



HYDRA HERALD



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Hydra Soldiers Give Hair in Support of their Own

Kabul Police Chief Continues to Make Streets Safer

Shooting for the Gold

Hydra's First 30 Days

HYDRA ON THE GROUND!



Hydra Herald

VOL. 1 - ISSUE 1- Mar. 2012

Task Force Hydra
Public Affairs Office

KABUL BASE CLUSTER

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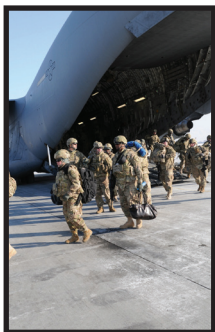
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Submissions are subject to editing.



ON THE COVER

648th Task Force Hydra Soldiers land in Kabul, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill Task Force Hydra Public Affairs)

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Women's History Month

...To ignore the vital role that women's dreams and accomplishments play in our own lives would be a great mistake. We draw strength and inspiration from those who came before us - and those remarkable women working among us today. They are part of our story, and a truly balanced and inclusive history recognizes how important women have always been in American society.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF STORMS FOR I'M LEARNING HOW TO SAIL MY SHIP

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Women's Education- WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Hydra Soldiers give hair in support of their own



By Capt. Jacqueline Wren

Task Force Hydra Soldiers here showed support for Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Smiley's wife Carolyn R. Smiley, who began her 2nd Chemotherapy treatment session this week in Georgia.

Members of the Columbus based unit shaved their heads in support of Carolyn who had to do so because of the treatment.

A resident of Ludowici, Carolyn was diagnosed with breast cancer over Veteran's Day weekend this past year and has been undergoing cancer treatment since. While fighting her battle with cancer back at home, her husband has deployed here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This is great and unreal," said Command Sgt. Maj. Smiley of the support shown by the 648th Soldiers. "I never expected this much support,

it's overwhelming."

Members of Task Force Hydra are spread throughout all of Kabul due to their mission of Command and Control of the seven camps within the Kabul Base Cluster. Soldiers from all across the area of operation participated in the act of solidarity.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Angela A. Belding, the billeting officer for Camp Eggers, is one of the Soldiers who headed to the barber's chair to cut it all off.

"You know all of us at Eggers always rally together as a team," said Belding on why she made the decision to cut her hair. "I've known Carolyn and Sergeant Maj. for a long time now and I gave her a call today."

Belding was also motivated to participate because of the cancer she's witnessed through members of her own family, including her mother who

she lost to lung cancer.

"There's been a lot of cancer in my family," Belding said. "It's hard when the biggest cheerleader in your life is gone."

Not all members of the unit were able to support through cutting their hair but were able to show their love in other ways.

A three foot wooden breast cancer ribbon was created and signed by members of the unit with kind words to send back to Carolyn.

In response to Facebook photos of the Soldiers who had participated and the comments of support for her, Carolyn wrote, "I have to say this brought tears to my eyes. We are so blessed to have this much support. You guys are the best. And it's so cold over there! I know how cold my head gets now. Keep your hats on! Much love to all of you."



HYDRA IS HERE!

Georgia Army National Guardsmen start mission in Afghanistan

By Cpt. Jacqueline Wren, Task Force Hydra Public Affairs

Georgia Army National Guardsmen participated in a Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Camp Phoenix here today.

Col. Andy L. Hall, Commander of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a Georgia Army National Guard unit from Columbus, Ga. assumed command of the Task Force Hydra and responsibility for the Kabul Base Cluster.

More than 11,000 Service members, contractors and coalition forces live and work on the KBC. The 648th "Hydra" Brigade provides command and control, security and support operations for the nearly 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces operating in the capital region.

Attending the ceremony were contractors from several organizations as well as coalition forces from Bulgaria, Canada, France and Mongolia.

Deputy Commanding General of United States Forces Afghanistan, Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, discussed the expectations he has of Task Force Hydra. "You have the technology, the tactics and the know how

to excel," said Rapp.

Hall commented on the magnitude of mission ahead of the 648th and the unit's readiness for it. "We have been well prepared to assume this mission, we are a professional organization, we will run hard and work smart and we will play a major role in sustaining the momentum of this campaign," said Hall.

The 648th replaced the 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, commanded by Army Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond. The 648th and the 26th Brigades have worked together to ensure a smooth transition of authority in the KBC for over 18 months.

"I look forward to observing your success from the United States this following year," said Hammond.

Hall also recognized the strong partnership that had been built between the two Brigades saying, "Others have already spoken of the great job you have done. We would like to express our gratitude for the way in which you approached this transition. You began transition with us before you even got here yourself. Unprecedented," said Hall.



Colonel Andy L. Hall is the Commander of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard. Immediately prior to assuming command Colonel Hall served as a Strategic Planner and speechwriter for the Chief of National Guard Bureau.

Colonel Hall's civilian and military education include: a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science, a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration, and a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Studies. Colonel Hall is a graduate of the United States War College.

Colonel Hall's first assignment was as riflemen in Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Brigade. Since his first assignment, he has served as a traditional Guardsman, as an Active Guard Reserve

Title 32, and an Active Guard Reserve Title 10 capacity in various leadership and staff positions to include: Infantry



Platoon Leader, Mortar Platoon Leader, Infantry Executive Officer, Company Commander, and Battalion Training

Officer within the 39th Infantry Brigade, Director of Operations and Training for the National Guard Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Executive Officer for the Deputy Director of Operations, Readiness, and Mobilization, Department of Army, Pentagon (AOC), Executive Officer for National Guard Bureau Domestic Operation (NGB-J3), Commander 1st, 121st Infantry Battalion, and Strategic Planner for the Chief, National Guard Bureau.

Colonel Hall is married to the former Dana Hart of Springdale, Arkansas. The couple, along with their son Ethan (10), resides in Cumming, Georgia.

MEET THE HYDRA COMMAND TEAM

Col. Andy L. Hall and Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Smiley

Command Sergeant Major John E. Smiley assumed the position as the 648th Maneuver Enhanced Brigade Command Sergeant Major on Nov. 7, 2010. His previous assignments include Command Sergeant Major for the Rear Det, 48th IBCT Macon Ga, Command Sergeant Major, 148th Brigade Support Battalion, Forsyth Ga., Command Sergeant Major, 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Statesboro, Ga, and Command Sergeant Major, 648th Combat Engineer Battalion, Statesboro, Ga. A native of Hinesville, Ga., he entered the Georgia Army National Guard Dec 5, 1981.

He attended basic training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Advanced Individual Training at Aberdeen Md as a Light Wheel Mechanic. His first assignment was with the 82nd Maintenance Company in Hinesville, Ga where he progressed through the

ranks. His subsequent assignments include Maintenance Support Team Leader, Platoon Sergeant B/148th, Motor



Sergeant in the 348th CAV and First Sergeant in B Company, 148th Brigade Support Battalion, 48th Brigade

(Mechanized).

His military education includes Primary Noncommissioned Officers Course, Basic and Advanced Non-commissioned Officers Courses, the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy and Pre-Command CSM Course.

CSM Smiley has deployed to Bosnia and Iraq.

CSM Smiley is a Civil Service employee with Georgia MATES since 1984. He is the Inspection Section Supervisor. CSM Smiley is a Life Member of both National and State Enlisted Association.

CSM Smiley is married to Carolyn and they have two daughters and two grandchildren

AROUND THE KBC

Black History Month in the KBC. The KBC Phoenix Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office in partnership with the Equal Opportunity Office scheduled several Black History month programs throughout the month of February. Here participants in the Black Greek Letter Organization night hold hands in prayer at the end of the event held at Camp Phoenix. (Photo by Army Capt. Jacqueline Wren, Task Force Hydra PAO)



Members of the Mongolian Army entertain Guests with live traditional and popular music during lunch at their compound here at Camp Eggers. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jacqueline R. Wren, Task Force Hydra Public Affairs)



Lt. Col. Todd A. Perkins, New Kabul Camp Base Support Group commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason B. Keblish meet with local national contractors within the camp. (Photo courtesy of New Kabul Compound BSG)

1186 Military Police Company member Sgt. Nicolas Mendez meets with ANP members during a presence patrol near New Kabul Camp. (Photo courtesy of New Kabul Camp BSG)



"Catfish and the Kids"
Member of 1186th MP Company, Staff Sgt. "Catfish" Thomey gives schools supplies to local children during a dismounted security patrol outside of NKC. (Photo courtesy of New Kabul Compound BSG)



"SNOWVEE" Members of the 124th Optometry Team out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, build a HUMVEE made out of snow, and take it for a spin outside their office.



Maj. Kenneth Napier, Camps Julien and Dubs Base Support Group Commander, meets with Afghan National Police members and local children during a Patrol with the Quick Reaction Force in the area of the camp. (Photo courtesy of Julien/Dubs BSG)

NEW SECURITY OFFICIAL SETTLES INTO DUTIES AT KABUL BASE



Oregon National Guard Staff Sgt. Curtis Sanders of the 1186th Military Police, the non-commissioned officer in charge of force protection at the New Kabul Compound, participates in a patrol recently near the facility. Sanders, 33, lives in Vancouver, Wash., and works in Portland as a corrections deputy for Multnomah County.

Story By Erika Stetson, USFOR-A Public Affairs

Just two months into the job, the top enlisted security official at the New Kabul Compound has overseen an upgrade of communications technology, supervised scores of missions and helped manage an analysis of the installation's vulnerabilities.

"I would say between the foot and driving patrols ... we've been doing a lot – even out in the snow," said Oregon National Guard Staff Sgt. Curtis Sanders of the 1186th Military Police, the non-commissioned officer in charge of force protection at the coalition base. Sanders, 33, lives in Vancouver, Wash., and works in Portland as a corrections deputy for Multnomah County.

Overseas, he is responsible for dozens of U.S. troops, local security contractors and interpreters. He noted the similarity between his work back home and in Afghanistan, since both involve managing threats.

"At home I supervise inmates," he added. "My job back there is to keep bad guys in. My job out here is to keep bad guys out."

The troops under Sanders run the Base Defense Operations Center, conduct convoys, staff guard posts and conduct "presence patrols" of the area surrounding the installation. While on patrol, they often donate items, such as clothes, candy and school supplies, sent from friends and relatives in the U.S. He said his team also hopes to supply blankets to refugee camps in Kabul.

Sanders, originally from Elora, Tenn., said he once considered leaving the military, but now plans to stay in "for the long haul" if he's able to advance in the ranks. This is his second deployment.

His first was to Hawaii from February 2004 to May 2005 as a law and order military policeman.

The toughest part of being away, he added, is separation from friends and family back home.

He is due to return in the fall.

"I'm here to make sure my 37 guys get home safe," he said. "That's the only reward I want."

Chaplain's Corner



Building Partnerships for a Successful Deployment

BY Chaplain Lt. Col.
Michael W. Summers

Successful navigation of a deployment requires nurturing of partnerships. This applies to both deployed Soldiers and their significant others back home. Isolating oneself, trying to make

it without help from anyone, ensures disappointment and loneliness. A biblical passage expresses it in this way: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work; If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up"(Ecclesiastes 4:9,10). So, while someone may want to do everything without help, such a strategy only hurts oneself and damages relationships. Succeeding requires healthy relationships, routines, and organizations that can help one through the deployment.

Several years ago, I listened as ten couples who had been married more than fifty years told their stories.

Three couples had been separated over three years continuously by deployments during World War II. Long periods without communication, stress of combat, and fear of infidelity had damaged each couple's trust level. However, they did succeed. Today we have a many communication options that give Soldiers and their spouses more frequent and better quality (video, for example) choices than ever before. Couples can sustain their relationships while separated. No method is as good as being there in person. Video sometimes is distorted. Voice alone does not show expressions or gestures; written messages fail to communicate tone of voice. Thinking before speaking and refraining from sarcasm strengthens relationships.

Healthy routines increase personal wellbeing, also. Joining groups reduces the sense of isolation. Going to religious services regularly, attending school functions (by video if possible for the Soldier), and taking classes can all keep people in touch with others who help when needed. Routines keep you in contact with others and help you make it through the deployment.

Making it through a deployment can be difficult. Reaching out to others in healthy ways produces success. Plan how you will build a strong relationship and increase your personal wellbeing. Building positive partnerships makes deployment a foundation for a better future.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Several TF Hydra Soldiers celebrated their birthdays in our first month here. Happy Birthday!



Task Force Hydra's First 30 Days: Adapting for the Future of Kabul



(Story by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Public Affairs)

Task Force Hydra's first 30 days in Afghanistan was a very proud and busy time. The Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers have put their training to the test on several fronts and have learned the importance of being flexible.

Task Force Hydra came in ready to take on base support operations, which provides life sustainment and support capabilities for seven bases and camps in direct support of United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A), but soon found out that they had additional missions to take on.

"We picked up the responsibility for security of the capital city of Kabul and the synchronization of all the security elements within Kabul. We also picked up a police advisory team mission. In addition to our base operations function we were given, we were asked to pick up an additional large base camp, Qargha and that's going to add to our weight on what we were originally doing, and that combined with the security is a lot to swallow in 30 days," said Col. Andy L. Hall, the 648th Task Force Hydra commander and Kabul base commander.

"The task placed upon us seemed almost overwhelming, but with guidance from our leadership, as time progressed we begun getting familiar with the duties and how these things should be performed. All of us here at Bala Hissar are getting familiar with life in Afghanistan and working well together as a team," said Spc. Brian J. Butel, a security specialist at Camp Bala Hissar, one of the camps in the KBC.

"Our first 30 days here have been great," said Command Sgt. Maj. Smiley, the 648th Task Force Hydra command sergeant major. "The word pride does not express the extent of my emotions, it goes beyond pride, and the way I feel about our Soldiers and what they are doing for our country and what they are doing here for our unit."

Force protection on these camps is essential to operations in the capital region and this function allows over 11,000 serving members, coalition forces and contractors to effectively perform operations within the Enduring Freedom effort.

When it comes to making changes within the KBC, one of the things that TF Hydra is in the process of doing is to assist in realigning the Coalition Forces that fall under Hydra in a more efficient pattern that supports the current mission. "What we're doing is, we're moving coalition forces and changing their task organization from what they are used to doing, from what they are comfortable doing, and we're making hard decisions about where to move them and how to utilize them. What that's doing is that's freeing up U.S. soldiers from outside the wire mission, it frees up our MP's and our infantrymen to go out and synchronize the security effort and to advise our police teams, the Afghan Uniform Police in the city," said Hall.

"Even with the additional missions, and the long days, TF Hydra continues their mission. When the going gets tough, the tough get going", said Smiley as he talks about how the Noncommissioned Officers are stepping up to meet additional mission requirements.

TF Hydra is advancing the ball on what TF Yankee, the Massachusetts National Guard unit that was previously in command of the KBC, had started. TF Hydra worked closely with TF Yankee so they had a chance to study what was to be

expected. There are two major tasks ahead of Task Force Hydra that differ from their predecessors. The first task is to continue to improve the capability of the Afghan Uniform Police through mentorship. The AUP's capacity to secure the city, provide education, training, and to be properly equipped will be the focus of these efforts. The second task is to assist in the draw down here. "Draw down the U.S. footprint, and with that comes base closures, and how we effectively manage that is part of advancing the ball. Working base closures will continue along with how to collapse into fewer bases so that there will be a smaller footprint in the city," said Hall.

"At a minimum, they will significantly improve their ability to secure the city. We have a shot at being able to move them to a comfortable point that they no longer need us. If that does not come in our term, it will certainly come in our replacements term. Regardless, we will certainly move them in that direction very quickly," said Hall.

"Our efforts as a task force are successful when we transfer more accountability to the Afghan population. Through Police Advisory Teams, Humanitarian Assistance Missions alongside Afghan governing bodies and increased interaction with Kabul Leadership, 648th will continue to push our Afghan counterparts to levels of increased responsibility and competency in leading their own into and beyond transition," said Hall.

"I would just like to say that the people at home should be proud of the 648th Soldiers and the mission they are accomplishing here in theater, we are making a difference. In the past I wondered if our presence here would make a difference but I am seeing now that it is," said Smiley

"As always, we'd like to thank the family and friends of the 648th back in Georgia. Our leadership back there has been phenomenal. They continue to support us day in and day out any time of the day, through the holidays and weekends, and I just enjoy the fact that I am able to talk to them regularly and know that we've got the full support of the state of Georgia behind us," said Hall.

No Soft Targets at Camp Phoenix

Story by Army Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill

Female service members and a civilian contractors participated in the Target Hardening Self Defense course conducted by Navy Chief Petty Officer Buddy Parsons a self-defense instructor on Feb. 3, 2012, at Camp Phoenix.

A collaboration between the Camp Phoenix Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and the Morale Welfare and Recreation programs, the course is ...designed to improve your ability to effectively respond to an assault. "The difference between a hard target and a soft target is being aware of your surroundings," said Parsons. "The most important weapon is your brain."

Parsons demonstrates where the target areas are on an attacker and how to identify and use your personal arsenal to defend yourself. He teaches how to fight back by demonstrating proper techniques and then allowing the females to practice until they are able to perform self-defense moves correctly. Through completing this course, females here can both prevent being involved in an assault and know how to respond in a highly effective manner if they are ever in a situation where they are attacked.



1st Lt. Samantha N. Frazier Learns the proper way to kick an attacker from instructor, Chief Petty Officer Buddy A. Parsons during the Target Hardening Class at Camp Phoenix.

Who is Task Force Hydra



The 1186th Military Police Company, an Oregon Army National Guard unit from the cities of Salem and Milton-Freewater, is performing a force protection mission here in the KBC. The 1186th's mission is divided between Camp Eggers, New Kabul Compound and Bala Hissar. (Courtesy Photo)

Task Force Hydra is made up of over 3,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors, Coalition Forces and contractors providing services and security for over 11,000 Kabul Base Cluster tenants. Task Force Hydra is made up of the 463rd Military Police, 1st Tank Marines, Mongolian Expeditionary Forces, 1186th Military Police, 1-182nd Infantry, 142nd Combat Support Service Battalion the Albanian Operational Mentor Liason Team, and a medical attachment.



Mongolian Soldiers from the Mongolian Expeditionary Force stand tall during a visit from Col. Andy L. Hall at Camp Eggers. The Mongolian Expeditionary Forces are in charge of force protection for Camp Eggers.



The Georgia Guardsmen that make up the New Kabul Compound's base support group take a pause from their busy schedule of running a camp to take a group photo. (Courtesy Photo)

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Soldiers of Task Force Hydra



Lt. Col. Robyn Blader, an attorney with the Staff Judge Advocate section of 648th Task Force Hydra, helps make fuel doughnuts to support Operation Outreach by stuffing the metal sleeves with a mixture of pulverized paper and water. The doughnuts are then dried and given out to the local Afghans to burn for heat. (Photo by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill, TF Hydra Public Affairs)

Sgt. Antonio L. Henderson, a resident of Columbus, Ga. was the first 648th Soldier to be promoted in Afghanistan and joined the Noncommission Officer ranks Jan. 25, 2012. Henderson serves as a gunner, communications specialist, and personal security with the movement team for Task Force Hydra. (Photo by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill, TF Hydra Public Affairs)



Sergeant First Class Paul Braman inspects pump on Camp Eggers fire brigade truck in preparation for upcoming exercise. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Angela Belding).

After receiving fuel at the main fuel point, Staff Sgt. George I. Embry, who handles fuel at one of the Kabul Base Camps, is uncoupling the main lines from a local trucking company so that fuel can be reissued to all camps. (Photo by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill, 648th MEB, Public Affairs)



SHOOTING FOR THE GOLD

By Army Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill

Military members from around the Kabul Base Cluster came together to participate in the Schutzenschnur competition that was held Feb. 14, 2012 at Kabul Military Training Center.

The Schutzenschnur is a decoration for weapons proficiency that enlisted soldiers are authorized to wear. Officers can also receive the award, but they are not authorized to wear the decoration on the uniform due to German regulations which do not allow it.

Over one hundred American soldiers and over 40 Germans

met to fire three different weapon systems from each other's country. The American soldiers fired the MG3 Machine Gun, HK Pistol, and the G36 rifle from Germany. The Germans fired the 9MM hand gun, the M4 Rifle, and the M40B Machine gun.

Qualifications can be earned in gold, silver or bronze in each event, but soldiers are only awarded the lowest qualification achieved. For example, if qualifying on two weapons as gold and one silver, then the soldier will receive an award for the silver.

When asked how he felt about

having the opportunity to compete, Master Sgt. Joshua R. Winchester, an operations noncommissioned officer with the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, "Task Force Hydra" stated, "I think it helped the morale of the younger guys. They had smiles on their faces. They will get to wear a medal on their dress uniform. They will probably never get another chance to do something like this, and they loved it."

"Much fun, perfect weather, very interesting to shoot together," said Sebastian Schriegel, the German platoon commander of the signal platoon.





KBC Hosts “Black Hawk Down” Commander for National Prayer Breakfast

By Army Capt. Jacqueline R. Wren

Over 300 U.S. Service members, Coalition Forces and contractors participated in the Camp Phoenix National Prayer Breakfast here today.

Retired Col. Danny McKnight, whose leadership in the October 1993 Somali conflict is the subject of the book and movie, *Black Hawk Down*, was the guest speaker for the prayer breakfast.

Phoenix was the first stop on McKnight’s 12 speaking engagement tour of Afghanistan Camps as part of National Prayer Breakfast. He expressed his admiration for all of the Soldiers he gets to speak to in his travels as a motivational speaker. “When you do what you do in the military it’s a profession not a job,” said McKnight, “you are committed to what you do.”

National Prayer Breakfast is an annual interfaith tradition started in 1953 by members of U.S. Congress

to get leaders together to pray and acknowledge their spirituality. Meetings, breakfasts, luncheons and dinners are held on the first Thursday of February in honor of the event.

The Camp Phoenix National Prayer Breakfast included prayers and scripture readings from Islamic, Jewish, and Christian Chaplains.

“The event went well, it’s part of an annual process.” Said Chaplain Lt. Col. Michael W. Summers, chaplain for the Kabul Base Cluster, “I especially enjoyed him (McKnight) talking about Mogadishu and how he came to grips through his faith.”

McKnight spoke about his Christianity and how he felt God’s plan had guided him throughout his life. “Oct. 3, 1993 in Mogadishu, I should have died. My faith was challenged that day,” said McKnight. “Be steadfast in that: God’s will be done.”

Kabul Police Chief Continues to Make Streets Safer

Story by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill

The police chief of Kabul held a security meeting at the Kabul City Police Command (KCPC) headquarters here Jan. 26, 2012.

Operation Naweed, a plan that focuses on securing the routes to the capitol.

Salangi began by explaining his overall intentions and goals to his chiefs and letting them know

“Operation Naweed was designed based on the needs of a place and basically uses search tactics. We have a lot of area to cover so we will shift our forces to the needs of places. All security is ongoing



Deputy Chief of Staff for Combined Joint Operations, ISAF, Joint Command, Maj. Gen. James B. Laster with Afghan National Police, Lt. Gen. Fazulldin, and Task Force Hydra Commander, Col. Andy Hall during a security meeting at the Kabul City Police Command headquarters here Jan. 26, 2012.

Afghan Lt. Gen. Mohammad Ayub Salangi, Kabul City Police, commander, introduced his plan for 2012 during the meeting where he ensured the safety of his people.

Salangi introduced his district police chiefs and their staffs to

what their responsibilities were for coordinating with their colleagues to manage patrols and checkpoints.

These patrols will ensure all avenues of approach to the capitol are covered.

and our police will continue to improve their skills by planning and executing operations as part of Naweed. This will help us to use the quality of our forces instead of focusing on quantity,” said Salangi.

Army Lt. Gen. Curtis M.

Scapparotti, Deputy Commander, United States Forces-Afghanistan spoke in reference to Operation Naweed and said, “I am excited about Naweed because it is an Afghan security plan developed by Afghans in the MOI. It is a good plan. The heart of the plan is to secure Kabul; it is the center of gravity for this nation”.

Scapparotti also said, “We are partners with you in the defense of Kabul. We will advise and defend you and we will stand shoulder to shoulder to support you in the security of Kabul”

The issuance of this operational plan by general Salangi marks a significant milestone in the transition of security from Coalition Forces to the Afghan National Police (ANP). “I want to thank all of you for your leadership

and I want to congratulate you on what you have done this year. There were a tremendous number of specific attempts and serious threats. All of you secured the Loya Jirga and that was no easy task,” said Scapparotti.

“I am excited about Naweed because it is an Afghan security plan developed by Afghans. It is a good plan and at the heart of the plan is to secure Kabul – it is the center of gravity for this nation,” said Scapparotti.

Commander of Task Force Yankee, the outgoing Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) Task Force, Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond, spoke also. “You have clearly demonstrated that you can achieve great success. As the security of Kabul goes, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart”, said Hammond.

As the incoming commander of the KBC, 648th Task Force Hydra Commander, Col. Andy L. Hall was in attendance with several staff members of the Task Force. Along with managing service, support and policy guidance for more than 11,000 Coalition Forces service members and contractors within the KBC, Task Force Hydra will play an integral part in Kabul’s security through advisement to the ANP.

“We are coming into the KBC taking on a role in the security of Kabul. We will be synchronizing efforts with the ANA leadership to ensure they are successful in their plans, and being a part of this meeting is the first step in forging a strong relationship with our Afghan counterparts here,” said Hall about the meeting.



Lt. Gen. Mohammad Ayub Salangi, Kabul City Police, commander Kabul City Police Command speaks to his district police chiefs and staff on his 2012 security campaign plan during a security meeting at the Kabul City Police Command headquarters here Jan. 26, 2012.

1-182nd Infantry Gives Back



Story and Photo by Master Sgt Janet J. Hill

Soldiers from the 1st and 3rd Platoon of Headquarters, Headquarters Company 1-182 Infantry, out of Melrose, Mass., came together to perform their fourth and last Humanitarian Assistance mission on Feb. 8, 2011, before ending their tour in Afghanistan.

The items that were given out consisted of clothing, school supplies, and candy for the children of the neighboring villages directly outside the gates of Camp Phoenix. There were 200-300 locals from the village of Ud Kheil that came out to receive the supplies that were being handed out.

“I believe we really were able to give back, for example a few children showed up barefoot, and we were able to give them shoes right there on the spot. We made sure they put them on right away,” said 1st Lt. Ryan P. McLane, 3rd platoon leader of HHC 1-182 Inf.

The supplies were donated by Walpole High School and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, out of Melrose, Mass. “We were able to make the people back home happy because they donated a lot of time, money, and material to do this,” said McLane.

“The HA drop went pretty well. It was one of the more controlled that I have seen or done over the past 9 months,” said McLane.

Task Force Hydra Public Affairs Team

Please submit your KBC Stories and Photos Monthly!



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