

# FREEDOM WATCH AFGHANISTAN

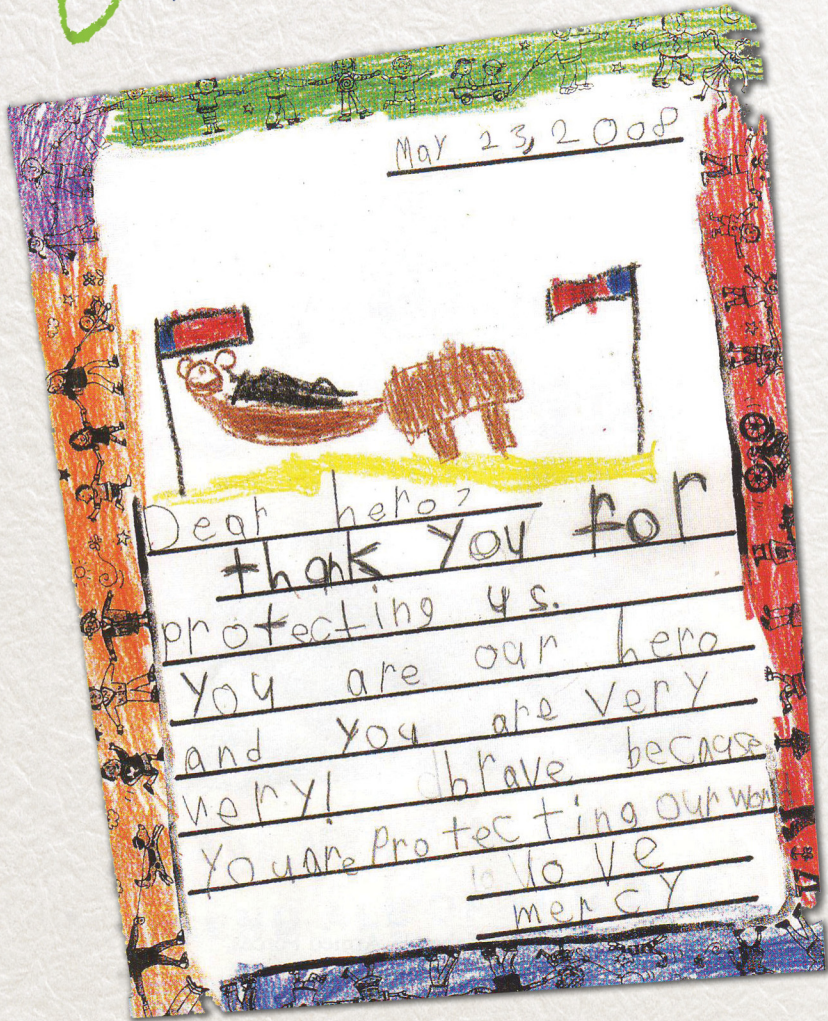
NOVEMBER 2009



## Mountain Warfare

pg. 10

from the kids



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*Cover Photo by Spc. Derek L. Kuhn, 40th PAD*

*Army Sgt. John Lopez, a forward observer for the Scout Platoon of HHT, 1-221 CAV., takes a rest as his platoon moves to support a unit engaged in a conflict.*

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# Building Confidence

## Task Force Cyclone Soldiers train Afghan police officers

Story and Photos by Spc. William E. Henry, 38th Inf. Div. PAO

**S**oldiers attached to Task Force Cyclone with 4th Platoon, Company B, Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, gave an intensive, interactive and hands-on, three day block of instruction to an attentive group of Afghan National Police officers in the Kuh-e Safi district in Parwan province, Afghanistan, Sept. 29 to Oct. 1

The training consisted of traffic control point operations, vehicle and personnel search, and first-aid operations, all culminating with a live training scenario incorporating all three days of instruction.

The intention, according to police trainer Army Sgt. Sam Bieber, an infantry squad leader from Manhattan, Kan., was to transform the ANP into a self-sufficient organization that operates more cohesively with Coalition Forces.

“We’re here to help these people build pride in being an ANP and someone to look up to,” said Bieber. “I want to build confidence in them so their people have confidence in them. Honestly, the ANP

is the first face of security presence that these people will see.”

Even though there are language difficulties and the ANP lacks some supplies, the Soldiers say it hasn’t halted anything during the training process, plus they’re getting to know the men who are willing to learn from them.

“It’s tough sometimes because of the language barrier and the resources of the police officers. You can still train them how to be safe and how to do things that are going to help them and help their people,” said Bieber. “So far I’m impressed how fast they’ve picked everything up.”

“They’re willing to learn so that’s



A Soldier attached to Task Force Cyclone, Army Pfc. Nick Weeks, an infantryman with 4th Platoon, Company B, Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, explains techniques of a traffic control point to Afghan police officers of Kuh-e Safi district during training near Dandar village in Parwan province, Sept. 29.

good,” agreed Army Pfc. Nick Weeks, an infantryman an Indiana native “One of the things we can really learn from this training is a little bit more of the social background of the people. Sometimes when you’re learning it’s a lot easier to get to know the people before you just start jumping into training because it makes things run a lot more smoothly.”

The policemen say they feel the same way about the training.

“We don’t have any problems learning and we like the training. I can take what I learn here and show others. Even if I relocate I can show others on the force,” said 3rd Lt. Abdul Musawer, a three year veteran of the Kuh-e Safi district police force.

“This training is very important, we have to learn from the American Soldiers because we are here to do the same things,” said Musawer.

In the coming months the Soldiers and policemen will continue to work together to prepare the ANP to take on more measures to secure the area in their district.



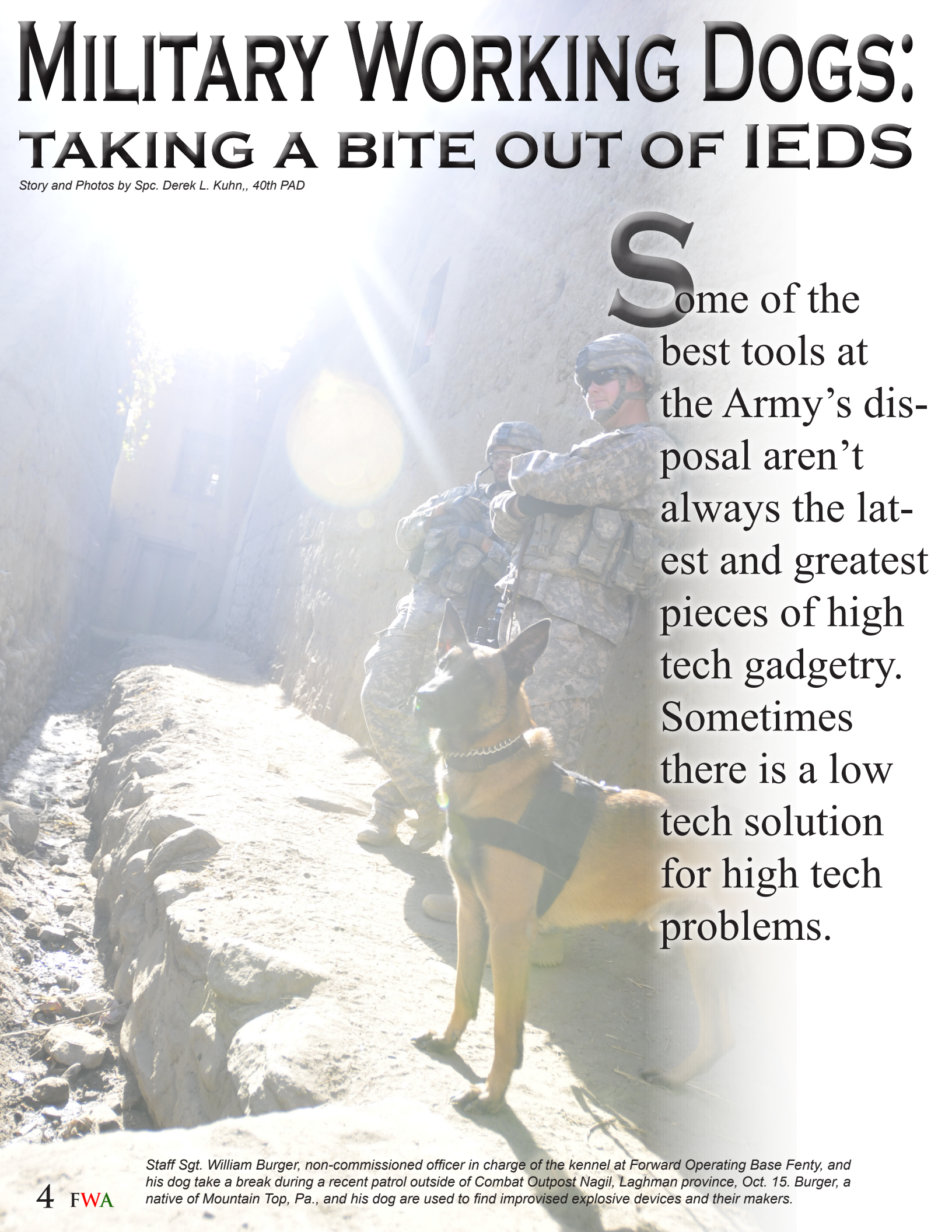
*Akron, Ohio native, Spc. Calixto Alvarado, a medical Soldier attached to Task Force Cyclone, observes Afghanistan National Police officers from the Kuh-e Safi district practice treating chest wound while on duty with 4th Platoon, Company B, Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, in Parwan province, Sept. 30.*



*Kuh-e Safi district policemen have a discussion near Dandar village during a vehicle check point training exercise with Task Force Cyclone Soldiers from 4th Platoon, Company B, Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, in Parwan, Afghanistan, Oct. 1.*

# MILITARY WORKING DOGS: TAKING A BITE OUT OF IEDS

Story and Photos by Spc. Derek L. Kuhn,, 40th PAD



Some of the best tools at the Army's disposal aren't always the latest and greatest pieces of high tech gadgetry. Sometimes there is a low tech solution for high tech problems.

*Staff Sgt. William Burger, non-commissioned officer in charge of the kennel at Forward Operating Base Fenty, and his dog take a break during a recent patrol outside of Combat Outpost Nagil, Laghman province, Oct. 15. Burger, a native of Mountain Top, Pa., and his dog are used to find improvised explosive devices and their makers.*

Staff Sgt. William Burger, non-commissioned officer in charge of the kennel at Forward Operating Base Fenty, and his dog inspect the outside of a building during a patrol outside of Combat Outpost Nagil, Oct. 15. Burger, a Mountain Top, Pa., native, and his dog were searching for signs of Improvised Explosive Device manufacturing.



**Above:** Spc. Brandon Steffey, a canine tracker handler for Forward Operating Base Fenty kennel, watches for people of interest during a recent patrol outside of Combat Outpost Nagil, Laghman province, Oct. 15.

To date, the Army has no technology as effective at discovering ordnance, improvised explosive device components or IED builders than the noses of military working dogs.

Military working dogs work paw in hand with their handlers to help make Afghanistan a safer place for Afghans and Coalition Forces.

In Laghman province, military working dogs are being used to find those that build, place and detonate IEDs.

Army Staff Sgt. William Burger, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the kennel at Forward Operating Base Fenty, said the dogs are very quick and efficient when performing their duties, which include searching houses.

“Having a dog go in (a house) is a lot safer (than sending in Soldiers),” Burger, a native of Mountain Top, Pa., said, “because the dogs don’t stumble onto anything. If they smell something, they will sit and then we’ll get EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) to come check it out.”

Which is good, because if a Soldier was searching and didn’t know an explosive was there he could accidentally set it off, Burger said.

Spc. Brandon Steffey, a combat tracking dog handler for the kennel at FOB Fenty, agrees with Burger and notes other advantages of using military working dogs.

“They move quickly,” the Sault St. Marie, Mich., native said. “The dogs are able to search an area more thoroughly with much more speed and safety than us.”

This allows Soldiers to move more quickly onto their next risky objective.

Though finding IEDs and those who build them can be dangerous, to the military working dogs, their job is fun.

“It’s a game,” Burger said. “To them (the dogs), finding bombs is fun. It is like hide and seek.”

Though the handlers know that being in Afghanistan is not a game, they appreciate having the opportunity to contribute with their special skill set.

“During my last deployment in Iraq, I couldn’t do my job,” Steffey said. “I was a gunner, but here I’m doing my job. I like being able to get the bad guys with my dog.”

Regardless of the mission they are doing, the dog handlers appreciate the risks they and their dogs are taking each day in Afghanistan.

“They are like Soldiers,” Steffey said. “They risk their lives just like us. Their lives are in our hands and that is why we look out for them.”

Such risk requires the dogs and handlers to spend a lot of time training together, so risks are mitigated, Burger said.

“Dealing with a dog, teaching a dog and watching him execute his job is very rewarding,” Steffey said. “I spend a lot of time with my dog and he is my best friend. We are a team.”

Burger shares Steffey’s sentiments and takes pride in his job.

“Dogs save lives,” Burger said. “They are a great asset here and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

By finding IEDs and those that make them, military working dogs in Laghman province are saving lives and proving that some unique Soldiers have fur.

# Back to school

## CIED team donates supplies to Afghan children

Story and Photos by Army Pfc. Melissa Stewart, Task Force Spartan PAO

Air Force Sgt. Michelle Stokes, administrative sergeant for the counter improvised explosive device team out of Forward Operating Base Shank, helped the local children of Logar province start a new school year with new school supplies, Oct 3.

To American children, buying new school supplies is a normal part of their back-to-school routines. For the impoverished children of Logar province, school supplies are hard to come by. "I always try to find a way to give back, whatever it may be," said Stokes. "To

see the little kids' smiling faces was enough for me."

Stokes purchased colored pencils, pens, notebooks, markers, various school supplies, stuffed animals and shoes, with her own money, and had them sent to her. Stokes stuffed backpacks with new supplies for the children, and accompanied by the rest of the CIED team, headed out to the local village of Polerad to distribute them.

Due to cultural dynamics in Afghanistan, girls generally have fewer opportunities to go to school or receive new supplies and clothes.

"I liked seeing the girls actually got something," said Stokes. "That was my whole intention, to get the girls school supplies and

toys."

Humanitarian efforts may not seem to directly affect combat operations; however, it demonstrates to locals that U.S. Forces want to help improve their quality of life.

"It's good to do something that will leave a lasting effect on the children," said Tech Sgt. Brandon Livingstone, explosive ordnance disposal team leader. "Years from now they could say 'I remember when the Americans came through and gave us stuff to help us stay in school.'"

While the current CIED team is preparing to head home, they have laid the foundation for the next group of Soldiers and Airmen to continue to help the locals move toward a better and safer Afghanistan.



Tech. Sgt. Michelle Stokes, counter improvised explosive device team, operating out of Forward Operating Base Shank distributes school supplies to children in the village of Polerad, Logar Province, Oct 3.



Tech. Sgts. Michelle Stokes and Brandon Livingstone, counter improvised explosive device team out of Forward Operating Base Shank, hand out school supplies and toys to children in the village of Polerad in Logar province, Oct 3.

# Sowing the seeds of development

## Nangarhar ADT conducts wheat seed shura

Story by Army Pfc. Beth Raney, Task Force Mountain Warrior PAO

Service Members from the Nangarhar Agri-business Development Team, along with Afghan provincial leaders and agricultural representatives participated in a wheat seed and fertilizer distribution shura at Karzai Hall in the Nangarhar Governor's Compound in Jalalabad, Sept. 27.

The purpose of the shura was to provide district level government officials with information on how the wheat seed and fertilizer will be distributed and to establish the cost of the seed and fertilizer. Those controls are needed to ensure successful and corruption-free distribution throughout Nangarhar.

Upon arrival to Nangarhar province

in early December 2008, the Missouri ADT received requests for improved wheat seed from many people, including Governor Sherzai, agriculture extension representatives and numerous community leaders.

The ADT worked this Commander's Emergency Response Program project for nine months, receiving approval in early September for distribution in October.

The cost for certified improved wheat seed and fertilizer is approximately an 80 percent discount from market prices.

Improved wheat seed can last five to

eight generations or more where standard market seed last one to two generations.

Army Lt. Col. David L. Boyle, and Columbia, Mo. native, commander of the Nangarhar ADT, praised the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for their cooperation and dedication to this project, and better serving the Afghan people.

"GIROA is planning for the future," Boyle said. "GIROA not only is solving today's need, but starting with this distribution, [they are making] the community self sufficient for the future."



Courtesy photo

The attendees of a wheat seed and fertilizer distribution shura listen to the speaker at Karzai Hall in the Governor's Compound in Jalalabad, Sept. 27. The shura was hosted by the Nangarhar Agri-business Development Team.



Courtesy photo

Army Lt. Col. David L. Boyle, of Columbia, Mo., the commander of the Nangarhar Agri-business Development Team, and Dr. Mohammad Alam Ishaqzai, the deputy governor of Nangarhar province, sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the wheat seed and fertilizer distribution during a shura at Karzai Hall in the Governor's Compound in Jalalabad, Sept. 27. Mohammad Hussain Safi, the director of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock for Nangarhar province is seated to the right of the deputy governor.

# TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

## Graduates from Tinsmith vocational program earn a chance for a better future

Story and Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Sarah R. Webb, Ghazni PRT PAO

Graduates of the tinsmith vocational educational program in Ghazni City earned their tools and a chance to better their future.

Thirty disabled beneficiaries, drawn from the National Disabled Association of Ghazni, completed the 90-day training course. The course is funded by the United States Agency for International Development, and implemented through the Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Recreation and Rehabilitation.

The tinsmith vocational training was coordinated by the NDA, Department of Labor and Social Affairs, trade shuras, and other stakeholders.

Mohammad Mosa, amputee and graduate of the course, was referred to the NDA by DoLSA representatives. “The other students felt they couldn’t do anything because they’re disabled,” said Mosa. “It’s good to give them something to do.”

“I’ve been waiting for this kind of future,” says Mosa as he smiles and looks at his new tools. “This is going to be good for the others, to find something for their lives.”

The DoLSA programs are not designed solely for men. There are 12 female NDA members waiting for classes to be created for them.

“The program is trying to put together classes for the women such as computer training and tailoring,” said Mosa. “This

is the first time we’ve done a vocational program geared specifically towards disabled students,” said USAID representative Michael Torreano, Ghazni field program officer and member of Ghazni PRT.

The vocational education is coupled with local apprenticeships to facilitate the training-to-work transition.

“Although the training doesn’t always result in immediate livelihood, we’re still hopeful,” said Torreano. “We’re looking into the possibility of the graduates being able to open their own shops with our assistance. This will give them the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families.”

USAID is an independent U.S. federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID supports long-term and equitable economic growth while advancing U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting economic growth, agriculture and trade, global health and, democracy, conflict prevention, and humanitarian assistance.

Ghazni PRT works with USAID and the Department of State to create and advance educational and vocational training programs, government legitimacy, economic growth, and development.



*Cmdr. Wilson Marks, commanding officer, Ghazni PRT, presents a graduate from the tinsmith vocational and educational training program with his set of tools. The course was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development and coordinated by the National Disabled Association and the Department of Labor and Social Affairs.*

# Embracing the arts

## Nangarhar officials working for a brighter Afghanistan

Story and Photo by Army Spc. Eugene H. Cushing, Task Force Mountain Warrior PAO

Soldiers and Airmen from the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team met with the Nangarhar Information, Media and Culture Technical Working Group, Sept. 15, in Jalalabad.

Technical Working Group, or TWG, meetings give Afghan government officials and experts in different fields an opportunity to discuss challenges they are facing and ways to solve them.

According to Air Force Capt. Melissa J. Milner, the Nangarhar PRT information operations officer, the PRT takes an advisory role at the meetings.

“The meetings give these subject-matter experts an opportunity to sit down and discuss how they can help each other solve the problems that they are facing,” Milner said. “It allows them to understand their own capacity to affect change, and then we can offer help only if it is really needed.”

According to Milner, the TWGs were designed as a part of the Afghanistan

National Development Strategy, and are tasked with improving informational, media, and cultural programs by the government.

The groups meet to prioritize projects and programming that is important to the region before the group’s director meets with the provincial governor.

Awrang Sameem, information and cultural director for the group, spoke about several ideas in the meeting, including book and poetry festivals, youth programs, and journalist and novelist symposiums and training opportunities.

“We will not regain what we’ve lost in the 30 years of war we’ve seen,” Sameem said. “But if we work really hard for the bright future of Afghanistan, we will see progress.”

Sameem stressed to the attendees that having the PRT at the meeting was not a chance to ask for financial assistance, but an opportunity to discuss ways everyone can work together to preserve the

culture and traditions of Afghanistan, develop a responsible media, and provide a strong program to educate the youth of the country.

Air Force Lt. Col. Joy Mann, of Dover, Del., commander of the Nangarhar PRT, said the goal of the TWGs is to make development a local process, starting at the base of the Afghan government and moving up.

“We’re trying to legitimize the Afghan government and bring the people in closer to their elected officials,” Mann said.

Although the PRT was just there to advise, Sameem was pleased to have them at the meeting and expressed how much the Afghan people appreciate the work they are doing.

“Afghanistan has been destroyed over the last 30 years,” he said. “There is still a lot to be done, but the progress over the last few years is awesome. The PRT is doing well. They are doing a good job. We like them.”



A young Afghan studies English at the Lincoln Center in Jalalabad, a large city in Afghanistan’s Nangarhar province, Sept. 15. The center is managed by the Information and Culture Director for Nangarhar Province.

# Working for the future:

## Kunar provincial government building economic growth through agri-business

Story by Air Force Capt. Tony Wickman, Kunar PRT PAO

Farmers planted seeds of a better tomorrow in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province with help from the provincial government, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team, Oct. 1.

According to the Kunar provincial agricultural director Mohasal Khan, the provincial government is working hard to improve the quality and quantity of the agricultural production in the province.

"We grew 48,000 metric tons of wheat last year. This year, with more rain and improved seeds, better chemical fertilizers and insecticides, we grew 75,490 metric tons, a 92 percent increase," Khan said. "But, that is still not enough to feed all the people of Kunar province. We need to increase from two metric tons per hectare to four metric tons. Also,

when we get more crops we will need to find markets for those products."

The provincial government is working with the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in Kabul to align with the Afghan government's five-year development plan for natural resource management, agricultural productivity and irrigation.

"Natural resource management is the most important, and irrigation affects all other programs," Khan said. "We're helping farmers to get loans to buy better equipment, needed fertilizers and pesticides. Also, we're using agricultural associations to teach farmers how to irrigate and plant to improve productivity. We teach things like how far apart plants should be planted, proper weeding and how to apply the fertilizer."

While there is much success in get-

ting more production from provincial farmers, many challenges remain. One challenge is changing the perception of security in the province to get more help from non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations.

Khan said the provincial government is having trouble getting agricultural NGOs in Jalalabad to come to Kunar Province because of the perceived security situation.

"The Food and Agriculture Organization planned to give us improved wheat seed, but they said they will not come because Kunar is too dangerous for them. That is not the case, but we cannot get them to come," he said.

"(USAID's Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives- North, East, West) is giving improved seed to Nurgal, Chowkay, Khas Kunar and Narang districts and

*Army Sgt. Steven Branson, Kunar PRT security forces section leader, from Camp Wright in Asadabad, surveys the local farmers market Sept. 30. PRT members performed a presence patrol by walking the main downtown street talking to local vendors. Branson is a native of Las Vegas, and is a member of the 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment, Nevada National Guard based in Las Vegas.*



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert, Kunar PRT PAO

we do not have any security problems with these projects,” Khan said. “That is an example of security in Kunar.”

Producing and harvesting a healthy crop is only the beginning of the process for the farmers in Kunar. The crops do them no good unless they are delivered fresh to the markets for consumers to purchase them.

Transporting their product from the fields to the market before it spoils is also a significant challenge for the farmers, said Khan. This limits the provincial government’s ability to distribute aid to farmers who do not have ready, reliable access to markets.

“Electricity is a big problem,” Khan said. “We are a (subsistence culture) because we do not have a way to store our fruits and vegetables. With electricity, we can build the three cold storage facilities we have planned. That will help our farmers because they would be able to grow and store their fruits and vegetables.”

While electricity seems like a simple answer, it bears significant challenges.

“Electricity takes a lot of time and cannot be done in a year. It takes a lot of time to build the infrastructure to have electricity,” said Army 1st Lt. Benjamin Millard, Kunar PRT Civil Affairs officer from Pocatello, Idaho. “You can give everyone a generator, but where do they



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert, Kunar PRT PAO

Army Sgt. Steven Branson, Kunar PRT security forces section leader, from Camp Wright in Asadabad, talks to some Afghan children who came to see what the patrol was doing in the neighborhood, Sept. 30. PRT members performed a presence patrol by walking the main downtown street talking to local vendors and residents. Branson is a native of Las Vegas, and is a member of the 1st Squadron 221st Cavalry Regiment, Nevada National Guard based in Las Vegas.

get the fuel? You have to find alternative solutions for this problem now. You need to build capacity at the same time you build your capability.”

Khan said they are looking at new technologies and procedures to help solve the problem.

International Security Assistance Forces are continuing to work with the

provincial agricultural director to help him better coordinate his efforts with the local government and other development agencies.

In a meeting, Sept. 30, Millard and Army Sgt. Stewart Yates, Kunar PRT Civil Affairs team sergeant and native of Salt Lake City, Utah, spoke with Khan about the relationship between the provincial agricultural directorate and the district governments and development agencies.

Khan also said he is looking forward to the new agricultural development team, which will soon arrive, so his office can continue to build success in the province.

The 40th Infantry Division ADT from the California Army National Guard, is scheduled to arrive in October to begin work with the provisional and district governments to spur economic growth via agribusiness.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert, Kunar PRT PAO

An Afghan father and his child walk down the street from the local farmers market in Asadabad district, Kunar province, Sept. 30. Kunar PRT security forces, from Camp Wright in Asadabad, performed a presence patrol by walking the street talking to local vendors.

# BLOOD BROTHERS:

## MPS TRAIN ANP



*Army Pfc. Sylvia Lopez, a medic assigned to the Police Mentor Team, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, demonstrates how to apply a tourniquet during training at the Afghan National Police station overlooking the village of Baraki Rajan, Kunar province, Afghanistan, Oct. 1. The Los Angeles native instructed the ANP on basic first-aid techniques.*

*Story and Photo by Spc. Matthew Thompson, 5th MPAD*

“STOP THE BRIGHT-RED BLEEDING,” INSTRUCTED A SOLDIER FROM HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3RD BRIGADE SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION.

Placing a tourniquet around an Afghan National Police officer’s upper arm, the Soldier from HHC’s Police Mentor Team, 3rd BSTB, was able to quickly stop the bleeding.

The officer’s life was not in danger though; this was a part of the first-aid training the ANP at Baraki Rajan received, Oct. 1.

“My main focus was to control bleeding, stop the bleeding and other basic first-aid techniques,” said Army Pfc. Sylvia Lopez, a medic with the unit.

For Lopez, this was the first time she had trained with the Afghans, and her initial concerns were quickly erased when she

noticed their proficiency.

“I expected to walk them through each step and actually show them what I’m talking about,” the Los Angeles native added. “They surprised me with how knowledgeable they were.”

The lesson progressed from the simple self-aid to buddy-aid as the ANP learned how to splint broken bones and to transport a casualty.

According to Spc. Elijah Rodriguez, a military police officer with HHC, 3rd BSTB, the PMT’s main role is to train

the ANP on police tactics, administrative maintenance and accountability of themselves and their equipment.

“We have to help teach them to be cops,” said Rodriguez. “We’re training them to be police, but at the same time we’re also training them to be Soldiers.”

Rodriguez like other Soldiers relies on past experiences to enhance the training he and his team give to the ANP.

“They need this help, because they are in a combat environment and they are also trying to protect themselves,” said Rodriguez.

According to Spc. Desmond Vaughn, a military police officer with HHC, 3rd BSTB, the Afghan’s mentality when it comes to training is no different than a new Soldier.

“We have to go over the training every other day so they can grasp it,” Vaughn said. “We’re continually going over explanation, demonstration and practice phases for training.”

As with most training missions conducted by the Army, these Soldiers push the Afghans to take the reins and run their country.

“Further and further we’re going to try to back off,” Vaughn added. “The whole purpose for our training is for them to be able to do their job by themselves.”

While at the ANP station on top of the



*An ANP officer applies a tourniquet to a Soldier while an interpreter relays instructions from the medic during a demonstration on basic first-aid techniques at the police checkpoint overlooking Baraki Rajan village in Kunar province, Oct. 1.*

hill overlooking Baraki Rajan, the PMT also helped with inventorying equipment, updating the roster of available ANP officers and ensuring the officers were registered in the Army’s database.

“I think now they’re beginning to see that we’re trying to build a foundation for them,” said Army 2nd Lt. Gregory Avant, the PMT platoon leader. “It’s a slow process, but it is going to change.”



*An ANP officer demonstrates his knowledge of how to apply a tourniquet on his partner during training provided by the Police Mentor Team, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, training at the police station overlooking the village of Baraki Rajan, Kunar province, Oct. 1. The ANP officers also learned and demonstrated how to apply a bandage and splint broken limbs.*

# TRAILBLAZERS

## SOLDIERS COMB ROADS FOR IEDs

*Story and Photos by Spc. Derek L. Kuhn, 40th PAD*

**S**LOWLY, THE CONVOY TRAVERSES THE STEEP MOUNTAIN PASS. TO THE LEFT, THERE IS A GRANITE SPIKE STABBING UP AT THE SKY. TO THE RIGHT, A CHASM SO DEEP THAT LOOKING OVER IT IS ENOUGH TO GIVE MOST PEOPLE VERTIGO.







**Left:** Service Members discuss their course of action after finishing with a suspected Improvised Explosive Device in Logar province, Sep. 13. The RCP clears roads so operational movement is not impeded.

**Right:** Army Sgt. Frank Iannaccone, inspects his Husky vehicle during a route clearance patrol in Logar Province, Sep. 13. Iannaccone helps find potential improvised explosive devices while on patrol.

**Bottom:** An Improvised Explosive Device is detonated during a route clearance operation in Logar province, Afghanistan, Sep. 15. Route Clearance Platoons ensure roads remain unobstructed, so operational movement is not affected.



“(The items) are very difficult to find,” said Bailey. “You really have to look for the stuff,” the Dallas native said, “because they like to cover them (the items) in mud and hide them in corn fields.”

Regardless of the pace and danger inherent with their job, this RCP is one of the most successful units in Afghanistan.

According to Bailey, as of Sep. 15, he and his teammates have recovered 48 IEDs, with only eight detonations resulting.

“We take great pride in our number of safe recoveries,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Garrett, a Milltown, Ind., native and the platoon sergeant for the RCP, 3rd BSTB, 10th Mtn. Div. “Each recovery is one less IED detonating on Soldiers.”

The gravity of their job and the greater impact it has on those who follow in their paths is not lost on these service members.

“It’s long and tough,” said Iannaccone, “but there is a lot of satisfaction knowing that I could have saved someone’s life.”

# Eye in the sky: UAV ideal for Afghanistan



*Army Staff Sgt. Tyrone Baird, master trainer for 1-221 CAV. and a Pahrump, Nev., native, assembles the Raven unmanned aerial vehicle at Combat Outpost Nagil, Laghman province, Oct. 13.*

*Story and Photos by Spc. Derek L. Kuhn., 40th PAD*

In Norse mythology, the all-father, Odin was a warrior-god whom ancient warriors beseeched for victory and protection in battle.

It was said Odin had ravens that would fly over the earth each day. The ravens brought tidings of events from all corners of the earth.

Today, Soldiers in Laghman province are also using Ravens to gather information like Odin. Though these Ravens in essence do the same tasks as Odin's informants; they aren't even birds. They are unmanned aerial vehicles.





*Army Staff Sgt. Tyrone Baird, master trainer for 1-221 CAV. and Spc. Mitchell Matney, a Raven operator for HHT, 1-221 CAV., track a Raven unmanned aerial vehicle in flight at Combat Outpost Nagil, Laghman province, Oct. 13.*



*Spc. Mitchell Matney, a Raven operator for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-221 CAV., performs a preventative maintenance checks and services to a Raven unmanned aerial vehicle at Combat Outpost Nagil, Laghman province, Oct. 13.*

The Raven is a portable UAV that provides Soldiers a live video feed in day or night. They also have tracking and still image capabilities.

“If we need to get eyes on something we’ll use the Raven,” said Army Staff Sgt. Tyrone Baird, the master trainer for 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment. “The Raven has a couple of cameras--the first is the normal day camera, but when it gets dark we switch to the thermal camera.”

Baird said the Raven also has Global Positioning Satellite tracking capabilities.

Such tools make the Raven a valuable asset in gathering information, Baird said.

Spc. Mitchell Matney, a Raven operator for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-221 CAV., agrees with Baird’s assertion and explains the Raven’s usefulness.

“The Raven allows us to gather intelligence,” said Matney. “We can track targets, gather intel and scout ahead with it (the Raven).”

The Raven is renowned for its small size which allows Soldiers to carry it into the field without encumbering its

bearers.

According to Matney, the total system weighs about 40 lbs. with the UAV proper weighing about 4 lbs.

“It’s modular,” the Las Vegas native said. “You can distribute the system throughout the squad which minimizes the amount of weight each ‘Joe has to carry.’”

Such modularity makes the Raven ideally suited for Afghanistan’s more rugged areas, Baird said.

“If there are Taliban up in the mountains, we can use the Raven to fly ahead to determine where they are (hiding),”

“The Raven allows us to see where Taliban are suspected to be instead of sending guys up the mountain only to find nothing and be exhausted (from hiking in full gear).”

--Army Staff Sgt. Tyrone Baird, master trainer for 1-221 CAV

the Pahrump, Nev., native said. “It really helps out because our guys have a lot of gear on. The Raven allows us to see where Taliban are suspected to be instead of sending guys up the mountain only to find nothing and be exhausted (from hiking in full gear).”

Another advantage of the Raven’s diminutive size is its stealth capabilities.

The Raven is pretty small, doesn’t make much noise and its coloring make it difficult to find in flight, Baird said.

“It sounds like a loud pair of (hair) clippers,” Baird said. “When it is up in the air, it is hard even for us (the operators) to see,” he said.

Getting the drop on enemies helps save lives, Matney said.

Baird agrees and has even witnessed first-hand the Ravens capability to save lives.

“The last time I was in Iraq,” Baird said, “My FOB (Forward Operating Base) was receiving mortar fire and we sent the Raven out to find their position. The Raven found where they were. We sent out some guys. They ended capturing twelve guys and stopping them from hurting anyone.”

Being such an important tool for Soldiers in Afghanistan, the Raven still maintains a hobbyist-type enthusiasm from its operators.

“The Raven is really fun to operate,” said Matney. “Flying it is kind of like playing a video game.”

Baird agrees and takes pride in making an impact while enjoying the simplicity of the Raven.

“It is definitely fun to fly,” said Baird, “but the more important thing is knowing that I am contributing many different ways with the Raven. I am proud to be able to serve my country.”

With its small size, light weight and advanced technology, the Raven is proving to be a valuable asset in the fight to secure freedom and prosperity for Afghanistan, one unassuming sloop at a time.



*Above: Spc. Mitchell Matney, a Raven operator for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-221 CAV., and a Las Vegas native, launches a Raven unmanned aerial vehicle at Combat Outpost Nagil, Laghman province, Oct. 13. The Raven is able to provide real time video feeds once in the air.*



*Left: Army Staff Sgt. Tyrone Baird, master trainer for 1-221 CAV. and Spc. Mitchell Matney, a Raven operator for HHT, 1-221 CAV., assemble a Raven unmanned aerial vehicle at Combat Outpost Nagil, Laghman province, Oct. 13.*

# Show of force:

## 1-221 Troops stay flexible securing Laghman province

Story and Photos by Spc. Derek L. Kuhn., 40th PAD



*Army Sgt. John Lopez, a forward observer for the Scout Platoon of HHT, 1-221 CAV., alerts other members of his platoon to the bomb an Air Force A-10 Warthog dropped. Lopez, a Riverside, Calif., native and his platoon provided extra security in a recent fire fight.*

**I**t's 1:30 p.m. and the sun is high in the sky. Its rays beat down on the Soldiers of the Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment as they march toward their objective.

Laghman province, Afghanistan seems to have forgotten autumn. The heat makes the day seem more like early August, not mid-October. But the Soldiers, known collectively as the "Hustlers," press on knowing they are needed.

The day began with a simple objective: meet with local village elders to see how they are doing and if they need help with anything from security issues to possible provincial reconstruction team projects. But, things change and events force the Hustlers to abandon any notion of a peaceful presence patrol. Such is the life of a Soldier.

Another unit operating out of Combat Outpost Nagil has

been ambushed and needs assistance. The Hustlers, after receiving guidance from their leadership, head back to COP Nagil. However, they weren't abandoning their comrades.

"The area is too rugged for our vehicles to get out there (to the conflict)," said Army Sgt. John Lopez, a forward observer for the Hustlers. "We knew they needed help, so we went on foot."

The terrain was rough and uneven and only got worse as they continued onward. The small hills eventually turned into sizeable challenges for the Soldiers as they moved with alacrity toward their eventual position.

“It was rough,” Lopez, a native of Riverside, Calif., said. “I would call them mini-mountains.”

Army Sgt. John Stone, a squad leader for the Hustlers, also said the trek was tough.

“It was a smoker,” said the Lincoln, Neb., native. “I’m pretty sure everyone was hurting, but we had a job to do and they (the engaged unit) needed us.”

According to Stone, the Hustler’s new mission was to provide a safety net and prevent any hostiles from escaping, while aerial reinforcements engaged enemy forces.

Because of their position, Hustler was afforded a great show of coordination and force.

First came the mortars from COP Nagil which slammed into the mountainside. A few minutes later, an Air Force A-10 Warthog dropped a few bombs which echoed off the mountain side. Finally, Kiowa helicopters arrived and loosed a few missiles forcing the enemies to retreat.

**Right:** Army Sgt. John Stone, a squad leader for the Scout Platoon of HHT,1-221 CAV., crosses a bridge, as he and other members of his platoon move toward an engaged unit.

**Below:** Army Sgt. John Stone, a squad leader for the Scout Platoon of HHT,1-221 CAV., looks at the next ridgeline he and the other members of his platoon are moving toward.



“It was great,” said Lopez. “They (the aerial reinforcements) made sure our guys were safe.”

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“The area is too rugged for our vehicles to get out there. We knew they needed help, so we went on foot.”

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--Army Sgt. John Lopez, a forward observer for Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment

“They (the aerial reinforcements in the area) are always willing to help out,” said Stone, “and they do a great job. The coordination between all of us helped to ensure the bad guys were neutralized.”

After the Kiowas cleared the area, the Hustlers moved toward the formerly engaged unit.

“We wanted to make sure they were ok,” said Stone. “We wanted them to know that we were there for them.”

Stone said no Coalition Forces were hurt which made for a good day at COP Nagil.

“Life can be hard here,” said Stone, “but this is what we do. If we can neutralize the enemy and no one gets hurt, then it’s a good day.”

But Lopez put it more simply.

“Chalk one up for the good guys,” he said.



# FRENCH TROOPERS TRANSFER BATTLE-SPACE

Story by Spc. William E. Henry, Task Force Cyclone PAO

A TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY AND ACTIVATION CEREMONY WAS HELD AT FORWARD OPERATING BASE MORALES-FRAZIER IN KAPISA PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN, NOV. 2.

TASK FORCE KORRIGAN, COMMANDED BY COL. FRANCIS CHANSON, RELINQUISHED ITS COMMAND TO TASK FORCE LAFAYETTE, COMMANDED BY BRIG. GEN. MARCEL DRUART, WHO WILL TAKE FULL CONTROL OF KAPISA PROVINCE DURING THEIR TIME IN THE BATTLE-SPACE.



*During a transfer of authority and unit activation ceremony, French division general, Maj. Gen. Jacques LeChevallier hands over the unit pennant to Brig. Gen. Marcel Druart, commander of Task Force Lafayette who assumed command at forward operating base Morales-Frazier, Kapisa province, Afghanistan, Nov. 2. The ceremony transferred the Task Force Lafayette.*

Photo by Army Lt. Col. Mike Brady, Task Force Cyclone PAO

*French troops salute during a transfer of authority and unit activation ceremony at forward operating base Morales-Frazier, Kapisa province, Afghanistan, Nov. 2.*



*Photo by Army Lt. Col. Mike Brady, Task Force Cyclone PAO*

Many distinguished guests spoke at the ceremony including Task Force Cyclone commander, Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver, relinquishing commander of the task force's area of operations in Kapisa province, Regional Command - East deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Kurt Fuller and French division commander, Maj. Gen. Jacques LeChevallier.

Also in attendance to witness the handover of Kapisa province to Task Force Lafayette were Kapisa governor, Ghulam Abu-Baker, French ambassador to Afghanistan, Jean de Ponton d'Amecourt and ranking area Afghan National Army and Police officials.

Culver spoke of Col. Francis Chanson's leadership during his time as commander of Task Force Korrigan and the great job the task force had done during their term in country by increasing Kapisa's development projects.

"As a Battalion, you have done great things here and you should all be proud of these accomplishments," said Culver.

During his speech, Culver also acknowledged the sacrifices of Korrigan's six fallen Service Members.

"They made the ultimate sacrifice while doing what they knew was right in a cause they knew was just. They were volunteers, in a cause greater than oneself, and they will not be forgotten" said Culver.

Fuller talked about the bond Americans and Frenchmen

share and the history of their coalition.

"The special affinity that the United States and France share is no secret. America is the land of liberty, because France took a chance on a fledging nation and became the crucial ally needed to help free a people from tyranny," said Fuller. "Through the courage of French heroes like General Lafayette and Admiral de Grasse, our nation was born."

LeChevallier spoke of the history of Gen. Lafayette over 200 years ago, of the recent fallen French heroes, and a broader future ahead after the many years of war the people have endured in Afghanistan.

"Because the insurgents want to spread chaos and darkness in Afghanistan, you, together with your Afghan comrades will have to restore confidence and allow the people of Afghanistan to live in a safe environment after thirty years of war, and set the condition for the Afghans to stand in the lights," said LeChevallier.

The mission of Task Force Lafayette will be continuing to aid in the security of Kapisa province by working with the Afghan National Army and Police forces to contribute to peace in the region against insurgency. The task force will continue to participate in the improvement of living conditions and conducting local support and development projects for the citizens of Kapisa province.

# AFRIMS Retrovirology

## Clinical Lab

# MILITARY MIGHT:

## Army uncovers successful results for AIDS vaccine

Story by Army Pfc. Cody A. Thompson, 40th PAD

Courtesy photo

The fight against one of the deadliest viruses known may have met its match against the United States Army. The Army in conjunction with the Thai Ministry of Public Health, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, the National Institutes of Health, Sanofi Pasteur and Global Solutions for Infectious Diseases have uncovered successful results for an AIDS vaccination.

Army Lt. Col. Robert Paris, preventive medicine physician for Combined Joint Task Force-82, was the chief of retrovirology at Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Thailand, and had overall responsibility of the Army's HIV vaccine research program. This involved testing candidates in all HIV vaccine phases and preparing, designing, coordinating and analyzing of the study.

Paris specifically studied the effects of HIV vaccines on the natural history of HIV infection among people who become HIV-infected after vaccination. He also examined genetic factors associated with immune responses.

The Army and partners trial-tested a combination of ALVAC HIV vaccine, a candidate vaccination for HIV, and AIDSVAX B/E vaccine, another candidate vaccination for HIV, which lowered the rate of HIV infection by 31.2 percent.

"We are trying to fully understand these results," said the Phoenix native. "We're looking at the mechanics to find out why it was successful. There will be many variations of the

vaccinations created and there will be reproductions of this study in a higher population."

The research began in 1995 when the Thai National Army approached the U.S. to establish a world program to monitor HIV. Typically, depending on the technology available, it takes two to four months for the AIDS virus to appear after contracting HIV.

"The Thai government was very proactive in finding an AIDS vaccine," said Paris. "In terms of a vaccine it had a modest effect, but gave us hopeful results. A lot of people didn't think it was possible to find a cure for AIDS because it's a mutating virus and (the most variety) out of any known virus."

Even though the AIDS vaccine has the potential to save millions of people, this isn't the first time the Department of Defense has helped create a vaccine that has world-wide implications.

"More than half of the licensed vaccines in the United States have been developed or researched through the Army," said

Paris. “More recently the DOD has developed malaria vaccines at the Vaccine Army Institute of Research in Africa. Other notable past cures have included vaccines for yellow fever, Adenovirus, and Hepatitis A and B and Japanese Syphilis.”

From past cures to future vaccination research, the DOD is putting forth an effort to effectively combat viruses that could be devastating for mission success.

“The DOD is about to start a program to combat the Dengue virus (a tropical viral infection found in Africa),” said Paris. “Wherever there is a threat that would have significant mission impact if spread, the DOD will be there to fight it.”

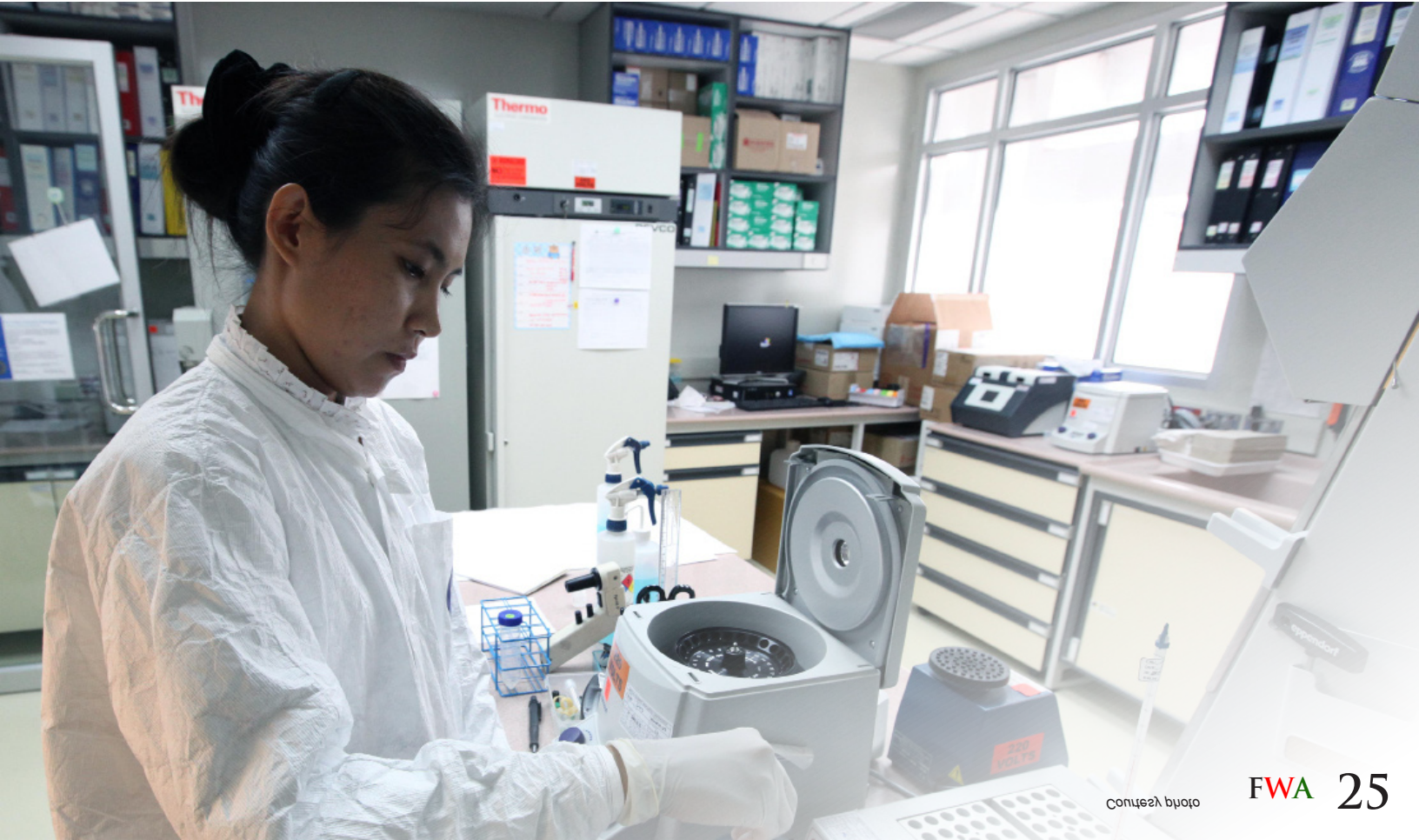
As the fight against viruses rages from Thailand to the subtropics of Africa, the Army is working with researchers worldwide to combat that which may seem impossible to defeat.

“This AIDS vaccine brings much needed hope to this field,” said Paris. “The research has been fraught with frustration and the field has suffered in terms of optimism. The DOD brings a wealth of experience in areas of limited research. Hopefully, this data is beginning to light the road that will take us to stronger vaccines.”



Courtesy photo

*The Army, in conjunction with the Thai Ministry of Public Health, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, the National Institutes of Health, Sanofi Pasteur and Global Solutions for Infectious Diseases, have uncovered successful results for an AIDS vaccination. The study was conducted at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Thailand.*



Courtesy photo

# Photos

*from the Field*



*Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Moeller, 5th MPAD*

*Spc. Trey Sites, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, slogs through a stream running through the Korengal Valley floor in Afghanistan's Kunar province, Sept. 26.*



*Army Staff Sgt. Justin Greenwood, 405th Civil Affairs Battalion, stops along the side of the road while on patrol in Kunar province, Afghanistan, Oct. 2. Greenwood was in the Dangaleek village with 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Soldiers to discuss the future needs and wants of the village elders.*

*Photo by Army Sgt. Jennifer Cohen, 55th Signal Company*



*Photo by Spc. Matthew McKinny, Task Force Cyclone, 38th Infantry Division*

*Army Lt. Col. Jeff Cantor, Civil Affairs team chief, 353rd Civil Affairs Command, shakes the hand of an Afghan boy outside Bagram Air Field, Sep. 25. Cantor was assisting the Kentucky National Guard Agri-business Development Team with conducting a quality control inspection of a local vineyard.*



*At the mass reenlistment ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, commander of Combined Joint Task Force 82nd, where he administered the oath of reenlistment to over 100 RC East Service Members*

*Photo by Spc. Ryan V. Rodney, 25th Signal Battalion*

# Photos *from the Field*



*Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Moeller, 5th MPAD*

*Soldiers with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, patrol the volatile Korengal Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar province, Sept. 29. Since arriving to the valley in June, the 4th Infantry Division Soldiers have been assisting Afghan government and security forces in humanitarian, reconstruction and security efforts.*



*Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Billy Vincent, Kentucky ADT*

*Army 1st Lt. James Lehman, Kentucky Agri-business Development Team, offers his hand to a local child while on security during an agricultural assessment near Janquadam, Parwan province, on Sep. 25. Lehman and the other members of the ADT assessed several vineyards as a part of their effort to help Afghans increase their raisin yields.*



*Army Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Moyer, Kentucky Agri-business Development Team, greets a local child while providing security for his team, Oct. 6. Moyer listens to the young Afghan express his plans for the future of his country. The Kentucky ADT meets with Afghan officials to develop programs that meet strategic goals for improving Afghanistan's agricultural needs.*

*Photo by Army Maj. John Holmes Jr., Kentucky ADT*



*Photo by Army Sgt. Jennifer Cohen, 55th Signal Company*

Army Staff Sgt. Justin McDaniel, left, stares into the screen on his controller while flying the Puma AE unmanned aerial vehicle while Spc. Christopher Pelkey, right, tracks the UAV on a computer at Forward Operating Base Blessing, Oct. 3. Both Soldiers, members of Headquarter's and Headquarter's Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment were completing the last step of a week-long training session teaching the use of the Puma AE.



*Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Moeller, 5th MPAD*

Afghan National Army Soldiers practice room-clearing procedures under the advisement of Marine Corps-lead Embedded Training Team 7-5 in Kunar province, Sept 22. International Security Assistance Forces have been working side-by-side with their Afghan National Army counterparts to modernize the emerging military into an army capable of defending its own borders and people.



*Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Moeller, 5th MPAD*

Army Pfc. Damian Gardner, a native of Beecher City, Ill., scans the hills surrounding the village of Aliabad during a patrol in Kunar province, Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, Sept. 29.

# COMBAT COLD: WINTER

## Dress for success and the elements

*Story by Gary W. Ballew  
Task Force Protector Safety Manager*



*Photo by SPC Scott Davis, CJTF 101 PAO*

*Snow covered mountains shown are just outside of Salang tunnel in the Hindu Kush mountain range.*

# WEATHER HAS RISKS

The cold weather is upon us here in beautiful Afghanistan! Everyone should possess a working knowledge and understanding of the basic cold injury prevention methods. Cold weather is no joke while at Ft. Bragg, Ft. Drum, Ft. Richardson, etc. And, cold weather is certainly a very serious matter while performing combat duties here in Afghanistan.

As we all know, the weather conditions change drastically throughout Afghanistan in the summer, and the winter is no different. We as leaders must remain cognizant of the weather conditions and identify any significant factors that will complicate our mission. I can assure you, cold weather has the potential to cause one heck of a complication!

Leaders at all levels can identify factors that will leave us more vulnerable to cold weather injuries. We should recognize and pay special attention to any of the following:

- o Soldiers and civilians with little experience or training in cold weather
  - o Personnel with previous cold injuries or other substantial injuries
  - o Individuals that use tobacco/nicotine
  - o Any person that skips meals or has poor nutritional habits
  - o Anyone with a low activity level
  - o Someone experiencing fatigue or sleep deprivation
  - o Anyone suffering from recent cold weather injuries or who was injured in the previous two or three days
  - o Anyone drinking little (or no) water; encourage everyone to hydrate

As senior leaders, junior leaders and others look to us for sound guidance and advice. We should teach ways to assess the hazards of living and working in cold environments. Some examples of questions (and follow-on questions) we could ask to help us prepare for the approaching cold weather are:

- o Will Soldiers have adequate shelter and clothing during the mission?
- o Is clothing clean, without stains and serviceable?
- o Are tents, stoves, or other approved heating sources available during the operation?
  
- o How often will meals be consumed?
- o Will Soldiers eat and how often?
- o Will meals be warm?
  
- o Are there other circumstances?
- o Has the temperature and weather been reviewed for the operation?
- o Will Soldiers be working with bare metal or fuel?
- o Will Soldiers have the proper clothing (inspections conducted)?
- o Is the environment wet?
- o Will contact be made with wet materials or the wet ground?
- o Will the Soldier be able to use the buddy system to prevent cold injuries?

Once we have identified and assessed the cold weather hazards, we can develop controls to mitigate the severity of

the hazard. I have found the acronym C.O.L.D. to be a very simple and useful tool when teaching others to survive in cold weather.

- o **C** – keep it... CLEAN
- o **O** – avoid... OVERHEATING
- o **L** – wear it... LOOSE & LAYERS
- o **D** – keep it... DRY

Once we have developed control measures for surviving in the cold, we must ensure the control measures are implemented. Leaders are responsible for implementing control measures and mitigating any hazard or risk.

### **Below are a few examples of how to implement cold weather controls:**

- o Ensure all personnel have proper cold weather gear
- o Provide mandatory cold weather training prior to the arrival of cold weather (be proactive, not reactive)
- o Communication is a must; leaders continually provide direction to everyone because some Soldiers will give 150 percent and work until their hands/face are numb
- o Perpetual supervision provided by all echelons
- o Implement a “Buddy Team” approach to check each other for symptoms of cold injuries
- o When possible provide warming tents, approved heaters, heat packs, etc.
- o Ensure all personnel knows the procedures for calling a MEDEVAC

You can find the process to identify and mitigate risk in FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. In fact, you can apply the Composite Risk Management (CRM) for any on or off-duty mission or activity. CRM should be used to mitigate hazards...it will save lives.

Keep in mind that no one is immune to the cold. “Jack Frost” and “Old Man Winter” do not discriminate. Both will bestow severe cold weather injuries on anyone apathetic or unknowledgeable of cold injury prevention methods. Arm yourself with the knowledge of how to live in and survive in the cold.

Some good references for learning about cold weather matters include:

- FM 3-05.70 (aka FM 21-76) Cold Weather Survival (Chapter 15)
- TC 21-3, Soldier’s Handbook for Individual Operations and Survival in Cold-Weather Areas Manual

Everyone should know how to identify and mitigate cold weather hazards. Many times, the consequences of cold weather injuries are enormously high. If not properly managed, Service Members and units will pay for cold weather injuries with lost man-hours and/or a loss of fingers, toes, hands and feet. Please ensure everyone is aware of the cold weather hazards and how to diminish them.

Thank you for serving our great Country. All the sacrifices you make for me and my family are greatly appreciated!!  
Airborne...All the Way!!



# Capt. Bae Keejeong

**Hometown:** Seoul, South Korea  
**Current Assignment:** Korean Medical and Vocational Training Team  
**Title:** Military orthopedic doctor  
**Number of Times Deployed:** 1  
**Best Part of Deployment:** Working with Afghans  
**How He Spends his Free Time:** Going to the gym and playing video games  
**Plans Upon Return:** To continue serving as a military doctor and have children



# South Korean Army

## WARRIOR PROFILE

# Spc. Leeroy Lacy



# U.S. Army

**Hometown:** Jacksonville, Fla.  
**Current Assignment:** FOB Spin Boldak  
**Title:** Armorer  
**MOS:** Infantryman  
**Job Description:** Maintaining and fixing equipment and driving the commander  
**Best Part of Deployment:** Working out and camaraderie  
**Deployed Goals:** Get in shape and stay alive  
**How he Spends his Free Time:** Drawing and working out  
**Plans Upon Return:** Open a tattoo shop



# Unit Spotlight

## Joint Combat Casualty Research Team

**Branch of Service:** Army/Air Force Joint Team

**Unit History:** The first team deployed to Iraq in 2006. This is the first team in Afghanistan AOR with Headquarters' offices in Bagram and offices in Balad, Iraq and Kandahar, Afghanistan (as of 15 October).

**Interesting Unit Facts:** A 10-person team that fosters and facilitates research in the CENTCOM AOR. Oversees 80 active research protocols. Afghanistan priorities include Trauma Care, Transport/Enroute Care and Behavioral Health.

**Commanded by:** Lt. Col. Joseph Sniezek, MD, FACS

*Would you like to have your unit in the spotlight? If so, email the 40th PAD at [freedomwatch@swa.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@swa.army.mil). Please include your unit's name, mission, history and any interesting facts.*