

# FROM GAMBERI

Volume 1, Issue 2



DEPUTY SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE VISITS FOB GAMBERI

# FROM GAMBERI

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

## PAGE 2

### **Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe visits FOB Gamberi**

Photos by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

## PAGE 3

### **Combat medics sharpen their skills during mass casualty exercise**

Story by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

## PAGE 5

### **Former insurgents take part in reintegration ceremony**

Story by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

## PAGE 7

### **Soldiers, civilians gone but not forgotten**

Story by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

## PAGE 8

### **CJTF-101 senior enlisted advisor visits FOB Gamberi**

Photos by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

#### **On the cover**

*British Gen. Sir Alexander Richard David Shirreff, presents a challenge coin of excellence to Afghan National Army 2nd Lt. Hedayatullah, assigned to 4th Kandak, 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps, at Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Shirreff NATO, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, spoke with US and ANA leadership and visited ANA EOD soldiers conduct IED awareness training during his visit. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)*

This installment of FROM GAMBERI features 2 sets of pictures of distinguished visitors' recent tour of FOB Gamberi. One set includes pictures of CJTF-101 senior enlisted advisor and the second is of a more recent visit by British Gen. Sir Alexander Richard David Shirreff, NATO, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe touring FOB Gamberi.

A story with pictures on Charlie company combat medics taking part in a mass casualty exercise.

In Mehtar Lam, former insurgents laid their weapons down to re-integrate with their communities with the help of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program.

Finally but certainly not least, a commemorative plaque was presented outside of the MWR at FOB Gamberi in honor of Soldiers and civilians who were killed two years ago on April 16, 2011.

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter with a picture or have a story idea contact Maj. Miller or Staff Sgt. Andrade in the Public Affairs Office on FOB Gamberi.

You can also reach the editor at the Public Affairs Office at:

DSN 303 552 9741

[richard.j.andrade@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:richard.j.andrade@afghan.swa.army.mil)

#### **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

[FACEBOOK.COM/LONGKNIFE.4THBCT.1STCAVDIV](https://www.facebook.com/longknife.4thbct.1stcaavdiv)

[FACEBOOK.COM/RCEAST](https://www.facebook.com/rceast)

[FACEBOOK.COM/USARMY](https://www.facebook.com/usarmy)

# DEPUTY SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE VISITS FOB GAMBERI



British Gen. Sir Alexander Richard David Shirreff, (center), NATO, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, walks with Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Heinze, Tactical Action Center-1, senior enlisted advisor, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, upon arriving to Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Shirreff spoke to US and Afghan National Army senior leadership, and visited ANA soldiers as they conducted counter-improvised explosive device training at Gamberi. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Colin Smith, (left), a native of Minneapolis, Minn., speaks with British Gen. Sir Alexander Richard David Shirreff, NATO, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, during his visit to Forward Operating Base Gamberi, April 16, 2013. Shirreff spoke with senior US and ANA leadership during his visit to Gamberi. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



An ANA soldier speaks with British Gen. Sir Alexander Richard David Shirreff, NATO, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, (left), and Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, 101st Airborne Division, deputy commanding general for support, at FOB Gamberi, April 16, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



## COMBAT MEDICS SHARPEN SKILLS DURING MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE

U.S. Army Spc. Michelle Nelson, (third from right), a native of Long Island, N.Y., helps Soldiers carry a simulated casualty on to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a mass casualty exercise at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, April 8, 2013. Nelson serves as a health care specialist assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

The “Mass Casualty,” alarm could be heard over loud speakers throughout Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Health care specialists at the troop medical clinic rushed to prepare for an influx of patients during a mass casualty exercise here, April 8.

The realistic event gave U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas, a chance to test their skills and knowledge in the event of a real mass casualty incident.

Pfc. Anthony Stevens, a native of Fort Bragg, N.C., was one of the first responders to the event. He is assigned to Company B, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Stevens said the second he and other members of his “sweep team,” heard the alarm, they donned their helmets, interceptor body armor and took accountability of their team members. After gearing up, they walked in their designated area on the FOB, looking for potential casualties or injured individuals.

The exercise simulated a rocket attack on FOB Gamberi. Victims of the attack, role-played by Soldiers, made sounds as if really wounded, as they were quickly taken to the TMC. Every “casualty” carried a card on them stating what type of injury they sustained. The medics pri-



U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Ebony Jones, (front), a health care specialist and native of Casey Mo., helps Sgt. Jacob Culp, biomedical equipment specialist and native of Decatur, Ill., carry a role-playing casualty during a mass casualty exercise at the troop medical center on Forward Operating Base Gamberi, April 8, 2013. Both are assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

oritized the wounded, and depending on the injuries had to choose to provide first-aid in or outside the TMC.

During the exercise, Stevens said he and his team found simulated casualties, placed them on a litter and quickly carried them to the TMC. Some of the wounded were brought to the TMC in the back of pick-up trucks.

“We got the casualties to the aid station, where they got patched up and we carried them to the flight line to be medevac (medical evacuation via helicopter) to the hospital,” said Stevens.

Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Prost, brigade chaplain, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., rushed to the TMC to lend a hand after hearing the alarm. The native of Platte City, Mo., went to provide spiritual support and even helped three other Soldiers carry a simulated injured person, via litter, to the helicopter flight line.

Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters landed at the Gamberi helicopter landing zone unaware of the mass casualty exercise. Some UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters are used for aeromedical evacuation en-route to hospitals in Afghanistan. The two that landed at FOB Gamberi were there for a different reason.

When the pilots saw four Soldiers carrying someone on a litter towards them, the crew chiefs assisted with loading the litter on to the helicopter.

Spc. Michelle Nelson, a health care specialist explained to the crew chiefs they carried the

*continued on page 4*



*U.S. Army Spc. Justin Jones, (left), a health care specialist and native of Denham Springs, La., and Sgt. Terry Antee, a radiology specialist and native of Wichita Falls, Texas, provide medical attention to a simulated casualty during a mass casualty exercise on Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Both are assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)*

*continued from page 3*

litter to the flight line because they were taking part of an exercise. The crew chiefs then helped take the litter and Soldier off the helicopter. Both the Soldiers carrying their simulated patient and the crew chiefs thought it was good training.

Nelson said even though the helicopters weren't part of the exercise, she liked that the pilots played along and let them board the casualty. Nelson is a native of Long Island, N.Y., and is assigned to Company C, 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

Her mission that morning was to provide follow up care for patients at the TMC. Nelson said the TMC conducts realistic training like a mass casualty scenario to sharpen their skills in case something like that does happen.

During all the commotion in and around the TMC, a role-player succumbed to his injuries and died. The Soldier was taken out of view of other victims and the chaplain was called.

Once the chaplain heard the news, he walked over to the casualty, took a knee, held the injured victim's leg and administered his last rites.

Prost is an Iraq War veteran and has years of experience working in a medical center and as a hospital chaplain.

"I am often at the shoulder of a patient. If they are conscious sometimes I can be a calming influence," said Prost.



*U.S. Army Spc. Michelle Nelson, (left), a native of Long Island, N.Y., and Staff Sgt. Kristal Wise, a native of Miami, Fla., provide medical aid to a simulated casualty during a mass casualty exercise at the troop medical center on Forward Operating Base Gamberi, April 8, 2013. Both are health care specialists assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)*

*continued on page 9*

# FORMER INSURGENTS TAKE PART IN REINTEGRATION CEREMONY



Former insurgent fighters stand in front of a table with rifles they once used against Coalition Forces during a reintegration ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Mahtar Lam, April 3, 2013. During the ceremony, seven former insurgent fighters symbolically lay down their weapons with the help of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program. (Courtesy photo)

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

The fragrant smell of orange blossoms from a nearby orchard filled the air during a reintegration ceremony at Forward Operating Base Mahtar Lam, April 3.

Seven former insurgent fighters symbolically lay down their weapons in a reintegration ceremony with the help of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program.

Fazlollah Mojadeddi, governor of Laghman Province told the re-integrees he was very proud for what they've done. He reaffirmed the seven individuals they would be safe and would be given an opportunity to find jobs upon their return to their communities.

"If more fighters lay down their weapons, there would be peace, sovereignty and stability in our country," said Mojadeddi.

The Laghman Province APRP program director, Afghan National Army, 2nd Kandak, 1st Brigade, 201st Corps, and U.S. Army senior leadership also attended the ceremony.

This is the second reintegration ceremony U.S. Army Lt. Col. Monte Rone, a native of Muskegon Heights, Mich., has attended since he and Task Force Thunderhorse have been in Mahtar Lam. Rone serves as commander, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood, Texas.



Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Quadri Noorullah, commander, 1st Brigade, 201st Corps, accepts a rifle from a former insurgent during a reintegration ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, April 3, 2013. Seven former insurgent fighters symbolically lay down their weapons during the ceremony to re-join society with the help of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program. (Courtesy photo)

continued on page 6



Fazlollah Mojadeddi, (left) governor of Laghman Province, stands next to Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Yar M. Saeidy, 201st Corps, as he accepts a rifle from a former insurgent during a reintegration ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, April 3, 2013. Seven former insurgent fighters symbolically lay down their weapons during the ceremony to re-join society with the help of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo)

continued from page 5

He said information regarding the reintegration program is circulated via television, radio and flyers handed out by the Afghan Uniformed Police. The program offers insurgents the opportunity to return to their villages with dignity and honor.

Rone said the reintegration program began in 2010, since then there have been 278 former fighters lay down their weapons in Laghman Province. Thousands of former fighters from throughout the country have returned to communities to start a new life working to build a better Afghanistan.

“I think that is a result of the improved cooperation between the government and security forces, and also the success of ANSF operations,” said Rone.

Before they begin the vetting process individuals must break their ties with insurgent elements and, commit to supporting the government must abide by the Afghan Constitution. Once the evaluation phase ends, ANA, Afghan National Police and the Provincial Peace committee officials evaluate the candidate.

Rone said a reintegration ceremony does not happen very often. He said the ANA received a phone call from a kandak commander who said some former insurgent fighters wanted to reintegrate. Since then the ANA worked with the provincial governor and the APRP to have them begin the selection process. There were originally 15 individuals and after the screening process, seven were chosen.

During the outdoor ceremony, each of the former insurgents held a rifle

with no ammunition in it. They stood side-by-side while the individual closest to the stage held a plain white flag attached to a wooden post.

The Taliban used a white flag during the Afghan Civil War which later became the country’s national flag. It represented “the purity, their faith and government.”

The former insurgents marched to the center of the yard where the Afghan officers and local officials stood, facing a formation of ANA soldiers. The individual holding the white flag ceremoniously switched it with the red, black and green flag of Afghanistan.

Mojadeddi then placed a traditional turban on the former insurgent’s head and shook his hand thanking him for taking part in the peace process. The other six followed suit, each one relinquishing their weapons, receiving a turban and other gifts as a token of appreciation. The white flag was placed on a table next to rifles once used against Coalition Forces. Finally the re-integrees sat down next to the stage facing the ANA soldier formation.

“You can achieve effects by non-lethal and lethal means,” said Rone. “I think today was a great non-lethal engagement where our ANSF counterparts and the provincial governor were able to achieve some effects by reintegrating some pretty bad folks, and that’s always a good thing.”

Mojadeddi said the ceremony went very well and hoped other fighters would see the ceremony and would renounce violence.

“I hope others would ‘come down from the mountains,’ and be encouraged to join the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan,” said Mojadeddi.



# SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS FALLEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

U.S. Army Capt. Michael Miller, (right) a native of Petersburg, Ill., speaks to Soldiers and civilians gathered outside of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building during a commemorative plaque presentation created to honor those Soldiers and civilians killed on April 16, 2011, at Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Miller serves as commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade  
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

Servicemembers and civilians gathered for a memorial service and plaque presentation held at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, April 16.

The outdoor ceremony honored the lives of both military and civilians who were lost in an attack at FOB Gamberi, April 16, 2011.

“Today we a dedicated a small memorial plaque to honor those who were killed two years ago today,” said, U.S. Army Capt. Michael Miller, standing next to the commemorative plaque in front of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building.

Miller serves as commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. The native of Petersburg, Ill., is also the FOB Gamberi, mayor cell, officer-in-charge.

He addressed the small group of Soldiers and civilians that grew in numbers as time passed.

“Two years ago today, Soldiers were training Afghan National Army soldiers when their own lives were cut short in a brutal act of betrayal by a member of the ANA they were training. Each of these Soldiers was unique, with loved ones praying to see them safely home,” Miller told the crowd.

He told the group the battalion motto, “The Sustainers,” was a perfect fit, as they spearheaded a mentorship program with the ANA. The advisors initiated the ANA’s first maintenance course, teaching maintenance, transportation,



A commemorative plaque was presented in honor of Soldiers and civilians killed on Forward Operating Base Gamberi April 16, 2011, outside of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building at FOB Gamberi, April 16, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

**“We didn’t want those  
who gave all for their country  
to be forgotten.”  
-Capt. Miller**

medical, support operations and staff functions.

Standing on the second step of the MWR, Miller then said, “These Soldiers killed didn’t choose this battle or this foe, but they did choose to be Soldiers...and part of being a Soldier is knowing that someday, there is a chance one may be required to lay down his life so that oth-

ers may be free. This was not a tragic end; this was their rendezvous with destiny.”

Following the plaque presentation, Miller said a couple of civilian contractors walked up and thanked him for making sure their friends and co-workers were not forgotten.

“They told me this meant a lot to them because they did have that personal connection,” said Miller.

One civilian contractor who attended the ceremony, Bruce Babione said, “I thought it was a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives here.”

Babione has been in Afghanistan for more than two and half years. He was working at FOB Gamberi two years ago, on the day of the attack.

The native of Hobart, Okla., said it all happened in blink of an eye. Adding that he felt helpless at the time of the incident.

“That day is probably the worst day in my life, there were so many people wounded,” said Babione. “And there was nothing really we could do to help.”

After thanking the crowd for their participation they group slowly dispersed, going back to their offices and places of duty.

“U.S. servicemembers, and civilian contractors were killed and we didn’t want the event to be forgotten,” said Miller. “We didn’t want those who gave all for their country to be forgotten.”

They are also not forgotten at Fort Campbell, Ky. “The Sustainers” home base holds a brigade run in honor of the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, Soldiers lost in the attack.

# CJTF-101 SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISER VISITS FOB GAMBERI



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo J. Smith, (center), a native of Fayetteville, N.C., is shown upgraded security measures at the entrance gate to Forward Operating Base Gamberi. During his visit to the FOB, Smith, Combined Joint Task Force-101, 101st Airborne Division, senior enlisted adviser, toured the improved living conditions and presented selected Soldiers with challenge coins of excellence. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo J. Smith, (right), a native of Fayetteville, N.C., speaks to Pfc. Daniel Hoang, a health care specialist assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas, inside the troop medical center at Forward Operating Base Gamberi. During his visit to the base, Smith, Combined Joint Task Force-101, 101st Airborne Division, senior enlisted adviser, met with 4-1 senior leadership, toured the improved living conditions and presented Soldiers with challenge coins of excellence. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo J. Smith, (right), a native of Fayetteville, N.C., shows Soldiers his calf injury from a previous deployment inside the troop medical clinic at the Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Smith, Combined Joint Task Force-101, 101st Airborne Division, senior enlisted adviser, told the Soldiers he was grateful for the immediate first aid provided to him by U.S. Army health care specialists at the time of the incident. During his visit to Gamberi, Smith toured the improved living conditions, spoke to senior 4-1 Cav. Div., leaders and presented selected Soldiers with challenge coins of excellence. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

# MASCAL EXERCISE



Soldiers donned their helmets and interceptor body armor to provide medical care and carry a role-playing casualty on a litter to the troop medical clinic during a mass casualty exercise held at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, April 8, 2013. The mass casualty exercise involved all Soldiers on the FOB including Soldiers assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

continued from page 4

The mass casualty exercise had make-believe patients but the training for the health care specialists was as definitely real. The injuries tested the combat medic's skills as they applied life saving measures, at the same time being evaluated by their supervisors. One casualty was dehydrated, so the combat medics had to put gloves on and administer an intravenous injection. They used emergency response equipment to stabilize the victim.

Once the "all-clear" signal was called over the speaker system, the actors began to take bandages off.

Following the MASCAL exercise, 1st Sgt. Dedraf Blash, a native of Conyers, Ga., called everyone into the TMC for an informal huddle "We appreciate your participation," said Blash, assigned to Company C, 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. The after-action review gave the actors, medics and first responders a chance to provide their observations following the exercise.

"It was good training over all," said Prost. "I appreciate your professionalism."

The chaplain then thanked the combat medics for allowing him to participate in the exercise.

The casualty drill had a successful outcome due to the first responders' performance and the seamless efforts by on-scene emergency teams. Hopefully they will not have to witness an incident similar to the mass casualty exercise but at least the Soldiers know they will be prepared.

## CJTF-101 SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR VISIT

*"No matter what job you have in the Army, we are all part of the same team"*

*-Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo J. Smith*



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo J. Smith, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., presents Soldiers with a challenge coin of excellence at the Forward Operating Base Gamberi. During his visit, Smith was shown base security developments, toured the improved living conditions, spoke to 4-1 Cav. Div., senior leaders and presented selected Soldiers with challenge coins of excellence. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



FROM GAMBERI is an authorized publication for members of Combined Joint Task Force-101, Regional Command-East and members of the U.S. military overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Contents of FROM GAMBERI are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. FROM GAMBERI is an unofficial publication authorized by Army Regulation 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs office at Forward Operating Base Gamberi. All submissions are subject to editing by the CJTF-101 Public Affairs Office. The FROM GAMBERI editor can be reached at the Public Affairs office located on FOB Gamberi by phone: DSN 303 552 9741 or by email: richard.j.andrade@afghan.swa.army.mil

