Highway 1,  
an Italian and Afghan Commitment*



**COALITION COUNTER  
IED CONFERENCE 2010**

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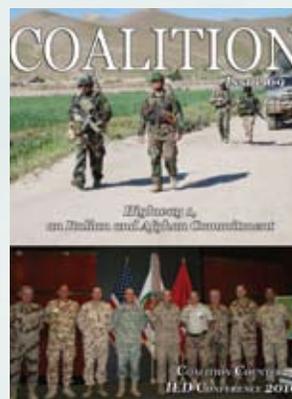
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**Front Cover**

Highway 1, a 'shana ba shana' Commitment (Bottom of the page) Group Photo of the Flag Officers at the end of CIED Conference.

**Back Cover**

Group photo of Coalition Counter IED Conference's attendees at the USCENTCOM Memorial. Photos by CPT Dritor Papa, Senior Editor of Coalition.



## Editorial



The main event that Coalition Magazine brings to the readers this issue is the Coalition Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Conference, held in HQ USCENTCOM from 27 to 29 September 2010. Over 170 participants and briefers from 33 different countries and over 75 organizations participated in the conference including both CIED 'Subject Matter Experts' from national militaries, law enforcement and civilian sectors as well as Senior National Representatives to CENTCOM. The theme of the conference was 'Defeating IED Systems.' By the end of the conference, it was considered by the attendees to be a very productive and fruitful event. More info on the event is given in the story written by the Coalition CIED Working Group comprised of LTC Michael Thøgersen, Denmark, Maj Peter Forsberg, Sweden and Maj Bryan O'Neill, USAF.

In this issue we highlight the tremendous efforts given by the Italian troops in expanding the map of secure areas, especially in places where the population had to flee due to the fear of insurgents.

The Canadian contributions, along with their professional hard work in training the Afghan Army, are highlighted in another story followed by stories covering different subjects where Coalition Countries are involved.

One of our office members, Maj Ghazanfar Iqbal, had the pleasure and responsibility of being part of an exercise named: "Regional Cooperation Exercise 10" conducted in Garmich, Germany between 18-28 August 2010. More information on this exercise is brought in a story meaningfully put together by him in this issue.

A graduation ceremony marked the successful end of a six-month course held in the French renovated Command and Staff College, Kabul, Afghanistan. Thirty senior officers participated in the training, that was supervised by the French EPIDOTE mission personnel with the support from three other Coalition countries; Germany, Canada and Turkey.

For more info on the above mentioned activities and for other stories of the same importance, please go through this issue and remember that we are open to the suggestions that you may send in our e-mail address mentioned on the second page.

Captain Dritor Papa  
Albanian Armed Forces  
Senior Editor of Coalition

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqi-led Strategic Exercise a Success

BASRAH - With minimal U.S. advice or assistance, the Iraqi Army, Department of Border Enforcement and Iraqi Police successfully completed the first Iraqi-led Regional Joint Strategic Military Exercise Oct. 5, 2010.

"It is like a soccer practice before the big game," said Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, United States Division-South deputy commanding general of maneuver, illustrating the importance of practice, repetition and teamwork to a room full of Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Soldiers. "You can't win a game with just one good player. You have to have many players that play together as a team. If you want that Iraqi team to win on the battlefield, you have to play together, practice together, so you can win together."

[www.usf-iraq.com](http://www.usf-iraq.com)

### Afghan, Coalition Forces Assist Family, Child Struck by Tragedy

MARUF, Afghanistan – It was a normal October day in 2009. An Afghan family of eight went through their daily routines in the village of Pan Kalay in the Maruf district of Kandahar province. The mother was inside cooking the evening meal. Five siblings were in the house. Another played outside while the father was out conducting his daily duties. The day quickly became anything but ordinary when the son playing outside found an insurgent mortar round and brought it into the house.

"The children began to play with the round while their mother was cooking food nearby when the round exploded," said the Special Operations Task Force – South team leader operating in the Maruf district.

All but one son, Mirwais, and his father, who was out of the house, died in the explosion.

A year later, tragedy has struck the family again.

Mirwais, 2, was turning up a kerosene lantern Oct. 13 when it fell and ignited his body. He suffered second-degree burns to 75 percent of his body.

The father, who asked to remain anonymous, brought Mirwais to the district center to see about treatment.

A Special Operations Task Force - South medic on station said that without a medical evacuation, the boy would not live 48 hours. The district governor asked the coalition team for help.

"We gladly supported his request," said the SOTF-South team leader.

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



# Centcom Coalition Counter IED Conference 2010

*Coalition CIED Working Group  
LTC Michael Thøgersen, DNK  
Maj Peter Forsberg, SWE  
Maj Bryan O'Neill, USAF*

As most readers of the Coalition magazine probably are well aware, a Coalition C-IED Conference was hosted here in Tampa recently. The conference attracted a lot of positive effect for the Coalition. From most attendees and also from the organizers it is considered a very positive and forward-looking arrangement.

TCOM Coalition CIED working group in late summer 2009, the CENTCOM Coalition hosted the first CIED Conference in November 2009. The main issue of that conference was the first two lines of operation (LOO); Defeat the Device and Train the Force. Consequently, this year's conference covered the third LOO, Defeat the Network/

develop concrete actions to assist coalition partners and enhance their CIED capabilities. The Conference objectives were to bring Law Enforcement, Department of Defense and coalition countries together to discuss a holistic government approach to countering the global IED threat. Furthermore, the intent was to educate the CIED community in order to better understand our collective and respective approaches to "Attack the Network" – thereby developing a common operational picture moving our efforts further "left of the boom."

## Conference Structure

The conference was organized using presentations, working groups and plenary discussion. In order to achieve a tangible outcome for all participating individuals, nations and organizations, briefers from many influential organizations including the U.S. State Department, NATO ACT, UK JIEDAC, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Department of Defence, Spain Center of Excellence and German CIED organization participated. Together with skilful syndicate leaders and active participation the program for



Conference participants with the Director of CCC, MG Hashem (Front Row, left side)

Over 170 participants and briefers from 33 different countries and over 75 organizations participated including CIED 'Subject Matter Experts' across national military, law enforcement and civilian sectors as well as Senior National Representatives to CENTCOM. The theme of the conference was 'Defeating IED Systems' and sought to share best practices that promote a global and holistic approach towards defeating this critical threat to our nations' forces. Selected briefers from different CIED organizations and agencies worldwide gave presentations and participated in panel discussions and working groups.

## Background and Motivation

Since the revitalization of the CEN-

System. It is considered the most challenging and important LOO, thus allowing us to move from a reactive to a proactive approach to defeating the IED problem.

Several similar CIED-forums already exist throughout the world, but currently, no other forum has attempted the same outreach as the CENTCOM Coalition. Every nation approaches "Defeating IED networks" differently. The focus was to give each nation the opportunity to further refine its collective knowledge and respective approach to "Defeating the Network" and





these three days was developed to benefit everyone and allow the participants to establish networks within the CIED community to further international cooperation.

The primary focus of the conference was to discuss defeating the network/system. To accomplish this, the conference was broken into three separate working groups; Weapons Technical Intelligence (WTI), Information Sharing and Enablers.

### **Findings**

The conference defined three centers of gravity – Coordinated approach, Information Sharing and Enablers – in order to combat the IED systems where immediate actions and long range goals should be put in force.

• *Coordinated approach/Weapons Technical Intelligence (WTI)*. In order to effectively combat the IED problem on a holistic and global scale it is imperative to establish a coordinated approach to defeat the system that includes standardized enablers, capabilities,

and processes. For example; WTI and shared use of biometrics, and associated data bases.

• *Information Sharing*. Maximize info sharing among community of practice to support the defeat of IED systems. Institutionalize C-IED policy, doctrine and training in coalition and partner nations to cover all levels and phases of operations.

• *Enablers*. Identify current policy restrictions / impediments that limit responsive and relevant US support to C-IED training for coalition and partner nations in alignment with US SECDEF memo dated March 18, 2010. The support must be a coordinated effort between CENTCOM, NATO/ISAF,



(Front Row) Generals from the Coalition together with LTG John Allen, Deputy Commander, USCENTCOM

EUCOM, JFCOM, JIEDDO and other coalition and partner C-IED organizations and agencies.

### **Vision and Way Ahead**

The outcome of the conference resulted in an out brief, initial summary findings and a white paper to Senior National Representatives, CENTCOM



Conference attendees from many parts and branches all over the world

and CENTCOM/NATO ACT leadership. In addition, each country or organization received a country package including CIED information and training materials, as well as CDs with all the briefings and latest version of the WTI lexicon.

The proposed actions from the conference include:

- CIED NATO STANAG must be developed and integrated with counter insurgency.

- Standardize WTI, biometrics, equipment, courses, training, field training exercises, and certifications within partnering nations to cross-level capabilities and gain greater interoperability within nations.

- Review current policies and regulations to look for ways to minimize over classification of documentation and operational data in order to maximize the flow of information between countries within the JOA.

- Draft Ambassadorial letter to military to encourage cooperation opportunities and disseminate and train military at the strategic level about interagency and international tools.

- Disseminate appropriate information and guidelines regarding Coalition Loan Program for forces deploying to ISAF. Replication of ISAF capabilities is required for home station training when possible.

- CENTCOM should reach out more to coalition countries to develop a comprehensive template for CIED material and non-material requirements.

- NATO should request NATO, ISAF and Partnership for Peace (PFP) nations to participate in developing and manning organizational centers.

During the next year the CENTCOM Coalition CIED Working Group will take a deep dive into these actions, follow the development of these matters and every 3rd month report back to the coalition countries what achievements that have been accomplished. To do this we need to develop a more in-depth working structure to delve deeper into relevant issues



Brigadier General Jens Praestegaard, Chairman of the Coalition handing over a certificate to one of the briefers

ence and obtained new perspectives and ideas on how to progress toward defeating the IED threat and that everyone met and networked with subject matter experts from all over the world.

Negating or mitigating the effects of IEDs as a means of asymmetric attack requires an approach that transcends all levels of conflict. It requires the synergistic effects derived from integrated CENTCOM and Coalition forces, interagency community cooperation and Host Nation security forces and population participation.

Operations to counter IEDs are conducted at the strategic level by leveraging appropriate elements from U.S. Interagency community partners. At the tactical level, counter IED operations are directed toward eliminating the device or mitigating the effects on our soldiers.

These actions will redirect enemy activities further from the pointed attack (blast seat) and will have a long lasting effect on the enemy's ability to carry out a sustained campaign and enhance our ability to defeat the terrorist insurgency within the CENTCOM AOR.

“We must now move forward with concrete actions to assist our coalition partners and enhance their CIED capabilities in the areas of equipment, training, and technical expertise.”



Outbriefs and findings from different syndicate groups presented to the Conference attendees.

that have been identified during previous conferences and have not been resolved. In order to achieve this, a more formalized Coalition CIED Working Group by CENTCOM was discussed during the conference. This could be done by written agreements between each country participating in the CIED Working Group and partnering organizations in order to promote greater coordination and dissemination of information regarding CIED efforts both within each country as well as between nations.

We hope all participating countries and organizations had a good confer-



Working group discussions with a mix of experienced personnel in the IED field.

# Canadians help create tomorrow's Afghan National Army

By Major Sébastien Campagna  
[www.forces.gc.ca](http://www.forces.gc.ca)

In mid-March 2010, Task Force Kandahar (TFK) got a strange request from its higher headquarters, ISAF Regional Command (South): Canadians were wanted at a base near Kabul to help train a brand-new battalion of the Afghan National Army (ANA). The timing was far from ideal: TFK was getting ready for the rotation of Canadian units that were approaching the end of their six-month tour of duty.

An innovative solution was found: we would ask for volunteers willing to extend their tours to participate in this adventure. In all, the tasking attracted 17 soldiers, a disparate mix of infantrymen, engineers, mechanics, supply technicians, radio operators and medics, from both the Regular Force and the Reserves. As the date for the deployment approached, more information arrived about this tasking: we were to help forge an infantry battalion, what the ANA calls a kandak. At this news, the headquarters was anxious. Would this motley crew be up to the challenge?

On April 6, 2010, the crew boarded a British C-130 Hercules tactical airlifter bound for Kabul. From there, we traveled to an ANA camp that encloses our destination: a small coalition camp called Blackhorse.

After the usual in-briefings, we set about our task of preparing the leadership of the ANA kandak before the troops arrived. Then a new surprise hit us: the soldiers came without any non-commissioned officers (NCOs), and we had to train the officers to do both jobs! In fact, the kandak had to be built from scratch.

First, the kandak had to draw all its equipment, from weapons to vehicles to personal gear. This was the first time our group attracted the attention of the staff at the Consolidated Fielding Centre (CFC) — with our help, Kandak 1 drew and issued its equipment in record time. But that was not to be our only accomplishment.

The Afghan staff at the CFC mirrors the coalition staff, and it also has a mentor team of Afghan National Army officers and NCOs to teach new kandaks. Until we arrived, this team never had coaches to prepare them to work with new kandaks — pressed for time and resources, the coalition mentors pre-

ferred to do this themselves. Assuming that the ANA should train itself, we undertook to help the Afghan trainers. This initiative was a great success, which again ensured that the CFC staff noticed us.

The latest Canadian innovation was to introduce systematic decision-making by means of an adapted version of the U.S. forces' Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP), a close cousin to our own Operational Planning Process. The coalition process is not only very abstract but also far too computer-intensive for the Afghans, so it was time to go "old school." We dug out the old battle estimate, which is done on paper in the form of a questionnaire and is consequently much more directed than the MDMP. This initiative was an instant success with the kandak staff, who assimilated it rapidly.

Today, CFC regularly sends new mentor teams to shadow the Canadian team from TFK. Recently they also made a peculiar request: "Can you send more Canadians, eh?"

*Maj Sébastien Campagna is the leader of the Partnered Assistance Team working with Kandak 1 of the 3rd Brigade 205 Corps ANA (1/3/205 ANA), headquartered at Camp Sherabak in Helmand Province.*



Maj Campagna (fifth from right) and the members of the Partnered Assistance Team pose with the directing staff of the Consolidated Fielding Centre, including its two commanders: Col Dhower of the ANA (left of Maj Campagna) and Col Herman of the U.S. Army (left of Col Dhower).

## *ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF*

# **COMBINED TASK FORCE 150 CONTRIBUTIONS BY PAKISTAN NAVY**

*Story and Photos Courtesy of  
Pakistan Navy*

Following the attacks of 9/11 in United States, Operation Enduring Freedom was launched under the ambit of UN Security Council Resolutions to combat global terrorist networks. The operation was aimed at setting conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment and complements counter-terrorism and security efforts in the littoral states. In support of this ongoing operation, a 20 four nation coalition operates in two Task Forces, namely Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) and Combined Task Force 152 (CTF-152). Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151) was also established in January 2009 to combat the growing menace of piracy within CTF-150 Area of Responsibility (AOR).

In regional context, Pakistan is a major contributor in the war against terrorism. Pakistan Navy has actively participat-

ed in operation Enduring Freedom and Counter Piracy Operations with major ships, helicopters, long range maritime patrol aircraft and provision of staff at HQ US NAVCENT and HQ, US CENTCOM. Pakistan Navy also has the honour to command TF-150 for four times and has also offered to command TF-150 in first half of 2012. Moreover, Pakistan Navy has also volunteered to take command of TF-151 in 2011 subject to availability of command platform

Task Force 150, operating under US NAVCENT Bahrain, presently comprises of warships from Pakistan, United States, Australia, France, and United Kingdom and is conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO). The AOR of Task Force is extremely relevant for maintaining global trade activities as it comprises of approximately three million



square miles of ocean, 6,900 miles of coastline bordering 18 nations.

Approximately, fifty percent of the world's oil and natural gas passes through three very important choke-points within the AOR including Strait of Hormuz, Bab El Mandab and Suez Canal. Dozens of cargo ships and dhows carrying millions of tons of raw and finished goods pass through the area besides countless fishermen toiling hard for their trade.

On April 15, 2010, Rear Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi SI(M) of Pakistan Navy assumed the command of CTF-150 for the fourth time for a period of 6 months. Regional nations capacity building, surveillance of the AOR and Maritime Security Operations are the focus areas for the new commander. In order to promote regional cooperation, the Admiral recently visited Oman and Yemen. During his visits, he met key military and maritime leadership of Oman and Yemen and solicited their support and cooperation for the coalition operations.

“What CTF-150 is doing in this vital maritime area needs to be done all the time for a long time. I see maritime security and stability as a good service which must be delivered in the larger interest of the region and the world. Therefore, I imagine CTF-150 continuing as an instrument of peace in the foreseeable future. I would like to see regional nations coming to the fore to sustain these efforts in the long haul and provide the necessary interface between CTF-150 efforts at sea and authorities ashore,” Rear Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi SI(M) said in a recent statement on CTF-150 Maritime Security Operation.

“We also need to build on our existing co-operation with a host of international maritime agencies and organizations working for the good of maritime community. I feel this coalition is unique in many ways and that there is a great regard for partner nations' interests, sensibilities, constraints etc. The coalition's goals are shared by all. As such, the scope of co-operation is likely to increase, as indeed our dependence on sea trade and its riches increase, increasing the need to protect them. Overall, I think the coalition has an important role in the context of security and stability of the region, which is a common goal of the regional countries”, he continued.

Besides maintaining order at sea, the emphasis of the Commander CTF-150 is to provide assistance to vessels in distress. Many lives were saved because of the professionalism, courage and timely support provided by the units of CTF-150. Some of the recent examples are rescue opera-



tions of pirated Motor Tanker MOSCOW UNIVERSITY of Liberia and Yemini flagged fishing dhow AL JAWAT, both of which were saved by the timely action of CTF-150 assets in coordination with other coalition units.

In another incident on July 02, 2010, Commander CTF-150 tasked USS ELROD to rescue crew members of sinking UAE flagged cargo dhow AL ANWARI. Since the crew was of Pakistan origin, Pakistan Navy Ship BABUR was tasked to evacuate the crew of the dhow. The ship was part of the counter piracy Task Force 151. The embarked helicopter of the ship safely transferred 16 crew members of the dhow in a very rough weather from USS ELROD to PNS BABUR and were brought safely to Karachi, Pakistan.

In conclusion, it can be said that there is a paradigm shift in the maritime security regime in recent years, which requires a collaborative approach.

The importance of the coalition cannot be over emphasized. Perhaps the most important realization is that Maritime Security Operations are helping in providing security and stability in this vital region of the world and are to be sustained on a long-term basis.

Previously, the CTF-150 AOR was replete with unregulated activities such as narcotics, weapons and human smuggling and piracy. However, the overt presence of coalition ships has resulted in reduction of these illicit activities and providing assistance to the vessels in distress.

CTF-150 is the 'Jewel in the Crown' of Coalition Maritime Forces and shall continue to be so for the greater good of maritime community and for peace and stability in the regional maritime domain. In this context, regional nations' capacity building ought to be given due importance so that they can assume the responsibility effectively.

# *United States and Allies Prepare for Disasters in* **Regional Cooperation Exercise - 2010**

*Story & Photos by: Maj Ghazanfar Iqbal  
Pakistan Armed Forces  
Coalition Community Relations Officer*

Participants from four Central and South Asian (CASA) countries and the United States participated in Exercise Regional Cooperation 2010 (RC-10) from August 19 to August 29, 2010 at George C. Marshall Center, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

One hundred participants from four CASA states; Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the United States participated in the exercise.

RC-10 was designed to strengthen relationships and increase interoperability among participating nations. It also provided a forum for discussing relevant regional issues associated with disaster preparedness and security cooperation. Exercise scenarios helped enhance participants' ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from or mitigate the effects of a natural or manmade disaster.

The exercise main themes included counter terrorism, crisis response, and consequence management.

Col. Nurbek Baisynov, Director Crisis Management Cen-

ter, Kyrgyzstan, said "RC-10 brought together representatives from a number of Central and southern Asian states for a national-level exercise that sought to advance shared security efforts. By working together, addressing scenarios that test crisis response, counter terrorism, participants gained valuable experience, which they could share with their respective militaries and governments. Working as a team to solve shared problems is a more effective approach to confronting security issues than any single nation working alone."

RC-10 consisted of two days of preparation training, five days computer-assisted coordination exercise, and a facilitated after action review. Computer-driven scenarios called upon participants to address areas such as natural or man-made disasters, mitigate situations that arise in the aftermath and strengthen regional ties in support of broadened security and stability in the region.

"The exercise has provided all of us an excellent oppor-



tunity to work together in harmony with each other. During the exercise, we have polished and refined our processes and procedures, which will be helpful in building a timely response, should there any need arise,” said Col. Zhanat M. Yerezhepov, Chief of the office of War Preparedness, Ministry of Defense, Kazakhstan.

LTC Gijesov Rohat, Assistant Director, Committee of response to Disaster Management, Tajikistan, said, “working in actual simulated environment, we had an opportunity to work together to efficiently respond to any crisis, manmade or natural. All the participants displayed great deal of dedication and enthusiasm during the exercise.”

Maj Gen Shahzada, Chief of the Disaster Response for Ministry of Defense, Afghanistan, said, “The exercise theme and focus is based on providing humanitarian assistance at the time needed. Besides providing a platform for bilateral cooperation in any disaster the exercise also helps in understanding the culture, geo strategic situation and the opportunities for defense cooperation. RC-10 is the most vital exercise, which brought the people of different countries together.”

“I deeply appreciate the U.S. Government for making this exercise successful and for being wonderful hosts for the exercise. We feel confident and better trained to handle any disaster like situation after having practiced drills and procedures during the exercise. It not only brought the members of different countries together in response to a disaster



but also afforded an opportunity to work together to muster our efficient response in dealing with any kind of crisis.”

RC-10 presented the opportunity to refine the Regional Coordination Center (RCC). The exercise improved planning and coordination among organizations-national and international, military and civilian - which would need to unite in the event of a disaster affecting multiple countries within the region. The exercise culminated with a comprehensive final after action review (FAAR) where detailed analysis of the entire exercise were carried out for future guidance and implementation.



# Highway 1, a ‘shana-ba-shana’ Commitment

*Story and Photos Courtesy of:  
Public Affairs Office,  
ISAF Regional Command West*

Operation “Sob Bakhair” (good morning, in dari language) has entered a new stage since last April. Its aim is to expand the security bubble in place around Bala Murghab (northern Badghis Province), in order to progressively include an increasing number of villages, which had been abandoned by their inhabitants for fear of the insurgents. The operation requires boots on the ground and time to achieve steady progress.

At a pace of one km per day, kandak 1/1/207 of the Afghan National Army, along with Italian Mountain Troops (Task-Force North) and US Task-Force Fury have established, in a range of 20 km about FOB Columbus-Todd, several Observation posts. Cavour, Stingray, Marchauk, Déjavu and Prius: these are some of the names of the outposts set-up by the Afghan troops shoulder-to-shoulder – shana ba shana, in dari – with their Italian and American comrades, patrolling on foot, digging trenches, returning enemy fire and controlling 24-7 the access to the Murghab Valley.

The number of attacks is decreasing while the number of villagers coming back after months of absence is raising,



The Commander of the Italian Task Force while engaging with locals.

reaching thousands.

From a technical point of view Op. Sob Bakhair is a ‘clear’ operation, aimed at clearing the area from hostile activities while forming a bubble wherein the population may feel secure and return gradually to a normal life. The bubble



Joint Afghan-US-Italian dismounted Patrol in Bala Murghab

becomes a space to be filled with new military actions like quick impact projects: like the supply of aid and medical care to people who have for experienced distress for months, long-term projects as well, like the refurbishment of a bridge over river Darya-Ye-Murghab, that will ease links between communities, and the construction of a school in Bala M.

In a long term perspective, operation ‘Sob Bakhair’ is the first stage of a path leading eventually to the completion of an important section of the Ring Road, the axis of communication linking Kabul to Herat and passing through Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif.

The section currently connecting the province of Faryab in the north and that of Badghis (wherein Bala Murghab is located) in the west is not paved and is out of bounds for long periods throughout the year even for offroad vehicles, thus hampering the economic development of two crucial regions of Afghanistan, bordering with Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Plans to expand and pave the Ring Road (also known as Highway One) in the area of Bala Murghab already exist but the security requirements have to be improved to allow the establishment of the construction sites.

The security bubble shall be expanded in the next months, when ‘clear’ operations will be followed by ‘hold’, to maintain the advantage achieved, and finally conduct ‘build’ operations.



Italian 120 mm mortars in action to protect Bala Murghab's.



Italian and US troops manning a Combat Outpost.

# Graduation Ceremony in the Command and Staff College, Kabul Afghanistan

Story and Photos Courtesy of  
the French Office at USCENTCOM

The graduation ceremony of the Strategic Command and Staff Course (SCSC) was organized on September 27, 2010, in Kabul. Number of distinguished senior civil and military officers of Afghan Security Forces and ISAF attended the ceremony that included Major General Moheboullah, Vice Minister for the Afghan strategic affairs; Lieutenant-General Fugier, chief of staff ISAF Headquarters; Lieutenant General Lechevallier, Deputy Commander of ISAF Joint Command; Brigadier-General Saint-Chamas, J5 chief ISAF Headquarters; General Patterson chief of the Combined Training Advisory Group for the British Forces; General Blotz, ISAF spokesman, and French mentors of the Afghan instructors “French EPIDOTE”.

The SCSC is designed for experienced officers, ranking from Colonel to Major-General, in the Afghan National Army (ANA) and for individuals in charge at top-level of the national security (police including border police, the internal security service) expected to exercise commands or high responsibilities at brigade level up to army corps or within ministries. The 30 trainees, who attended this six-month course, made a study trip to Paris and Berlin.

The superior military curriculum for the studies is dedicated to planning process, strategic communication and specific perspectives about joint interdepartmental and multinational issues. The instructions are imparted under the su-

pervision of the French EPIDOTE mission personnel with the support from three other Coalition countries; Germany, Canada and Turkey.



Lieutenant General Lechevallier handing over the diploma to one of the newly graduated officers.

Located in the center of Kabul, the school was renovated by France in 2004 and is now offering three courses: the Strategic Command and Staff Course, the Operational Command and Staff Course and the Junior Officers Command and Staff Course. By 2013, all the courses in the CSC will be transferred within a new major Afghan military academy (the Afghan National Defense University) which will be able to accommodate up to 3,500 trainees.



Group photo of the graduates and instructors of the Strategic Command and Staff Course.

# 100 Middle East missions for Globemasters

Story and Photos Courtesy of:  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)

Just over a year and 4,500 tons since their first intra-theatre mission, the Royal Australian Air Force's fleet of C-17A Globemaster III heavy lift transport aircraft has recorded 100 missions in the Middle East.

These beasts of the sky have supported Operations Kruger and Catalyst in Iraq, and Operation Slipper in Afghanistan. Crews and technicians fly to the Middle East Area of Operation with each C-17A to conduct their missions for up to a week at a time, before returning to Australia. This has been the case since the first Middle East intra-theatre mission to Baghdad on July 22, 2009.

Powered by four turbofan engines, the C-17A can lift up to 70 tons of cargo and can accommodate passengers, oversized cargo, vehicles, or aero-medical evacuation patients.

Commanding Officer of No. 36 Squadron, Wing Commander Adam Williams, congratulated all those who helped in achieving 100 intra-theater missions.

"There's a great sense of satisfaction for our squadron and all those who have supported us in reaching 100 missions," he said.

"Throughout these missions, the pilots and loadmasters at No. 36 Squadron have been supported by the multitude

of technicians, suppliers, movements, administrative and operational support personnel."

The C-17A has delivered a tremendous boost in the airborne logistics capability available to the Australian Defense Force and our Coalition partners. This supplements existing in-theater assets such as three RAAF C-130Js which are deployed to Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.

"During the 100 missions, our C-17A crews have transported Chinook helicopters, protected mobility vehicles such as the Bushmaster and Australian Light Armored Vehicles, radar units and a variety of stores and supplies," Wing Commander Williams explained.

In addition to the 100 missions within the Middle East Area of Operations, Air Force has conducted 91 missions involving the C-17 from Australia to the Middle East since July 2007.

In another milestone, the Air Force's C-17A fleet recently surpassed 10,000 hours total flying time since delivery of the first aircraft in December 2006. The hours were achieved in mid-August, during an intense period of activity while No. 36 Squadron was conducting Middle East tasking, and concurrent support for Operation Pakistan Assist II.



Main Photo: A Royal Australian Air Force C-17 Globemaster lands on the dusty airstrip of Multinational Base Tarin Kot. Photo above: Australian Defence Force personnel travelling onboard an Australian C-17 Globemaster during its first mission into Afghanistan.



Group photo of Coalition Counter IED Conference's attendees at the USCENTCOM Memorial photo by CPT Drior Papa, Senior Editor of Coalition.