

# COALITION

*Issue 71*

*Interview with*  
**BG Jens Praestegaard**  
*Chairman of Coalition at USCENTCOM*

*Helmand Operation Brings Transition to  
Afghans a Step Closer*

*US, Coalition Forces Shop in Afghanistan;  
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*US, UK, Iraq Partnership Opens School*



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## Cover Pages

**FRONT COVER:** Benjamin K., a German military service member, scans the horizon while securing a 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division CH-47 Chinook supporting an unmanned aerial vehicle recovery mission in northern Afghanistan. (Photograph by U.S. Army Sgt. Sean Harriman)

**BACK COVER:** Australian Army Corporal Brett Corrigan, 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, and Officer-in-Charge of the Trade Training School, assists 12-year-old Samsullah, a student at the school. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Steve Horton)

## 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.

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## Editorial



The Editorial Staff of Coalition is pleased to bring to the readers in this issue, an interview with the Chairman of Coalition “Enduring Freedom” Brigadier General Jens Praestegaard. BG Praestegaard used this opportunity to give his feedback for the last year starting with his election as the Chairman, what he was expecting and what he experienced during this year. The rest of the magazine is filled with stories carefully chosen from us and they highlight the tremendous efforts that Coalition troops are giving on the ground.

Marine Engineers from Charlie Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, risked their lives while improving the security for the Coalition forces in the Forward Operating Base Robinson, Afghanistan. Even though the situation was very dangerous and they were under the insurgents’ fire, they managed to improve the weak spots on the FOB defense.

In one operation that started last December in central Helmand, the British trained Afghan forces showed high levels of self-sufficiency in bringing and maintaining security in the district.

The efforts of Coalition forces in Afghanistan, besides their main tasks of bringing security, they are trying to enhance the local economy as well.

Around 100 local Afghan vendors gather every Friday at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan, to sell goods such as bracelets, scarves, blankets, etc., to the Coalition forces.

Before the locals are allowed to start selling their products or even come to camp, each must go through a series of screening to ensure they are healthy and safe from harming anyone on camp.

Another story that I would like to highlight, is the fruitful US, UK, and Iraq partnership, which made possible the opening of a school in the Basrah Province, where local children now can enjoy the gift of education.

I just mentioned only some of the topics covered in this issue. For more info, please go through the magazine and as always, we are looking for your feedback, which can be sent to: [coalitionmagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:coalitionmagazine@hotmail.com).

Captain Dritor Papa  
Albanian Armed Forces  
Senior Editor of Coalition

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Afghan Families Receive Food, Clothing for Winter Months

Afghan National Police Kabul Zone 1 Security Kandak led the humanitarian aid mission in Musahi, Afghanistan, as part of a joint endeavor with Task Force-Kabul’s Police Mentor Team Sunday to provide each family with much-needed supplies to survive the cold-winter months.

While the ANP took the lead on security, “We ... turned it into a mentoring opportunity by looking at their search and security techniques,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt.



Dennis Frey, PMT leader to the Musahi Police District, 1-134 Cavalry A-Troop.

“Today was extremely successful,” said Frey, a Nebraska Guardsman. The mission was completed without a single security incident.

Coalition trucks filled with supplies rolled into the village with ANP escorts to provide security. ANP and coalition forces worked shoulder-to-shoulder to hand out the supplies as Afghans came through the line.

The mission helped fill a need of the local people. Because the needs were being met, the missions improve security in one of the most dangerous areas in Kabul Province.

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

### Coalition Doctors Treat More Than 200 Afghan Citizens

KABUL, Afghanistan - Special Operations Task Force – East medical personnel participated in a multi-national free clinic for Afghans at the Korean Hospital on Bagram Airfield, Jan. 29.

More than 200 local men, women and children were treated by doctors from Afghanistan, Korea, United Arab Emirates and the U.S. Army’s 404th Civil Affairs Battalion and Special Operations Task Force – East.

“The Korean hospital is normally closed today,” said Lt. Col. Dan Godbee, battalion surgeon, Special Operations Task Force – East. “The medical personnel came in on their day off and donated time; some of the doctors drove in from Kabul.”

The event represents a turning point for groups of coalition doctors providing treatment together, Godbee said.

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

# Interview with Brigadier General Jens Praestegaard

## Danish SNR and the new Coalition Chairman, USCENTCOM

Interview by Captain Dritor Papa  
Albanian Armed Forces  
Senior Editor of Coalition

Brigadier General Jens Praestegaard enlisted the Danish Armed Forces in 1973. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1974 and worked as Section Commander, Queens Life Regiment until 1975.

In 1975 he entered at the Military Academy from where he graduated in 1980 and upon graduation was the rank of 1st Lieutenant, Queens Life Regiment, serving initially as 2IC in an Armoured Infantry Company and finally as Company Commander.

From 1983 to 1984, he attended the Junior Staff Course and was promoted to Captain.

Starting 1984 until 1986, he worked as Staff Officer at the Army Material Command. He attended the General Staff Course from 1986 to 1987 and was promoted to Major.

From 1987 to 1991, he worked as Staff Officer, again at the Army Material Command to be followed as Staff Officer at the Army Operational Command until 1993. At this time he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was assigned to work as Assistant of Chief of Staff/Plans and Ops/Army Material Command.

From 1996 to 1997, he worked as Battalion Commander at the Queens Life Regiment. In 1997 he was assigned to work as Chief of Staff of the Danish Battle Group/SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following this assignment, he was assigned Commander of the Operation Center Branch, Current OPS at the Army Operational Command. From 1998 to 1999, he worked as Head of the Logistic Planning Branch at the Defense Command/Denmark.

In 1999, he was promoted to Colonel and after that he worked as Chief of Staff of Army Material Command until 2004.

In 2004, BG Praestegaard was assigned as Chief of Logistic Planning Branch, CC-LAND Heidelberg, Germany.

In 2005, he was sent to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium, where he worked as Deputy Director of Staff, SHAPE. After promotion to Brigadier General in 2006 he became National Military Representative of Denmark to SHAPE until July 2009, where he was assigned to his current position as Senior National Representative of Denmark to US Central Command.

During his military career, he was awarded the Medal of Commander of the Order of Dannebrog, Badge of Honor for Good Service in the Army and the NATO Medal for Service in Bosnia.

Brigadier General Praestegaard is married to Wanda and has one Son (Lars, 26) and a daughter (Anne-Mette, 22).



Brigadier General Jens Praestegaard,  
Danish Senior National Representative and Coalition Chairman,  
U.S. Central Command, Tampa

*Sir, presently you are wearing dual hats being the Chairman of the Coalition and also representing your country as the Senior National Representative, how do you manage to perform both of these challenging tasks all together?*

By January 2011 I have now been Coalition Chairman for one year, and honestly, even after one-year in the job I really feel that I still am in the process of figuring out the exact mandate and nature of the chairmanship.

As I took over from a very competent predecessor, Air Commodore Dick Newlands from New Zealand, my goal was simply just to try to keep up the good work he had been performing and maintain the level of his chairmanship.

I will leave it to others to evaluate if I have been successful in that regard. We all, of course, come from different backgrounds, but I feel rather satisfied and contented, being the Chairman, as I get substantial supportive feedback from the Coalition folks, which in a way, indicates that they do not intend to fire me in the near future.

*Once you took over as the new Chairman, what did you expect it to be like and now as you have completed the first year of your assignment, how close you think you have been to that expectation?*

When I accepted the assignment as the Chairman, I was told by my predecessor that the Chairmanship was “almost nothing,” and that I would get all the support I needed from the rest of the group. The later part of the sentence is correct, - the first is wrong, and now I fully understand the smile on Dick’s face, when he convinced me to take over!



I have been a little surprised by the amount of work and the time I have to dedicate to my work as the Chairman. I use half of my time here purely on Chairman related issues, but I am so fortunate to have a very professional team around me at the Danish Liaison office, who take very good care of many of my tasks related to my country specific coordination and liaison duties. In addition to that, the team in the CCC front office has been - and continues to be - an invaluable support for me in assisting with various coordination related activities. Without these two pivots, so to say, one cannot function as an effective chairman.

I also want to recognize my wife, Wanda, in that respect. As “Mrs. Chairman,” she has taken over and developed several tasks and responsibilities in relation to facilitate the group of spouses and to maintain good relations with our U.S. colleagues, so her job as my better half is also rather busy in taking care of the Coalition spouses related issues.

*What would you say was your biggest challenge during your assignment?*

I enjoy every single moment serving as the Senior National Representative (SNR) and the Chairman because I feel that we together have made a difference and because we all strive collectively for our common mission, which is so vital to our success.

However, one of the biggest challenges for all of us now is to truly exploit the presence of the liaison teams here in planning, preparation and in execution phases of the upcoming tasks for our forces in the AOR, and in my opinion we

(Coalition and CENTCOM) can still do better in involving and engaging the liaison teams in military planning and coordination processes.

To be involved in mutual working is in fact the main reason why we are here. The Coalition as such will survive with or without our presence here in Tampa, so we must ask ourselves every day: Why we are here? Couldn't we do better somewhere else? If we do not have clear and straight forward answers to those questions, maybe the time is to leave and use the resources on other important areas.

*During your time living in Tampa, is there any particular story that you would specially remember?*

I also enjoy being a “Tampa resident.” Wanda and I have rented a beautiful little house at Swann Avenue (The Swan is by the way the Danish national bird), and we have been, like every other Coalition member, met with warm hospitality and friendship from our neighbors and the community, which has been second to none. I cannot over exaggerate the importance of the support which the Coalition has received from individuals, organizations and the local community. In my long (37 years so far) military career I haven't experienced anything even close to the “Tampa Spirit” anywhere. Tampa Bay community has always been very cooperative and more than willing in extending their full support to the Coalition members and their families.

On behalf of the entire Coalition I will convey our deepest gratitude to the whole of Tampa Bay community for always being there for us.



Photo of the Danish Liaison Team at USCENTCOM

# The Australian Mentoring Task Force 2 Takes Over in Afghanistan

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

The Commander of Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations, Major General John Cantwell has witnessed the transfer of authority for mentoring the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade.

The handover parade in Uruzgan in October ended eight months of high tempo operations for the Brisbane based MTF-1 led by 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.

It also marked the start of the tour for the Darwin – based MTF-2 led by 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. The ceremony was held at the Multinational Base– Tarin Kot.

Following the parade, Major General Cantwell also visited several patrol bases in Uruzgan to meet the Australian and Afghan troops.

Whilst at the patrol bases, the Major General participated in many of the day-to-day activities carried out by the soldiers, and observed how well-prepared they were for the work ahead in their areas of operation.

“I am pleased to see the new soldiers from MTF-2 in place at the patrol bases,” Major General Cantwell said.

“I spent some time with them and their drills are slick,

they know what they have to do and they’re a very professional team - I’m very confident in their abilities.”

“They have a tough job ahead but I’m in no doubt they’re up to the task.”

Soldiers from MTF-2 are already conducting patrols with their Afghan National Army counterparts to disrupt insurgents’ activities, locate and destroy weapons and Improvised Explosive Device caches, and provide a more secure region.



Soldiers from the 2nd Mentoring Task Force conduct a Vehicle Check Point during a visit from Major General John Cantwell Commander Joint Task Force 633 in Uruzgan Province in Afghanistan.



Major General John Cantwell and Warrant Officer Class One Don Spinks receive a ground brief at a patrol base in the Mirabad Valley region in Afghanistan.



# Marine Engineers Improve Security For Coalition Forces in Sangin

**Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik**  
**1st Marine Logistics Group**

Forward Operating Base Robinson, Afghanistan - Marines From Charlie Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), enhanced security for coalition forces in Helmand province.

Located in the Sangin District where Marines from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment are currently going toe-to-toe with the enemy, the FOB was in need of additional protection, and the CLB-2 engineers were up for the task.

"We are perfecting the FOB because they have weak spots in their defense, so we are giving them a safer place to sleep," said Lance Cpl. Eric Martinez, a bulk fuel specialist with Charlie Co., CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD).

The engineers worked both day and night so they could bring the security of additional Hesco barriers and concertina wire to the inhabitants of the FOB.

The dangers of Sangin were clear to the engineers the entire time they were constructing the defenses. They had first-hand experience with the Taliban the day they arrived.

"I was checking on a helicopter's [estimated time of arrival] with two other Marines when we heard gunshots" said Lance Cpl. John A. Ferrara, an engineer with 1st Platoon,

Charlie Co., CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD). "I ran for cover, and after I jumped in a piece of micro-terrain; I looked back and saw Lance Cpl. [Jacob] Crane, and he shouted 'I can't feel my arm.'"

Crane had been shot in the neck by an enemy sniper.

"I saw blood on his shirt, so I ran back to grab Crane to get him to cover," said Ferrara, 22, from Tallahassee, Florida. "We immediately got him to the trucks where doc took care of him. The sniper missed all his vital organs, and he is lucky to be fine now."

The Charlie Company Marines immediately put up Hesco barriers near the area where one of their own was wounded in the effort to prevent surprise enemy engagement in the future.

The Marines who live and work on FOB Robinson are grateful the engineer platoon is there to help make their lives safer.

"The guys on the FOB are happy to have us here," said Sgt. Eloy C. Soto, an engineer with 1st Platoon, Charlie Co., CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD). "They said we were doing good work."



Main Photo: Lance Cpl. John A. Ferrara, an engineer with Charlie Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) sets up concertina wire at Forward Operating Base Robinson in Sangin, Afghanistan.

Photo Above: A heavy equipment operator with Charlie Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) fills Hesco barriers at Forward Operating Base Robinson in Sangin, Afghanistan.

# On the Move With Afghan National Army Heavy Equipment

*By Sergeant Ryan MacArthur  
Courtesy of [www.forces.gc.ca](http://www.forces.gc.ca)*

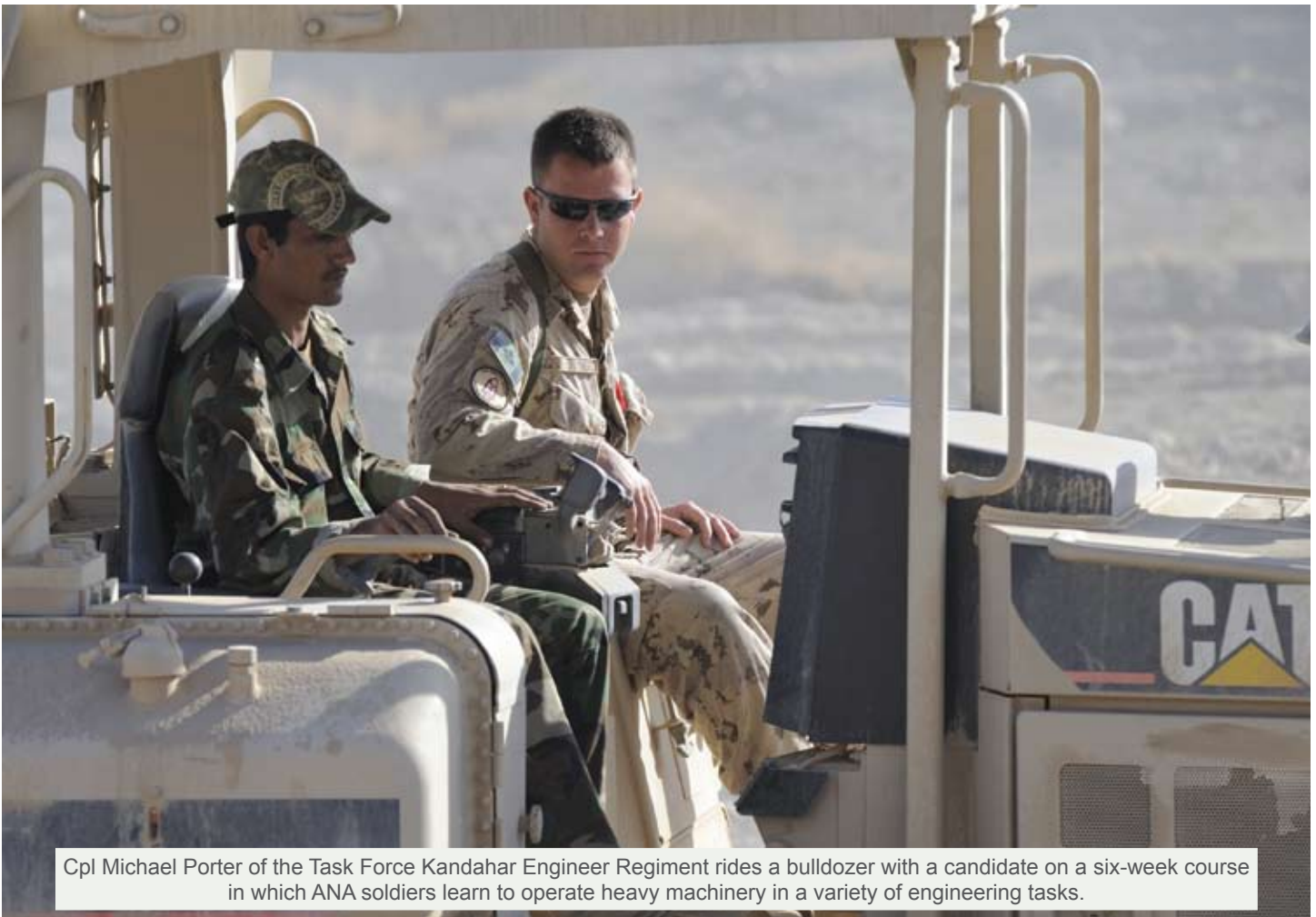
It's sunrise, and the camp wakes to back-up alarm beeps; as usual, the heavy-equipment operators of the Afghan National Army (ANA) are starting work early so they don't have to endure the mid-day heat in their vehicles. The only sounds capable of breaking through the machinery racket are the booms of exploding ordnance and the crack of small arms fire from across a dry river bed.

The heavy-equipment operators are building bastions to protect the forward operating base (FOB) against these threats. Such is the life of an engineer in Afghanistan.

Across Afghanistan, and especially in Kandahar Province, the ANA is responding to the gradual reduction in support from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by taking on more self-sustainment and self-help projects. At the same time, the importance of skilled soldiers increases, and personnel like the ANA heavy-equipment operators are becoming that much more valuable.

The ANA has few operators and very little heavy equipment, most of which is usually parked back at Camp Hero, the home of 205 Corps, due to lack of experienced operators. The problem is that most of the work for heavy equipment is out in the forward tactical infrastructure, it's a logistical nightmare for the ANA to move the equipment and operators to the jobsites. Nevertheless, one ANA heavy-equipment section has completed numerous projects over several months of forward deployment.

Like all military engineers, an ANA heavy-equipment operator is expected to be a jack of all trades, performing a wide variety of tasks while keeping tabs on a vast amount of information. They are very particular about their vehicles since, if one breaks and they cannot fix it, they may not get a replacement. So far, the Afghan engineers have not faced a showstopper, but equipment shortages have forced them to rely on civilian contractors for dump trucks and loaders.



Cpl Michael Porter of the Task Force Kandahar Engineer Regiment rides a bulldozer with a candidate on a six-week course in which ANA soldiers learn to operate heavy machinery in a variety of engineering tasks.





During a six-week ANA heavy equipment course, MCpl Ron Allen of the TF Kandahar Engineer Regiment monitors candidates as they check the hydraulic lines of the pallet-loading system on a flatbed transporter. MCpl Allen is from CFB Borden.

To date, as well as range maintenance and the construction and extension of traffic-control points, the section has completed the expansion of the ANA compound at FOB Ma'sum Ghar with a Suffield-designed elevated observation post, an extension for the Afghan National Civil Order Police at the

District Centre, and remediation of a compound. Working with a mentor, the section commander has also completed the planning phase of many projects, and is now ready to conduct engineer reconnaissance and project development of basic tactical infrastructure on his own.

Tasks planned for the upcoming months include opportunities to partner with the Canadian battle group on tactical infrastructure expansions and winterizations.

The next challenge is the simultaneous deployment of several heavy equipment sections on different projects, permitting the engineers to build a base level of experience across the ANA Engineer Company. The small projects will go quickly enough to build confidence in both equipment and operators, while educating the ANA leaders about the capabilities of their engineer assets.

It has not been easy to keep the heavy equipment up and running for more than three months, but the operators and ANA Engineer Company leadership have pushed for these projects to show the capability they have to offer the 1st Brigade, 205 Corps ANA.

*Sgt Ryan MacArthur deployed to Afghanistan as a member of the Expedient Route-Opening Capability (EROCC) team, and is currently working as a mentor with the ANA Engineer Troop.*



A soldier of the TF Kandahar Engineer Regiment observes the progress of a candidate driving a bulldozer during a six-week course in which ANA soldiers learn to operate heavy machinery in a variety of engineering tasks.



# Helmand Operation Brings Transition to Afghans a Step Closer

*ISAF Joint Command  
Afghanistan*

KABUL, Afghanistan – British-trained Afghan forces are taking their self-sufficiency to a new level with Operation Omid Panj, which began Dec. 27 in central Helmand.

Following the success of Operation Omid Char, their largest operation yet, Omid Panj will set the scene for the Afghan's long-term defense of their nation against extremism and terror.

“The object of this operation is to bring security and maintain law and order in the district,” said Brig. Gen. Sheren Shah, commander, Afghan national Army 3/215 Brigade. “The safety of local civilians is our highest priority.”

Operation Omid Panj takes things a step further than Omid Char, with Afghan soldiers relying less on British troops, who are present to observe and advise from the background. One of the key areas where significant development of Afghan capability is being demonstrated is their growing ability to find and render safe improvised explosive devices.

“Operation Omid Panj is a perfect example of how far the Afghan National Army's counter-IED capability has progressed,” said British Army Lt. Col. Mark Davis, commanding officer, Counter-IED Task Force. “I was present as Afghan soldiers led a search of the Bandi Barq road while we followed behind, fully confident of their ability to find improvised explosive devices.”

By the time of the operation conclusion, it will see a new patrol base established east of Gereshk between the river and the Bandi Barq road. This rural area has received insurgent intimidation due to its proximity to smuggling routes into Gereshk city.



Afghan children alert Corporal Martin, from 23 Pioneer Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, to the fact that there is a mine 100 metres away. (British Army photo/Sgt. Rupert Frere)

The operation was devised by the 3rd Brigade of 215 Maiwand Corps, Afghan National Army, known as 3/215 Brigade, in response to a request from the Gereshk district governor, Abdul Ahad for them to tackle the problem zone.

“We have proven that the ANA are increasingly capable of taking over from us and we are well on the way to transferring the lead for security to the Afghans,” said Davis.

The operation, which will continue through January, has resulted in immediate positive effects, with insurgents fleeing from the area in the face of the threat from Afghan forces.

“Operation Omid Panj is important for all Afghan people,” said Shah. “The new patrol base will free the local people from the intimidation of the insurgents and the operation demonstrates the reputation of Afghan National Army to the Helmand people as legitimate, professional, disciplined forces which have the power to beat the insurgency and bring peace.”



Corporal Martin from 23 Pioneer Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps, who are currently working as part of the Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force in Helmand Province, Southern Afghanistan carefully plots his search route and marks the area he has previously searched. British soldiers like him are passing on their skills to Afghan soldiers who are becoming increasingly capable in counter-IED techniques. (British Army photo/Sgt. Rupert Frere)



# US, Coalition Forces Shop in Afghanistan; Enhancing Local Economy

Story and photos by Sgt. Rebecca Linder  
Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Shopping in America is one thing, but who would have thought shopping in Afghanistan during a time of war would be an option.

The bazaar at Camp Phoenix in Kabul has improved the local economy in recent years, built relationships and provided service members with a break from their normal routine to buy an assortment of authentic merchandise.

With eagerness and anxiousness to earn some money, around 100 local Afghan vendors gather here on Fridays to sell goods such as bracelets, scarves, blankets, suits and several other products to American and other coalition forces.

“It gives coalition forces, civilians, and service members a chance to actually buy products from the local Afghan market that they might not have an opportunity to get back in the states or wherever they are from,” said Staff Sgt. Dustin Kourt, badging noncommissioned officer, 196th Maneuver



Enhancement Brigade. “The option to sell here is pretty much open to all local Afghans from the area; they are able to sell their goods for themselves and make a living this way to support their families.”

Before the locals are allowed to start selling their products or even come on camp, each must go through a series of screenings to ensure they are healthy and safe from harming anyone on camp.

“The locals get a full screening process including medical, and an intelligence interview before receiving a badge, where they will still be escorted at all times,” said Kourt, of Wagner, S.D. “Also, the Bazaar is manned and guarded by U.S. and coalition forces to keep it a safe environment for troops to shop.”

Since the same vendors usually come to the camp week after week, relationships between camp personnel and the

locals have grown to become friendships and the Afghans like seeing what the U.S. forces are doing here, added Kourt, a South Dakota Army National Guard member.

Building relationships has not only provided the locals with continued business, but is also helping to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people.

“By building those relationships, a good word is being put out about the American forces and that we are trying to help their people,” said Kourt. “They are also coming back and bringing us some good intelligence information about who may be a good vender and who might be bad, or even if there are planned attacks.”

“If we do continue to build those relationships, then that will alleviate certain locals from citing with the enemy or Taliban forces,” ended Kourt.



# New Facility Marks Increased Capacity for Afghan Rule of Law Efforts

*By Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 Public Affairs*

A new Afghan prison, known as Housing Unit Delta, opened on Monday, Jan. 17, 2011 at the Detention Facility in Parwan, marking the most significant milestone to date in the Afghan government's growing capacity to assume responsibility for detention operations in Afghanistan.

"Today I am witnessing firsthand the transfer of Housing Unit Delta from Americans to the Afghans," said Afghan National Army Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, chief of the general staff ANA, during a ceremony to mark the completion of the housing unit and its transfer to the Afghan government.

The opening of this new facility, operated under Afghan authority, is part of the broader conditions-based transition of detention operations. That transition process began a year ago when Afghan and U.S. government officials signed a memorandum of understanding designating the Ministry of Defense as the lead ministry responsible for the transition of detention operations.

"I am very happy today's transfer is happening and we get this responsibility," said Karimi.

HU-D is the first of three newly-constructed Afghan housing units scheduled to open in Parwan in the coming months. Afghan pre-trial detainees or post-trial convicts will occupy the new housing units, which will operate under Afghan law and procedure. These units will be operated by ANA Soldiers from the Parwan and Pol-E-Charki Military Police Brigade.

"This is a big honor that we get this job," said ANA Brig. Gen. Safiullah Safi, Parwan and Pol-e-Charki Military Police Brigade commander. "I assure you that our military police will do the job according to our religion and according to our rules of Islam and according to the policy of the Minister of Defense."

After completing basic corrections training last May, ANA military police completed advanced training at ANA Logistical Support Activity in Parwan to prepare for duty in the DFIP. The first cohort of ANA military police began working alongside their U.S. counterparts last July. ANA Soldiers are fully trained in the safe, secure, humane care and custody of prisoners in HU-D in accordance with inter-



Afghan National Army Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Chief of the General Staff ANA, inspects guards during the Housing Unit Delta opening ceremony. Photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Adam M. Stump



national standards and Afghan law.

“We are excited to take responsibility of this unit,” said a Soldier assigned to HU-D, who has served six years in the ANA. “We are serving our country and the people of our country and we serve against the enemies of the country.”

The Soldiers will conduct daily housing unit operations in HU-D, including manning over watch stations, searching cells for contraband, escorting prisoners to and from appointments and overseeing recreation, daily hygiene and meal service for prisoners.

The design of the housing unit, in accordance with the International Committee of the Red Cross standards, allows for safe and humane care and effective management of the prison population. The housing unit consists of handicap accessible cells, communal cells, bathroom and shower facilities, classrooms and recreation yards with drinking fountains and toilets.

Meals, logistical support and medical care are currently provided by the U.S. government in partnership with the Afghan government until the conditions-based transition of detention operations to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is complete.

The new housing unit, like future housing facilities that will be transferred to the Afghan Government, is part of a larger Justice Center in Parwan. The JCIP includes not only corrections facilities but also office space and facilities for investigators, prosecutors, defense counsel, and judges as-

signed to work on national security cases. The Justice Center is intended to serve as Afghanistan’s central location for the pre-trial detention, investigation, prosecution and post-trial incarceration of national security threats.

The Parwan and Pol-E-Charki Military Police Brigade is responsible for the confinement of detainees and national security threats throughout Afghanistan, and for the training, equipping and assigning of ANA personnel for the guard force and headquarters staff at the DFIP. The Parwan and Pol-E-Charki Military Police Brigade also provides rapid reaction forces and quick reaction forces for emergency situations. The brigade, established in 2006, partners with CJIATF-435, the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, Attorney General’s Office, National Directorate of Security and the Ministry of Interior for the conditions-based transition of DFIP operations to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 has oversight for detention operations in Afghanistan, including care and custody of detainees, full implementation of detainee review procedures, and vocational and educational programs designed to facilitate the peaceful reintegration of detainees into society.

CJIATF-435 serves as correction and detention operations advisors for their ANA partners. CJIATF-435 is conducting a conditions-based transition of detention operations to Afghan control while promoting Rule of Law practices.



Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Safi Safiullah, Commander of the Parwan and Pol-E-Charki Military Police Brigade, accepts a ceremonial key during the Housing Unit Delta opening ceremony. Photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Adam M. Stump.

# US, UK, Iraq Partnership Opens School

*Written by Spc. Raymond Quintanilla,  
305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Courtesy of: [www.usf-iraq.com](http://www.usf-iraq.com)*

BASRA - Bringing the power of knowledge to children is a worthy task, no matter what the odds. Although, it's one thing to transport children across miles of desert to attend school; it's another to bring the school to them.

Through the joint efforts of the United States, British and the leaders of a small marshland community within Basrah Province, local children now enjoy the gift of education.

Personnel from United States Division-South, Provincial Reconstruction Team-Basrah, and the United Kingdom Embassy visited the newly opened Al Rota School in the outskirts of Basrah, Jan. 10, which was completed last spring.

Financed by the United States with more than \$400 thousand of Iraq-Commanders Emergency Response Program funds and featuring, an international award-winning design by the British, the new school was built by Iraqi contractors, and opened its doors last October.

"The school is really an exciting mix of local construction skills and British engineering expertise," said the Honorable Alice Walpole, British Consul-General and Head of the British Embassy Office, Basrah.

"They've married those two ideas really well here," Walpole said. "It was a difficult project in many ways, being that we are in a remote area. I think in the beginning no one was quite sure it would work, but it succeeded magnificently."

The closest school is more than seven kilometers away, said Maki Muhasan, the Director of Education in Basrah.

"It is hard for small children to walk all the way there," Maki said. "Many people who lived here left because of the Iraq-Iran war or for other reasons. Now they're going to

come back, bring their children here because of the school."

"This has been a great project, everybody in this area are very happy about it."

Projects like this, are important because the focus of the international community tends to fall on big cities, big businesses, and major infrastructures, said Walpole.

"Yet, Iraq is also made of many small rural communities, with quite striking poverty, with lack of amenities," said Walpole. "We need to focus on those as well."

The director of the school, Sahar Mukhtar, said he and the villagers greatly appreciate the new school, but described some challenges he faces in operating a school where the director and principal double as teachers.

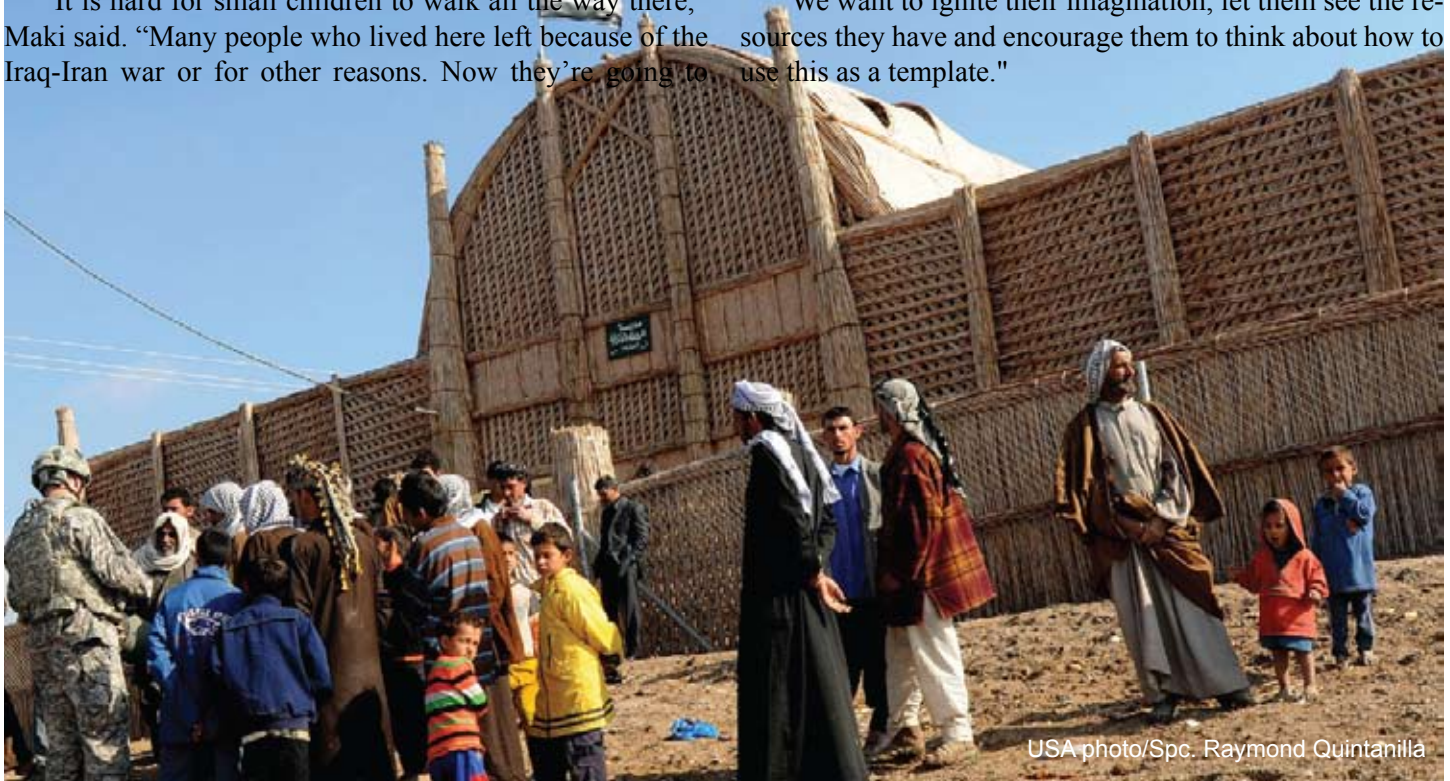
Sahar, who grew up in Al Rota and studied in Basrah University, returned to his hometown knowing the village was in dire need for educators.

The new facility constructed with modern mason walls and flooring, a motif matted-fence and a traditional middle-eastern arched roof made of bounded reed, was built to accommodate the younger children of the village, ages 6-to-9.

Walpole said she and the Director of Education hope it's [project] success will be a blue print for the Iraqi people.

"It's possible to build in the local style [in the marshes]," Walpole said. "It's also a reminder for the people of Iraq, that they have within their country some fantastic, indigenous local traditions."

"We want to ignite their imagination, let them see the resources they have and encourage them to think about how to use this as a template."



USA photo/Spc. Raymond Quintanilla



# Royal Navy Moves Iraqi Navy Step Forward

*A Military Operations news article  
Courtesy of [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)*

***British-trained members of the Iraqi Navy have conducted their first patrol of Iraqi territorial waters surrounding the Al Basrah Oil Terminal (ABOT) in their new Swift patrol boat.***

The Royal Navy has been training the Iraqi Navy in Umm Qasr as part of a coalition training team since 2004. Most recently they have been supporting the Iraqi Navy by delivering Swift patrol boat training and mentoring the future Iraqi Navy training staff.

In advance of the first operational patrol the crew had to complete a final sea assessment conducted by a joint Iraqi and coalition team. They passed with flying colours and proceeded on patrol immediately.

The importance of the patrol to the Iraqi Navy was emphasised by it occurring on Iraqi National Army Day - Jan 7, 2011.

Lieutenant Abdul, the captain of patrol boat 301, said:

"It was a significant day, especially since the patrol was part of the Iraqi National Army Day."

Captain Gary Sutton, Commanding Officer Iraqi Training

and Advisory Mission - Navy [ITAM-N] (Umm Qasr), said:

"Today the Iraqi Navy has made a huge step forward with the first Swiftships patrol of ABOT. I am proud of their accomplishment, but I would also like to acknowledge the achievements of the highly professional training and advisory coalition team in ITAM-N whose training of the Iraqi Navy made this possible."

This new class of modern patrol boat marks a significant step forward in the operational capability of the Iraqi Navy.

Built by Swiftships in the USA, these high-speed, 35-metre vessels are armed with the 30mm British MSI gun and are ideal for their role of defending the vitally important Iraqi offshore oil infrastructure.

The Iraqi Navy of 2,500 personnel, 11 patrol boats and 35 fast attack craft will be joined over the next 12 months by a further 14 Swift patrol boats.





Australian Army Corporal Brett Corrigan, 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, and Officer-in-Charge of the Trade Training School, assists 12-year-old Samsaullah, a student at the school. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Steve Horton)