



# Tien Bien Times

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## Task Force King, ANA conduct joint artillery training in Nuristan



Staff Sgt. Trenton R. Farris (left), Alpha Battery, 4th-319th AFAR, plugs his ears during joint live-fire training on the M198 Howitzer as an Afghan National Army artilleryman assigned to Field Artillery Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Brigade pulls the lanyard Jan. 28 at FOB Kalagush in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

Story and photos by Spc. Gregory Argentieri  
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Paratroopers from 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment began training their Afghanistan National Army artillery brothers in February at Forward Operating Base Kalagush in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

Approximately 30 ANA artillerymen assigned to the Field Artillery Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps for the next several weeks will be learning to operate and fire the modern M198 155mm Howitzer by their U.S. Army artillery counterparts from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4-319th AFAR.

One important area of focus for the ANA artillery training will be to come away fully capable and

proficient in indirect fire in support of their troops on the ground. Indirect artillery fire is critical for the success of the fight in the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan.

The Afghan Soldiers are excited about the opportunity to train with U.S. Soldiers.

"Everybody knows the ANA soldiers volunteer, so these soldiers are very interested in artillery, and are determined to use this opportunity to learn from the U.S. Soldiers and gain more knowledge," said Field Artillery Company Commander 1st Lt. Abdul Nasir Ahmadi, from Kabul, "These are not new soldiers. They have been working for the ANA for four or five years, and have had lots of training."



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"The difference now is we have cooperation with the U.S. Soldiers," said Ahmadi. "It is very important because hopefully in the future we will have a M198 Howitzer." Currently the ANA uses the D-30 Russian Howitzer.

"I really enjoyed shooting, and I want to have lots of training on the modern Howitzer," said ANA Artillery Crew Chief, Sgt. 1st Class Falak Naz, from Jalalabad. "I have learned lots of things, different kinds of ammunitions, rounds, fuses, and how to direct fire for the modern Howitzer."

Working side-by-side with the ANA provides the U.S. Soldiers with more than just a training opportunity, but a better understanding of the overall mission and the importance of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"When I first started working with them I wasn't sure exactly what they would know and with the language barrier how difficult it would be to communicate with them, but since they came with interpreters and after I have been working with them, I have come to find out across the board artillery is artillery. So I think it's just a matter of going from one gun to another," said Staff Sgt. James F. Natiello from Aston, Pa., Section Chief, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4-319th AFAR.

"It's good to know these guys are here and they have experience. It gives us Americans confidence in people here to take care of themselves after we leave," said Natiello.

The Alpha Battery Soldiers are happy to share their experience with their Afghan counterparts.

"We are helping them learn better techniques on handling and loading ammunition, and our safety requirements and the things we do to be safe," said Staff Sgt. Trenton R. Farris from Abilene, Texas, 1st Section Chief for 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4-319th AFAR. "Their motivation and attention to detail is much higher than we anticipated, and their discipline is much better than the ANA I've seen in the past. It gives me more hope for the future as far as them being able to take over in their role as artillery for their country."

Artillery Section Chief, Sgt. 1st Class Wade A. Hunter, from Queens, N.Y., 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4-319th AFAR agrees that the training is important for the Afghans to properly defend their own country.

"As an artilleryman, artillery is the 'King of Battle,' and if these guys are proficient at artillery, and are looking at defending their nation and their citizens, this is something you want to be skilled at, something you want to invest in," said Hunter, "It has been proven that artillery is an effective means of defending yourself from the bad guys."



An Afghanistan National Army artilleryman looks through the sight lenses of the M198 Howitzer while receiving training on its operation from U.S. Army artillerymen from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment Jan. 28 at Forward Operating Base Kalagush in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.



# Commander's Corner

To the Soldiers of Task Force Bayonet and their friends and families,

I have just returned from leave and seen first hand the tremendous support all our families are receiving from our rear detachments and our Army communities. The outstanding support and resolve shown by our loved ones in the rear continues to be a source of inspiration and comfort. The FRGs have demonstrated repeatedly that they are truly there for our families in their times of need. I can honestly say that I can sleep comfortably knowing that our families have the support they need no matter what problems may arise. If someone in your family has a problem that you are not able to address or handle, make sure that the various unit rear detachment commanders get involved. That is why they are there and they really will go the extra mile to help.

Here in Afghanistan, we are now past the 10-month mark; a point where during a normal deployment rotation, we would be planning and packing for re-deployment. However, we still have several months to go and must not lose focus on our task at hand. I know that the strain of the deployment is a major factor leading to frustration. It is imperative that this

frustration not be taken out on anyone except the enemy. All must endure a few months more. We have already hosted our replacement unit on their pre-deployment site survey and they are coming to relieve us well prepared for this complex mission.

The security, development and governance in this region are improving thanks to all your hard work and sacrifice. I know we have made a lasting impact for the Afghan people. We are now paving roads in areas that have never before had them and allowing the provincial and district governments to spread their influence. We are training not only the Afghan Army but the National Police and the Afghan Border Police as well. These are the crucial steps to long-term success in this country and we cannot slow down now. We are all invested in the progress and future hopes of Afghanistan.

Lastly, I would ask that you fight against any rumors about re-deployment timelines. We have as of yet developed neither the redeployment plans nor the timelines. It is still too early. We will not have firm dates until 30 days out as we can't lock in the airflow until we are 30 days out from redeployment. Any discussions about timelines for redeployment are



From the desk of  
**Col. Charles A. Preysler**  
**TF Bayonet Commander**

absolute rumors and completely unfounded. Rumors like these are a waste of time and emotional energy. Please help the Brigade by preventing these rumors to spread. Thank you all, once again, for your outstanding efforts on both the front lines and the home front.

Sky Soldiers,

COL Preysler  
 Bayonet 6

**Tien Bien Times**

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Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman and Paktika Provinces of Afghanistan. Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice. To be added to the Tien Bien Times distribution list, please email: [Jacob.caldwell@us.army.mil](mailto:Jacob.caldwell@us.army.mil). This address can also be used to submit photos or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the 173<sup>rd</sup> ABCT Public Affairs Office by calling DSN 318-831-6028.

# Contact your Voting Assistance Officer today



The upcoming election year is upon us. During the year of 2008 we will decide who will be given the honor of heading our nation for the next four years and the command wants to ensure you have the opportunity to let your voice be heard in the upcoming federal, state, and local elections. Although U.S. citizens are not required to vote, citizens will be afforded the opportunity to participate in all federal, state, and local elections with the help of unit voting assistance officers (VAO). These VAOs are specifically designated by the command to assist you in requesting your absentee ballot by helping you fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), sending in your FPCA to your local election official in order to receive your Absentee Ballot and cast your vote per guidelines set forth by your state or territory. For more information please contact your unit Voting Assistance Officer.

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**Kunar PRT  
CPT David Feldner**

**Mehtar Lam PRT  
MSgt Bernadette Gregory**

## N2KL Governors meet to discuss future



**Col. Charles Preysler, Commander of 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, talks with Governors from Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar, and Laghman Province during a meeting to discuss the future of the region Feb. 3-4 at the Nangarhar governor's compound in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.**

*Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Aird  
173rd ABCT Public Affairs Office*

**NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan** -- Governors from Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar, and Laghman Provinces met with military and police leaders in Jalalabad, Afghanistan Feb. 3-4 at the Nangarhar governor's compound in Jalalabad. The meeting comes at a time when Taliban and foreign fighters are pushing to expand their influence in the country.

"The enemy is coming up with new tactics to disrupt our progress," explained Gul Agha Sherzai, Governor of Nangarhar Province.

Taliban, Al-Qaida and foreign fighters have been trying to undermine Afghanistan and Pakistan government authority in the region.

"In our community security is an important as putting salt in the food," said Col. Mohammad Akram, an Afghan Border Police Commander. Akram is responsible for over 850 km of border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"Eight months ago we started with 800 Soldiers- now we have 1,950 Soldiers," explained Akram.

Akram is working with the governors to figure out the best way to secure the border. The ABP currently deployed on the border are

working to stop illegal activity, and infiltration by foreign fighters.

"We need to block the enemy from entering our country," explained Sherzai.

That is easier said than done in a region where terrain changes from 1,800 ft. to 15,000 ft. above sea level. The border police and the Afghan National Army can't secure the border with just the Soldiers they have.

"We need the support of the people," explained Brig. Gen. Zmry, Commander of Afghan National Army 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps, "We need to educate the children about the importance of the ANA & ABP."

The two-day meeting helped the governors and military discuss long term strategy for each province. Education was a key topic during the discussion.

"Development and security are also two big ones," noted Army Capt. David Adams, from San Antonio, Texas and a member of Task Force Rock. "But at the same time they need to unite the people."

"We can't do this without the people's support," said Zmry, "and we can't get that unless we are here to serve them."

# ANP, PRT continue steady progress in Nuristan



U.S. Navy Commander Samuel J. Paparo, from Philadelphia, Pa., commander of the Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team and Navy Lt. Stanley C. Lam, from Seattle, Wash., a PRT Engineer, listen to the building contractor discuss a new irrigation canal project Jan. 27 in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

Story by Spc. Gregory Argentieri,  
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- The Afghan National Police of Nurgaram District led a large material aid mission with the help of the Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team, and its security force, Jan. 27 in Nuristan Province, Eastern Afghanistan.

The material aid mission was the first of its kind in a long time for the Nuristan PRT and the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment. The U.S. contingent's main mission was to provide security while the ANP distributed goods to the poor Afghan people living in the province.

"This is not a regular mission though it should be," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Marc W. Croteau,

from West Chester, Ohio, in charge of Information Operations for Nuristan PRT. "We have concentrated more on the PRT's projects such as bridges, wells, schools, clinics."

"The way we conducted the mission was everyday business," said Croteau. "The unusual part was the HA distribution, and that was the main focus of the mission."

On Forward Operating Base Kalagush the goods were piled high on two trailers. The distribution consisted of 200 children's winter coats, gloves, and hats, 200 blankets, 200 radios, lots of buckets, boxes of batteries, bags of water bottles, sewing kits, calendars, newspapers, soccer balls, stuffed animals, small Afghan flags and prayer rugs.

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“The mission was important because we wanted to show the local population their government is providing for them,” said Croteau, “As well as letting the ANP show their faces and interact with the villagers.”

“Nuristan is rather rugged and in the past there hasn’t been a government,” said Croteau. “Now were showing the people their government is here, their government is progressing, and their government does care enough to send ANP up here to provide HA and security.”

The Nuristan PRT encompasses a wide variety of different jobs in its efforts to help rebuild the infrastructure of the Afghanistan Province.

In conjunction with the primary HA mission, the PRT conducted three quality assurance-quality control (QA-QC) audits. This day’s inspections included a micro-hydro canal, a school addition, and a vehicle bridge.

“The villagers are constantly making requests, and asking for projects,” said Navy Lt. Stanley C. Lam, from Seattle, Wash., a Nuristan PRT Engineer, “The big challenges are getting funding for the projects, and we’re always working with the locals resolving land issues.”

The multiple-vehicle convoy carrying dozens of Soldiers and ANP pulled into the first village with two trailers of material aid. A crowd of curious children and adults quickly gathered around. Alongside the convoy, out in the fields were some 30 to 35 local citizens at work on the 150 meter micro-hydro canal.

“It was the first time we went out to the micro-hydro project since it started, and it was good to see

them working hard, and making such good progress,” said Lam. “The micro-hydro provides electricity, and when we went out there today a lot of the villagers said they are really happy to be getting electricity, and have already started buying some appliances.”

The next stop was at the school and medical clinic in the village of Lokar.

“The school addition is almost done, so it was good for us to take a look at it,” said Lam. “It was a two room addition.”

While PRT members were busy surveying the new school addition with some local Afghan teachers, the ANP continued their mission distributing goods to the local villagers.

The final stop of the day was at the \$100,000 vehicle bridge project. The vehicle bridge will help create an economic hub for the area.

“The bridge is important for us as well as the two local villages because the only vehicle bridge across that river is down in Alingar, an hour’s travel just to get to the bridge,” said Lam. “The bridge will open up the villages to jingle trucks that can bring in materials, goods, and whatever else the villagers might desire.”

Several Humvees remained high-up on the mountainside because of the rough terrain, but the Soldiers still provided security by securing over-look positions on the ANP and QA-QC missions occurring in the valley below.

“The ANA did a great job especially with it being their first time,” said Croteau. “I think the mission was a great success, and I can’t wait to do it again.”



A Nurgaram District Afghan National Policeman has some fun distributing the last remaining items of material aid during an ANP led mission conducted Jan. 27 in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan. The mission was conducted with the Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team and Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry.

# 66th MPs train Nangarhar Afghan National Police



Spc. Brian Willard, a Florida native in the 66th MP Company based out of Ft. Lewis, Washington, teaches a class Feb. 12 on vehicle searches to Afghan National Policemen in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Brandon Aird  
173rd ABCT Public Affairs*

**NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan** -- Soldiers from 66th Military Police Company, based out of Ft. Lewis, Washington spent 21 days doing a round-robin training cycle to help their fellow policemen in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

Afghan National Police in Shinwar District were taught hasty and full vehicle searches Feb. 12. The class was part of larger training cycle that started Jan. 19 to help refresh and reiterate basic police skills.

The two week ANP police course teaches basic skills, but the 66th MPs are conducting follow-up training

to expand on their initial two week training.

"Most of the stuff were teaching them isn't new- were just breaking it down so it's easier to learn," explained Staff Sgt. Russell Miller, a squad leader from Eugene, Oregon in the 66th MP Company.

The communication barrier is a difficult factor in the training. If the policemen can't understand what is being taught they'll walk away from the training confused, and unsure of their ability as a policeman.

Hands-on, step-by-step instructions, and acting out scenarios ensures each policeman learns the valuable

skills being taught by their American counterparts.

Classes Miller's team taught the Nangarhar ANP included first responder, logistics, basic rifle marksmanship, weapon safety, ethics, IED awareness, applying handcuffs, personnel and building searches, crime scene management, rule of law and combatives.

ANP leaders were also taught how to conduct battle tracking, response measures, patrol debriefs, logistical and personnel systems.

"This is good training," said Nawarullah, an Afghan National Policemen from Shinwar District.

The 66th MP Company



**Continued from previous page**

added a little twist to the training by giving out recognitions for outstanding effort or accomplishments.

“For a little incentive the top shooters got goggles,” said Miller. “We also give out

certificates of achievement each day for outstanding effort. The police love it and try really hard to earn the certificates.”

Nawarullah earned a certificate achievement for his

effort during vehicle searches on Feb. 12.

“I love being a policeman,” explained Nawarullah, who’s been a policeman for 9 months. “I do it for my country.”



Staff Sgt. Russell Miller, a squad leader from Eugene, Oregon assigned to the 66th MP Company, shakes hands with Nawarullah, an Afghan National Policeman, after presenting him a certificate of achievement for his effort Feb. 12 during a vehicles search class in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Brian Willard, a Florida native in the 66th MP Company based out of Ft. Lewis, Washington, teaches a class on hasty and full vehicle searches to Afghan National Policemen in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan Feb 12. Willard spent 21 days training his fellow policemen at the Shinwar District Center.



## Repel Refuelers keep Bayonet moving



Paratroopers from the 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) top off the tank of a fork lift Feb. 8 at the Forward Operating Base Fenty refueling point.

*Story and photo by Sgt. Nathan Bowen  
173rd ABCT Public Affairs*

**KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan** - The village of Matin is nestled on a rocky mountain at the base of Hindu Kush Mountain Range in Eastern Afghanistan. The village and crop fields are shaped by hand-meticulously cut out of the mountain side.

But the people living there are hampered from interacting with surrounding villages because the road leading to Matin washed away in a flash flood nearly six months ago. Villagers must use a cable and a hand crank to cross the 30-foot-wide Pech River on the

valley floor. The Pech River Road, a newly constructed paved road, is on the opposite side of the river.

"The people of Matin are isolated," said Lt. Commander Alan G. Moore, Chief Engineer for the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Kunar Province Governor Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi is working with Kunar PRT to help link Matin with the rest of Kunar Province.

The Unique Builders Construction Company (UBCC) is building a jingle-truck-capable bridge linking Matin with the Pech River Road, said

Moore. The construction is part of the Pech River Road Project - a \$7.5 NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- "If The Fuel Don't Flow, The Army Don't Go" reads a large sign at Forward Operating Base Fenty's fuel point.

On a base that uses between 4,000 to 6,000 gallons of fuel a day just to maintain operations, not including the vehicles and aircraft that require refueling for several missions a day, that statement isn't bragging, it's a fact. Soldiers from Alpha Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, 173rd Brigade Combat

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Team (Airborne) are in charge of operating the fuel point and making sure the tanks never run dry on or off base.

"If we're not supplying the fuel, then this place wouldn't run" said Sgt. Edward Waugh, Fuel Accountability Non-Commissioned Officer. "Every vehicle that comes through here [FOB Fenty] will get fuel through us."

The fuel point receives the bulk of its fuel through Pakistan, with the rest delivered from Bagram and Kabul. At full capacity, the fuel point can hold 210,000 gallons of diesel fuel. A few weeks ago, due to political unrest in Pakistan, gas was running low and the FOB was down to less than 60,000 gallons. When the dust settled and the fuel started flowing again, the fuelers worked overtime testing and downloading fuel to get everything back up to capacity.

Every drop of fuel that comes onto FOB Fenty is tested for quality before it touches a gas tank. Sgt. Kerron Joel, a Heavy Wheeled Vehicle Operator, knows what can happen if dirty fuel slips into the system.

"We're trying to get rid of water that's in the fuel, any foreign objects such as welding rods, plastic, rubber...even Styrofoam cups," said Joel, "We don't want to issue fuel that may cause aircraft to go down due to a clogged fuel line or vehicles to stop operating properly."

Everyday the fuel point in-processes trucks waiting at the FOB's front gate, and spend about half an hour to an hour per truck testing and downloading the fuel. The work may seem repetitive, but the routine has its benefits as well.

"You meet different people everyday," said Sgt. Glory Tataw,



Pfc. Carlos Santiago, Alpha Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), dumps diesel fuel into a waste bin Feb. 8 after testing it at the Forward Operating Base Fenty fuel point in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Fuel Supply Specialist referring to the steady influx of convoys that arrive to fill up before heading out on missions.

Tataw also likes how everyone at the fuel point brings their individual skills together to work as a team. When they are not engaged in a specific task they spend time cross-training each other on their jobs, preparing everyone to take on greater responsibility.

Younger soldiers like Pfc. Carlos Santiago and Pfc. Robert Alvarez, both Petroleum Supply Specialists, benefit from NCO's who not only expect them to be proficient at their jobs, but to also know the jobs of the soldier on their left and right. When the

time came early in the deployment to move the fuel point, they all had input on how the new one would be set up and built to provide the best service.

So far this deployment, the fuel point has supplied over 3 million gallons of fuel to soldiers of Task Force Bayonet and the civilians who support it. They expect to double that number by the end of the deployment, increasing the load when spring begins and missions become more frequent, according to Waugh.

Until August, when the Task Force is expected to re-deploy, they'll keep the fuel flowing so Task Force Bayonet can keep moving.

## Laghman PRT honors fallen comrade with gym opening



**Staff Sgt. Alberto Perez cuts the ribbon to reopen the newly-renovated fitness center remodeled and renamed in honor of Staff Sgt. Charles R. Browning, a 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Soldier who was killed June 1, 2007 by an IED in Laghman, Afghanistan. SSG Browning was responding to an emergency call from the community when the humvee he was riding in ran over the IED killing him instantly and injuring four others. Browning volunteered for a one-year deployment to provide security for the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to help the government of Afghanistan with its security, governance and reconstruction.**

*Story and photos by Air Force Capt. Heather Kekic, Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team*

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The newly renovated fitness center on Forward Operating Base Laghman re-opened Feb. 14 for a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The center was closed for four days while a team of volunteer Airmen completely transformed it so it would serve as a long-lasting tribute to a fallen soldier.

The fitness center was renamed after Staff Sgt. Charles R. Browning, a 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry soldier assigned to provide security for the Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) who was killed by an Improvised-Explosive Device (IED) June 1, 2007 while responding to an emergency call from the local

community.

The PRT Services Team wanted to find an appropriate way to honor SSgt Browning and decided renaming the fitness center would be best because Browning spent many hours in it training for a marathon he planned to run after he returned home from the year-long deployment.

Browning's best friend, who has taken up the marathon training for Browning, was the speaker at the dedication ceremony.

"What should one say about a guy one called your best friend for nearly 20 years?" Army Staff Sgt. Alberto Perez, First Squad Leader, First Platoon, 1-158th Infantry asked the Airmen and Soldiers in attendance, "A guy you

**Continued from previous page**

joined the Army with, a guy who was not only a dear friend but someone who became one of your soldiers, you shared your life with... what do you say?"

Perez said he wanted to take the opportunity to share some words about what kind of a guy Browning was.

"Staff Sgt. Browning didn't have to be here because he had recently returned from a deployment, but he volunteered, he made the decision to once again say goodbye to his wife and two daughters so shortly after returning home," Perez said.

"My father asked Staff Sgt. Browning why he was deploying again and he (Browning) told him, 'Because Perez is going and I have to be there to watch his back,'" Browning said to Perez's father.

"I don't know how many people have had the honor of having a friend like that," Perez said. Perez described Browning as one of the finest infantry Soldiers he has ever known.

There isn't a day that goes by that I do not think about that day, Perez said. "I will never forget the images of that day, the smell, the blood, the cries, the wounded."

"It is a terrible day but I never want to forget the sacrifice, never forget that SSgt Browning gave his life."

"But today is a good day, we honor him with this building he spent many hours in. Knowing him, he'd be a little embarrassed by all this attention, but he deserves it," Perez said.

"Duty, honor, courage, those were not

just words but a way of life for him," Perez said of Browning. "The effort, the hard work that went into this building is a true testimony to Staff Sgt. Browning."

The Air Force Services Team spearheaded the fitness center renovation and has been working toward this dedication ceremony since September 2007.

"We knew we wanted to name the fitness center after Staff Sgt. Browning," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mario Delahoz, Services Superintendent, Laghman PRT.

"We approached General Hyatt (455 AEW Commander) during a past visit about new equipment and flooring needed to improve the fitness center and we were able to make our plans come to fruition with his financial help," said Delahoz.

"It was my pleasure and an honor to work on this building," Delahoz said. "Staff Sgt. Browning was a big inspiration to me, he was a mentor, he took me under his wing and I wanted to say thank you. This fitness center is how I wanted to say thanks."

The renovations included new flooring creating a safer environment, new upholstery for the benches, new equipment, new paint job, two 32-inch televisions and towels to name a few things.

When the ribbon was cut and the fitness center doors were opened to the troops to tour, country music was playing in the background. For those who knew Browning, they knew he loved music and was a big fan of country music.



**Soldiers and Airmen tour the newly renovated fitness center at Forward Operating Base Laghman, Afghanistan. The fitness center was remodeled and renamed in honor of Staff Sgt. Charles R. Browning, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry. Browning was assigned to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and was killed June 1, 2007 when an IED detonated under the vehicle he was riding in killing him instantly and wounding four others.**

# February snap shots



**Kosovars celebrate their independence in the Jalalabad Airfield dining facility in February. Many of the dining facility workers there are from Kosovo.**

**Col. Mark Johnstone, 173rd ABCT Deputy Commander, passes the guidon from Capt. David Rowland to Capt. Jeffrey Pickler during a change of command ceremony conducted in February.**



**A CH-47 helicopter lifts off from Camp Blessing, Afghanistan with a sling load of supplies bound for outlying Task Rock outposts. Soldier from Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry conduct a foot patrol in the foreground.**

**(Right)** A paratrooper from Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry pulls security in the village of Nangalam while Chosen Company leaders conduct a meeting with Namgalam officials.



**(Above)** Members of an Afghan National Army color guard render honors during a transfer of authority ceremony conducted in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

**(Right)** Soldiers from Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry launch mortars at an enemy position near Observation Post Bella in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.



# Task Force Out Front brings Kiowa Warrior into fight



**OH-58 D Kiowa Warriors sit the flightline at Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan, as two more depart for a mission. The helicopter, an observation and light-attack platform, is being used for the first time in the Jalalabad area of operations.**

*Story and photos by Spc. George Welcome,  
101st Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FENTY, Afghanistan – In wars past, the role of a cavalry unit in combat has been to serve as the “eyes and ears” of the division, providing awareness of the terrain and the enemy’s capabilities. Cavalry’s great speed, adaptability and fighting prowess served well for reconnaissance, thwarting enemy attacks and decimating the weakened opposition.

While today’s cavalry troopers have traded horses for tracks, wheels and rotors, their impact on the battlefield remains as pivotal now as it was then. Task Force Out Front from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, is a multifunctional, mixed airframe task force, providing aviation support for the 173rd Airborne Brigade. New to its area of operations is the OH-58 D Kiowa Warrior, a reconnaissance and light attack helicopter. Its use over the skies of Jalalabad and surrounding areas will allow TF Out Front to continue the proud tradition of the cavalry.

“Our mission is to provide full-spectrum aviation support to TF Bayonet in Nuristan, Nangahar, Kunar and Laghman Provinces,” said Army Lt. Col. John Lynch, TF Out Front commander. “Full spectrum means we provide everything from attack helicop-

ters, to Chinooks to move supplies and conduct air assaults, the same with our Black Hawks, and our Kiowas will provide reconnaissance. We also provide maintenance and (Forward Arming and Refueling Point) support as well.”

Initially, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, which is the core of TF Out Front, was slated to deploy to Iraq instead of Afghanistan. It was thought that the single engine Kiowa Warrior would have difficulty operating in Afghanistan’s higher elevation.

“The driving force behind bringing the Kiowa Warrior here was the desire to put an aviation task force headquarters with a squadron commander here in Jalalabad,” said Lynch. “There are certainly challenges present with the Kiowa. We had to look at areas on the map where we could use the Kiowa successfully, and that’s usually in the lower elevations.”

Despite some of the limitations of the Kiowa Warrior, the task force is committed to finding ways to use its assets to making the ground safer for Coalition forces and the people of Afghanistan.

“Kiowa Warriors have never operated up here in the north,” said Army Maj. Jeffrey Bouma, TF Out Front executive officer. “We’ve already done a lot of good work with convoy security, reconnaissance;



we've already found a number of (Improvised Explosive Device) locations and escorted over 50 convoys during security missions. That, along with the CH-47's we have here as well as the Black Hawks and MEDEVAC assets being added, should have a positive impact. I really think we are going to have a chance to get the enemy off his game."

Currently, the most common mission for Kiowa pilots in the task force is convoy security.

"I just flew in a convoy security mission with some added area reconnaissance yesterday," said Bouma. "It was a good mission; we were successful in getting the convoy from its start point to its release point without any IED or small-arms incidents. I talked to Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Milhorn, 173rd Special Troops Battalion commander, and he was appreciative of the coverage the Kiowas provided."

According to Bouma, the Kiowa Warrior is easy to maintain, easy to get airborne and has very low maintenance relative to other airframes in the Army. Once it's up there it can provide effective coverage. But all that would not be possible without support from maintainers who keep the aircraft flying.

"D Troop's mission is aviation maintenance in support of the task force combat operations," said Army Capt. Andrew Herzberg, D Troop commander. "We maintain and repair all four [Mission Design Series]; attack helicopters, cargo helicopters, utility helicopters and observation helicopters. The biggest challenge we have right now is that everyone who was in the troop back in Fort Campbell was an OH-58 D maintainer. We got over here and picked up all the other MDS' and there is a very steep learning curve involved in learning how other aircraft are maintained, because it's completely different than how

Kiowas are maintained. Fortunately, I have a really good crew here who are all motivated and excited to be doing their jobs."

Fuel and ammunition are also important in keeping the helicopters of TF Out Front in the fight.

"The forward-support troop provides organizational and direct support in reference to refueling and supplying ammunition and ground maintenance," said Army Capt. Brian Falcasantos, E Troop commander. "Basically, we are responsible for all the maintenance for non-aviation assets. As we weren't replacing any unit, we've had to develop the systems we needed to make sure we were tracking everything. We get all the non-sexy jobs; refueling, resupplying ammunition and fixing trucks, but without us the task force wouldn't be able to accomplish its mission."

With a long mission in front of them, TF Out Front hopes that in its time in the Jalalabad area, it can not only cause major disruption in enemy activity, but leave its base and area of operations better for the unit that will replace it.

"We want to have the footprint established for the next team, so when they hit the ground they can go right into conducting whatever operations they want to conduct," said Lynch.

"They won't have to waste a lot of time and energy worrying about the infrastructure. They will be able to conduct phase maintenance here because they'll have the proper space and tools, instead of having to send aircraft back to Bagram. Operationally, we want to be flexible enough and adapt over the course of the deployment to pose a challenge to the enemy and make them react in ways they did not want to. If we can do that, we absolutely will help the ground-force commander here to be suc-



**An OH-58 D Kiowa Warrior returns to Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan, after completing an aerial-surveillance mission. The Kiowa Warrior is a new asset to the area, brought into theater by Task Force Out Front from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.**

# FOB Fenty (JAF) Chapel Schedule



## Protestant Services

<i>Prayer-borne Ops</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>0330Z / 0800L</i>
<i>Traditional Protestant (Beginning July 8)</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>0430Z / 0900L</i>
<i>Contemporary Protestant</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>0630Z / 1100L</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>1430Z / 1900L</i>
<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>1400Z / 1830L</i>

Point of contact CH (CPT) Hart at DSN 318-831-2330

## Roman Catholic Services

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>1230Z / 1700L</i>
<i>Weekday Mass</i>	<i>M-Th</i>	<i>0700Z / 1130L</i>
	<i>Sat</i>	<i>1230Z / 1700L</i>
<i>Confession / Reconciliation</i>		<i>Walk-In</i>

Point of contact CH (CPT) Kanai at DSN 318-831-2329

## Latter Day Saints

<i>Worship</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>0800Z / 1230L</i>
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The FOB Fenty Chapel remains open for personal prayer, worship, and meditation for all faith traditions.

For more information, contact Chapel Office at DSN 831-2330 or 831-2329.

*"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up as with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31*

Continued from page 2



**Sgt. 1st Class Wade A. Hunter, Platoon Sergeant for 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment gives instructions on the operation of the sites on the M198 Howitzer to his Afghan National Army artillery counterparts Jan. 28 on Forward Operating Base Kalagush in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.**

“For me this training is pretty exciting. It’s exciting enough training fellow Americans, but to do partnership training with someone from a different nationality, and see how they do business, you feel like you’re making a difference,” said Hunter, “The impact, the camaraderie, being exposed to another culture, and getting a chance to impart your skills and knowledge, it’s hard to explain, but it’s a good feeling.”

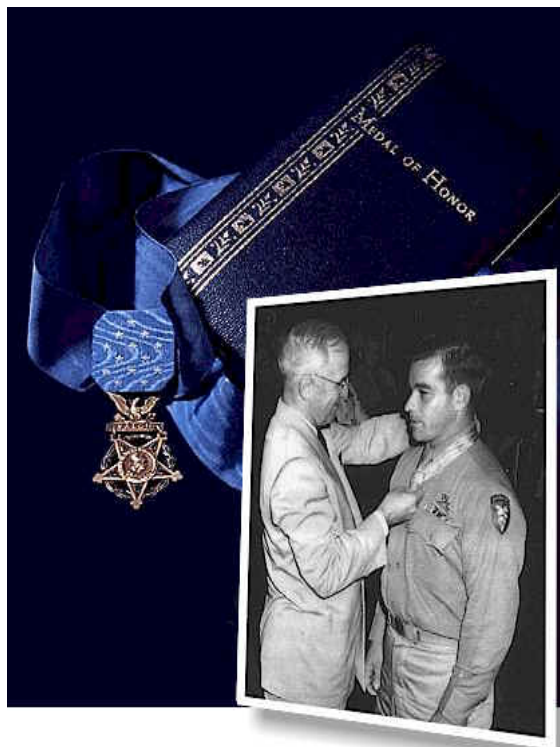
No matter what country you are from, artillerymen share a unique love for their job.

“When we were briefed on this mission, command told us these are our artillery brothers that are coming to train with us. I did not understand what that really meant until these guys got here. Just through this training alone, no matter what nationality you’re from, no matter what your cultural background, artillerymen are pretty much the same,” said Hunter, “The artillery company shows the same kind of attitude when it comes to shooting a round or motivation, their excitement for the mission, it’s just like looking at another American group, and that’s good to see. They do speak a different language but when it comes to body language and attitude, artillerymen are the same.”

“The plan is to have one-on-one training, to impart our knowledge to these guys. For a chief to learn a chiefs job or how he does business you talk to another chief. For a gunner to learn a gunners job the best person to talk to is a gunner, and these guys are hands-on and excited,” said Hunter. “The mission is to get these guys to a point where we all can be on the same sheet of music.”

# Medal of Honor Recipient Pvt. Lloyd G. McCarter

**Pvt. Lloyd G. McCarter, serving with the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions taken on Feb. 16-19, 1945 in Corregidor, Philippine Islands.**



Pvt. Lloyd G. McCarter, serving with the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions taken on Feb. 16-19, 1945 in Corregidor, Philippine Islands.

McCarter was born May 11, 1917 in St. Maries, Idaho. He entered the service from Tacoma, Washington.

McCarter distinguished himself while serving as a scout with the 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment, which seized the fortress of Corregidor, Philippine Islands.

Shortly after the initial parachute assault on Feb. 16, 1945, he crossed 30 yards of open ground under intense enemy fire, and at pointblank range silenced a machinegun with hand grenades.

On the afternoon of Feb. 18 he killed 6 snipers. That evening, when a large force attempted to bypass his company, he voluntarily moved to an exposed area and opened fire. The enemy attacked his position repeatedly throughout the night and was each time repulsed.

By 2 o'clock in the morning, all the men about him had been wounded; but

shouting encouragement to his comrades and defiance at the enemy, he continued to bear the brunt of the attack, fearlessly exposing himself to locate enemy soldiers and then pouring heavy fire on them. He repeatedly crawled back to the American line to secure more ammunition.

When his submachine gun would no longer operate, he seized an automatic rifle and continued to inflict heavy casualties. This weapon, in turn, became too hot to use and, discarding it, he continued with an M-1 rifle.

At dawn the enemy attacked with renewed intensity. Completely exposing himself to hostile fire, he stood erect to locate the most dangerous enemy positions. He was seriously wounded; but, though he had already killed more than 30 of the enemy, he refused to evacuate until he had pointed out immediate objectives for attack.

Through his sustained and outstanding heroism in the face of grave and obvious danger, McCarter made outstanding contributions to the success of his company and to the recapture of Corregidor.