

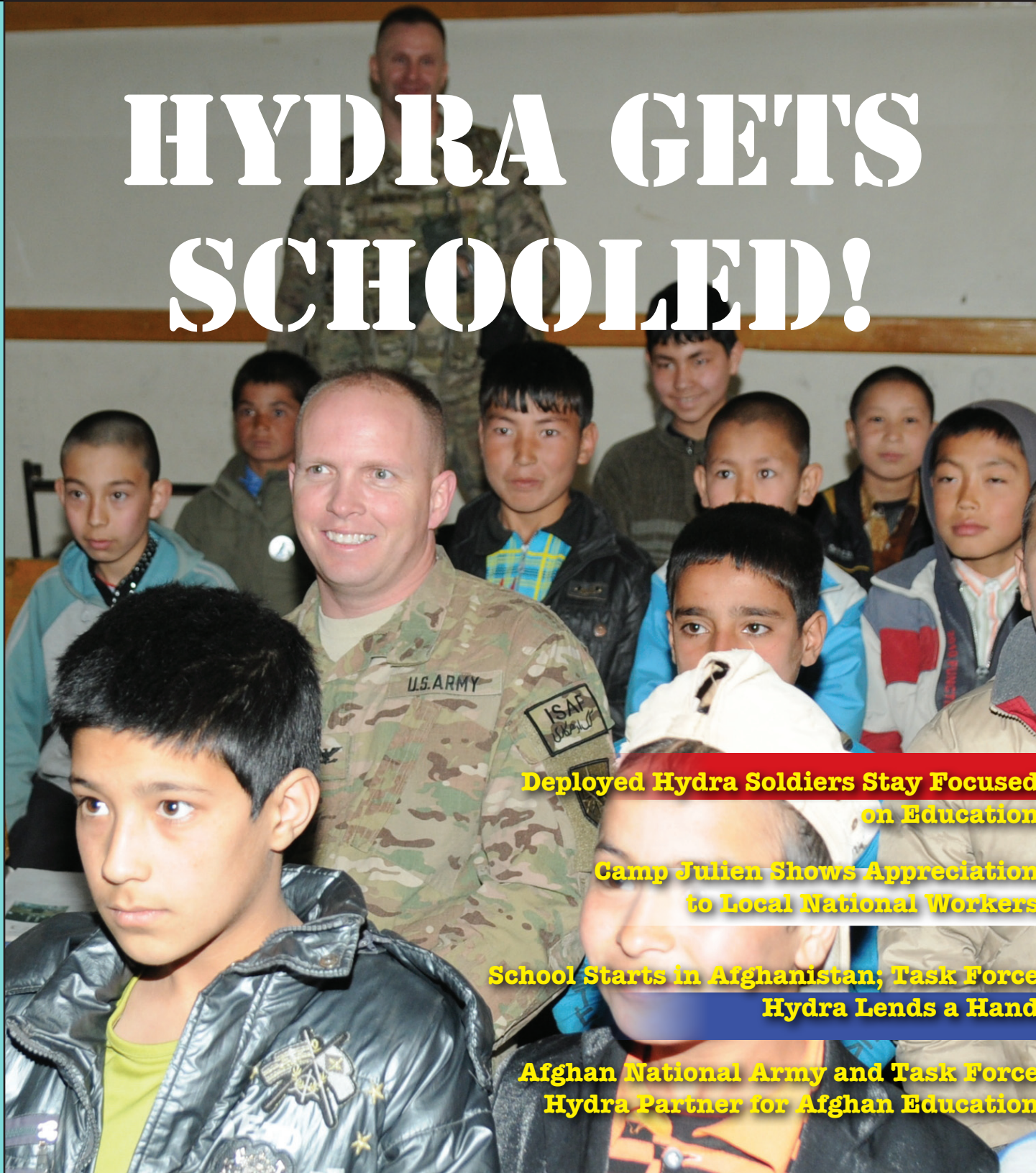


HYDRA HERALD



VOL 1 - Issue 2 NEWSLETTER OF THE KABUL BASE CLUSTER April/May 2012

HYDRA GETS SCHOOLED!



**Deployed Hydra Soldiers Stay Focused
on Education**

**Camp Julien Shows Appreciation
to Local National Workers**

**School Starts in Afghanistan; Task Force
Hydra Lends a Hand**

**Afghan National Army and Task Force
Hydra Partner for Afghan Education**

Hydra Herald

VOL. 1 - ISSUE 2- Apr. 2012

Task Force Hydra
Public Affairs Office

KABUL BASE CLUSTER

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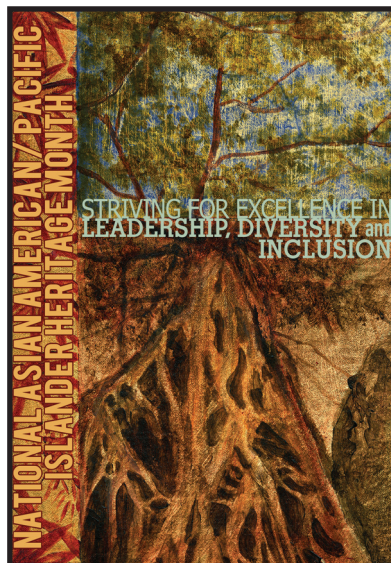
ON THE COVER

Col. Andy Hall, Task Force Hydra commander sits with a group of students at a local school where the civil affairs team is currently conducting a renovation project.



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Deployed Georgia Soldiers Staying Focused on Education

By Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill

Sgt. Dedrick M. Walton, the real property manager in the Department of Public Works on Camp Phoenix, stated that class instructors like Major Collie know what they are teaching and has worked in the criminal justice field for several years, and uses experience and knowledge to

commend them (the schools) for being here to offer that to the soldier," said Collie.

Collie stated that he has had many branches of service in his classes such as the marines, Special Forces, and the army, and that his classes have very diverse groups, and that there are no specific job categories that the students who take his class work in, just those that come to learn.

Attending college allows service members more opportunities for promotions and interaction with other students. Master Sgt. Tony E. Pounds who is attending three courses currently, thinks it is important for advancement and learning things that that he did not know previously, as well as meeting new people and interacting with them.

"Going to school over here is hard but most of the teachers are soldiers too and they understand that we may not make it to class a couple of days. The key is to just stay focused," said Maranda D. Stubbs, the TF Hydra commander's aid.

"The good thing about going to college while I am deployed is that it puts something civilian back in my life, which helps. Sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest difference in how things turn out," said Stubbs.



KABUL, Afghanistan – Some of Columbus' deployed Georgia Army National Guard unit, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, soldiers are taking classes while they are here as a way of passing free time, some to get started on a degree, and others are trying to complete their degrees; but no matter what the reason, they are all taking advantage of receiving a higher education as well as the tuition assistance that is available to them.

Most soldiers know that taking classes while they are here will help them in their military careers and after the military when they pursue or enhance their civilian careers.

Maj. James D. Collie from McDonough, Ga., the assistant operations center officer from McDonough, teaches a Criminal Justice class for Central Texas College on Camp Phoenix, at the education center two nights a week.

Collie believes that there is a difference in teaching here from in the United States. "Anybody that takes the time to want to better themselves, and take the extra time to go over there at night and sit and listen to me talk about stuff on their time, I think it means a lot. I think that somebody who takes classes in a war zone should be commended for going that extra mile," said Collie.

teach classes.



"I think it's awesome that Central Texas and the other schools that are here offer the classes in an area like this where students can pursue their education, because when you're stuck over here, sometimes you need a diversion from the bad stuff that's going on, so I think it's a good opportunity for the students. I



Commander's Corner

Col. Andy L. Hall



Spring has arrived! And in Afghanistan that means that the snow has melted, the winds have come in and children all over the city are rushing back to school. March marks the beginning of the school year here in Afghanistan and our Soldiers have been eager to assist however they can with making sure the children have what they need to be successful.

Our Civil Affairs team worked closely with village elders and school head masters this month, in providing much needed school improvements including wells for water and privacy walls for the safety of children while they learn. These projects have become a popular way for our Soldiers to get out and interact with the local community here. From heading out on missions to schools and orphanages to packaging up over 700 school supply kits with Operation Outreach, a volunteer organization, Task Force Hydra has certainly brought some southern kindness with us from across the ocean.

It is important to be vigilant in assisting the Afghan children in achieving an education, but I have been witnessing our Soldiers doing the same for themselves. Many of our Soldiers are using off time to better themselves through education. I promised our 648th family members that we would deliver their Soldiers back to them smarter and stronger and the Soldiers here are already delivering on that promise. There are Soldiers beginning their Bachelors and even working on graduate level work. I am proud that our Soldiers are able to multi-task, performing their respective missions, volunteering to improve the lives of children they may never see again and improving themselves and their future through education. Soldiers are making the most of their time here and we are a better, stronger and a more cohesive unit because of it.

I would be remiss if I did not mention one more thing about the month of March that made an impact on us as a unit. This past month we celebrated Women's history month. Here in Afghanistan the culture is one where women have a much harder time earning respect and gaining the education needed to compete with the men who dominate culture and politics here. I had the opportunity to witness

first hand a strong Afghan woman who is fighting cultural norms and forging a path for other women. Brig. Gen. Khatol Mohammadzai visited our camp and spoke to our women Soldiers about the trials and triumphs she has experienced in order to become the first female general in Afghanistan. Her inspiring story shed light on the fact that strong women have the ability to emerge through the most trying situations and we must both celebrate those women and fight alongside them in order to allow others to do the same. We are fighting alongside her.

I also had the opportunity this month to meet young girls at a school, eager to learn of the possibilities in store for them as they gain an education. I witnessed the eyes of young women light up when they met Lt. Col. Robyn Blader when she told them that she was a lawyer and spoke to them about the possibility that lies ahead when they have a solid educational foundation. I heard them speak about studying education themselves so they can become Kabul's next teachers and I know that the future for Afghan women looks brighter than ever.

There is definitely a transition taking place here and you can be sure that Task Force Hydra is helping to push that transition forward. I want to say thank you to our Soldiers and to our family members for lending your Soldiers to this effort. Also, thank you to our leadership back in Georgia all who are supportive of our team.

Command Sergeant Major's Corner

Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Smiley

As NCOs, we should continually be learning and growing in order to become more proficient and effective leaders.

In order to develop and grow in the Army, NCOs must attend Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) training, which consists of four different levels with the requirements varying by rank. Warrior Leader Course (WLC), Advanced Leader Course (ALC), Senior Leader Course (SLC) and Sergeant Major Course (SMC). These courses improve leadership skills and enhance military occupational skills training (MOS). It is also a prerequisite for promotion to the next higher grade.

Several of our Soldiers are limiting their potential by not attending NCOES. The worst offenders are at the Staff Sergeant (E6) level. Only about 25% of our Staff Sergeant's are eligible for promotion due to their NCOES requirement or time in grade (GaARNG). I realize that we are a nation at war, and many of these Soldiers are going from deployment to deployment without attending NCOES. Military education ensures leaders have the skills and knowledge needed to perform their duties and lead troops at home and in the war fight.

To advance to Sergeant First Class (E7), these E6s are required to attend the Advanced Leader Course, which teaches junior NCOs the basic skills to lead small groups of Soldiers which consists of a minimum of two phases (online and resident), the second phase concentrates on the study of the Soldier's specific job skills.

To advance to Master Sergeant (E8), the

E7s are required to attend the Senior Leadership Course which also consists of leadership training and job specific skills, but on a higher level.

The fourth NCOES is the Sergeants Major Course. Selected Master Sergeants can attend but is a requirement for all E9s. The Sergeants Major Course provides tools to develop

critical reasoning, creative thinking and decision-making skills. Soldiers are also given the education to enhance their character, self-expression, and strengthen teamwork abilities. This requires many long hours of correspondence followed by two weeks of resident training or a nine month resident course for the active component.

During this deployment, we were able to promote our last Private First Class to Specialist, and now he is eligible to attend WLC. We also promoted a few others only because they had prepared themselves by attending NCOES. We are very proud of all of them, but they were not promoted because of what they had accomplished, but rather for their leadership potential at the next higher level.

It is a Senior NCO's duty to produce, develop and grow quality NCOs. This will not happen without educating our Soldiers and making them aware of how important NCOES is for their future.

We as leaders must strive to help to improve this situation. It won't happen overnight and will not be easy, but it is worth the effort.

Train your Soldiers today as if they were going to lead your child into battle tomorrow.



AROUND THE KBC

Soldiers of Task Force Hydra start the day with a five mile Ruck March on the half mile track on Camp Pheonix (Photo by Army Master Sgt. Janet Hill Hydra PAO)



Sgt. Amanda Neil shares candy with school girls while out on a mission with the civil affairs team at a local school. (Courtesy Photo)



Lt. Col. Todd A. Perkins, New Kabul Camp Base Support Group commander, and his staff show their support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month by wearing teal ribbons. (Photo courtesy of New Kabul Compound BSG)



Staff Sgt. Craig Robinson launches a power kick during Tae Kwon Do training at Camp Pheonix. (Courtesy Photo)



The Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force undergoes a Transfer of Authority at Camp Eggers. (Courtesy Photo)



Though far away from the usual Easter celebrations back home, Soldiers interested in worshipping and celebrating here were given several opportunities through out the Kabul Base Cluster. Task Force Hydra's Chaplain Services, led by Lt. Col. Michael Summers, makes it possible for Soldiers of all religions to participate in their respective religious services. Easter was an especially busy day for the team that offered gospel, orthodox, contemporary and Catholic services throughout Hydra camps. Here Chaplain Capt. Neal Hicks from the 1st Battalion (Airborne) 143rd Infantry Regiment delivers an Easter message at Camp Phoenix. (Photo By Army Capt. Jacqueline Wren TF Hydra PAO)

CAMPS JULIEN AND DUBS SHOW APPRECIATION FOR LOCAL NATIONAL WORKERS



By 1st Lt. Russell Christopher

KABUL, Afghanistan – To show their appreciation for the Afghan local citizens who work on Camps Julien & Dubs, part of the Kabul Base Cluster, a recognition ceremony was held to thank them for the hard work they do on camp.

Despite the extremely cold weather and large amounts of snow and ice, the Local Nationals continued to show up for work. Not only did they brave the harsh weather, but they also continued to show up for work despite increased tension in the Kabul area following events that took place during the month of February.

The workers were honored for cooking the food and maintaining cleanliness in the DFAC, keeping the camp clean, making repairs, doing construction work, interpreting, and for the shop owners making a variety of different souvenirs available so that gifts could be sent home to the families and friends back home.

“This is only a few of the numerous things our Afghan citizens and brothers do for us each day,” said Maj. Ken Napier, Georgia Guardsman from the 648th Task Force Hydra and the officer in charge of Camps Julien and Dubs.

“The reason we are here today is to recognize those individuals who make all kinds of things happen,” said Napier.

These individuals make life easier at Julian & Dubs because they take care of things around the camps so that Coalition Forces can focus on taking care of missions on and around the camp.

Each individual was given a Certificate of Appreciation to show them how much they are appreciated by the Coalition Forces, and that their dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Chaplain's Corner



BY Chaplain Lt. Col.
Michael W. Summers

Education builds potential for success and diminishes misunderstanding. Learning takes place in a variety of ways for our TF Hydra Soldiers and their families. Some learn in classrooms. Others learn by doing. All

learn and thrive.

Living in a foreign culture, as our Soldiers do, exposes individuals to experiences, sights, sounds, and smells that they don't have back home. We sample new foods, shop for exotic carpets, and hear a variety of languages spoken in our dining facilities. Whether we're participating in a Key Leader Engagement, shopping at a bazaar, or sitting with Greeks, Bulgarians, or Canadians at dinner, we learn.

Education also occurs in more formal modes. Soldiers study French and Dari. Others take pre-law

or computer classes. Some enroll in online courses in International Relations. Still more make time to attend a Bible study class at the chapel or learn to build at the self-help shop.

All these forms of education expand our appreciation of the world around us. By learning more, we destroy misconceptions we have had of other cultures. By interacting with others, we build bridges between peoples and perhaps help lay a foundation for a lasting peace in Afghanistan. On a more mundane level, by learning we acquire new skills, make ourselves a little more interesting, and create more employment options. We stave off boredom, fight homesickness, and stay mentally sharp, merely by taking the time to learn something new.

Remarkably, this ability of education to improve one's outlook on life holds true in the state of Georgia as much as in Afghanistan. Family members also take college courses, begin new exercise regimens, and travel to introduce themselves and children to new cultural experiences. Whether you are in Afghanistan or Georgia, especially if feeling bored, look around and discover how education can transform your world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Many TF Hydra Soldiers celebrated their birthdays in April and May. Happy Birthday!



School Starts in Afghanistan; Task Force Hydra Lends a Hand



By Capt. Jacqueline Wren

When Americans think of Spring they think of rain, flowers returning from months of hibernation and children getting antsy with the thrill of upcoming summer. In Afghanistan a different excitement stirs in the month of March, and that is of children welcoming the start of the school year.

648th, Task Force Hydra, a Georgia Army National Guard unit from Columbus, is active throughout Kabul as the Kabul Base Cluster Command working with Kabul's political leaders, religious leaders and police to provide humanitarian assistance and funding for projects that both provide better quality of life and employ local Afghan workers. This month the advancement of education was the focus of one of seven current projects that the team is overseeing.

On the first Sunday of classes, the TF Hydra civil affairs team, led by Lt. Col. Michael O. Hulseley along with the Task Force Hydra Commander, Col. Andy L. Hall set out for a school with back-to-school gifts for the children.

Darulaman, a community within Kabul, is home to a school that is responsible for educating over 3000 students grades one through twelve. This school is the site of one of the over 30 current humanitarian projects that Task Force Hydra is currently overseeing. This particular project is to build a privacy wall for the school that will provide protec-



tion for girls attending the school.

"In Afghanistan, boundary walls equal security and privacy, which afford a conducive learning environment for this community's youth" said Hulseley about the project that broke ground this week and is scheduled to be complete within 45 days.

Along with checking in on the progress of the privacy wall, the teams brought over 400 bags of school supplies collected by Operation Outreach, a soldier run humanitarian organization, for the school's head master to share with the students.

Hall had an opportunity to speak with children in the classrooms and shared with them that his wife teaches school back home and that he will consider them all friends after that day.

When speaking to the classes of female students, he introduced Lt. Col. Robyn Blader, a member of Task Force Hydra's staff judge advocate team. Blader shared with the girls that she is a lawyer and how important education has



been in her life.

An eighth grade female student named Gulnaz who spoke English, shared with Blader that she wants to go on to college and study literature. She also said that it was good to have the Soldiers there to visit them.

"This was one of the best missions I've been on," said Blader. "These kids are learning 15 different subjects in a bare classroom with only a black board and can only attend three hours a day. It's nice to be able to help them."

As the team wrapped up the visit, the school head master shared his gratitude with Hall and Hulseley.

"Very near and dear to our heart is the education of children," said Hall before departing. "I know you share the same thoughts and that creates an educational bond for us."

AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY AND TASK FORCE HYDRA PARTNER FOR AFGHAN EDUCATION

By Capt. Jacqueline Wren

Soldiers of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Task Force Hydra, alongside Afghan National Army (ANA) Officials participated in a ground breaking ceremony for a school renovation in a neighboring community of Camp Black Horse and the Afghan Training Center here Saturday.

The Pol-e Charki project is to both renovate the school and install a well that will provide drinkable water for the thousands of students the school serves.

Task Force Hydra is active throughout Kabul as the Kabul Base Cluster Command working with Kabul's political leaders, religious leaders, police and ANA to provide humanitarian assistance and funding for projects that both provide better quality of life and employ local Afghan workers. This groundbreaking represented the beginning of a partnership between the Pol-e Charki community, the ANA and the TF Hydra Team at Camp Black Horse.

In partnership with the TF Hydra Civil Affairs team, the Black Horse Camp Commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Daniels worked with ANA Maj. Gen. Quadem Sha to choose a local project to collaborate with each other on. The two decided on a project that would invest in the future of Afghanistan and focuses on the education of Afghan children.

"We all grabbed the opportunity to enhance the educational potential of over 7000 students," said Daniels about the

school and his partnership with Quadem Sha and the ANA. "This event shows the children we all, ANA, US and Coalition Forces, understand and share in the responsibility of our future; the children are our most treasured possessions."

Saturday's ceremony was well attended by both the students and their families. Task Force Hydra Commander, Col. Andy Hall was present to participate by shoveling some of the first ground that will be the future location of the admin building.

"Those are the faces of our future," Hall said referring to the children that were present at the ceremony. "I expect quality work to be done here."

The ground breaking was also an opportunity for the teams to distribute over 500 bags of school supplies collected by Operation Outreach, a soldier run humanitarian organization, for the school's head master to share with the students. Daniels, Hall and Quadem Sha personally handed out the supplies to students that were present.

In addition to providing a new school admin building, remodeling of the main classroom building and the well, the project will employ 60 local Afghans.

This school is the site of one of the over 30 current humanitarian projects that Task Force Hydra is currently overseeing.





Maj. Homero Abrunjosa, Cpt. Gilberto Lopes of the Portuguese Army, their interpreter and ANA Officers and an NCO from the 111th Capital Division G2 and G3 sections built this 3 D terrain board in just 15 days with locally purchased materials.

Portuguese Operational Mentor Liaison Team Leaves Legacy

By Jose R. Arroyo-Nieves

Often time rotational units departing Afghanistan leave a lasting contribution for which they will be remembered by their Afghan counterparts. Such is the case with the Portuguese Operational Mentor Liaison Team (OMLT) missioned to develop the capabilities of the Commander and Staff of the 111th Capital Division in Kabul Province, Afghanistan. This Portuguese OMLT will be remembered by the three dimensional terrain board it designed and built to assist the 111th Capital Division staff during mission planning, rehearsals and execution.

Major Homero Abrunjosa, the 111th Capital Division G3 mentor and Captain Gilberto Lopes, the Division G2 mentor were the primary project officers for the construction of this magnificent and extraordinary work of art. They, along with three other Afghan officers and NCOs worked tirelessly for approximated 15 days to build this three dimension terrain board. The terrain board was hand carved out of styrofoam with jigsaw blades. The paints and all construction materials were purchased from local stores. The terrain board is built on scale of 1:25,000 kilometers. Each one inch styrofoam slab represents 1,000 feet of elevation.

Captain Lopes' motive for constructing the terrain board was to reinforce the training provided by the Portuguese OMLT in Map Reading. According to Captain Lopes, the

terrain board will teach the 111th Capital Division staff personnel how to correlate terrain features on a grid map with those on the terrain board representing the earth's surface and to better visualize terrain relief. The construction of the terrain board from locally purchased materiel demonstrates to the personnel assigned to the 111th Capital Division G2 and G3 sections that the resources to construct this spectacular work of art is within their reach. The terrain board will serve as a superb training aid for assisting the division staff in planning future missions, in conducting Rehearsals of Concept or ROC drills prior to a mission and to track unit movements during operations. It will also serve a great visual aid for future training in map reading and terrain identification.

The 17 man Portuguese OMLT is Commanded by Colonel Jose Rebelo and his Deputy Commander Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Regalas. This OMLT arrived in Afghanistan in October 2011 and will be rotating back to Portugal in April 2012. The mission of the Portuguese OMLT is to train, mentor and advise the 111th Capital Division staff in staff duties, functions and responsibilities while planning and executing counter insurgency and security operations within the Kabul Province. The 111th Capital Division with its headquarters at the Pol-e-Charky garrison (18 kilometers east of Kabul City) is commanded by MG Qudam Shal. The division is responsible for the security of the Kabul Province and has two subordinate brigades.

Soldiers of Task Force Hydra



Sgt. Alyssa Bindel, the billeting NCOIC at Camp Black Horse was promoted to her current rank in April, joining the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. Here Lt. Col. Kevin Daniels pins her with her new rank. (Photo by Capt. Jacqueline Wren, TF Hydra Public Affairs)

Master Sgt. Angel D. Nunez, of the Task Force Hydra police advisory team, shows his unity with one of the Afghan National Police who participated in an equipment demonstration and training on their camp recently. (Photo by Master Sgt. Janet Hill, TF Hydra Public Affairs)



Sgt. Jaclyn Hill, Camp Eggers human resource NCOIC with a group of community leaders during a project assessment for a local school renovation project that the camp is leading with the assistance of the task force civil affairs team.(Courtesy Photo)

Staff Sgt. Paul Norris was nominated as Hero of the Month at New Kabul Base Compound (NKC), for managing the living quarter of over 1100 tenants on NKC with minimal issues. He was instrumental in preparing and assisting with head to bed events as well as obtaining information vital to updating billeting rosters which increased accuracy from 60% to 98%. Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie D. Curry, the Sergeant Major of US Forces Assigned to Afghanistan (USAFOR-A), presented the award to Norris. (Courtesy Photo)



143RD INFANTRY REGIMENT



TRANSFERS AUTHORITY



By 1st Lt. Nick Lutton

March 14 proved to be an exciting day for the 1st Battalion 182nd Infantry Regiment from Massachusetts as they officially relinquished their responsibilities over to 1st Battalion 143rd Infantry Regiment (AIRBORNE) of Texas during a ceremony held in a warehouse on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Both units are steeped in history as the 182nd adds another streamer to its Battalion flag, and tradition dictates is covered up and cased for movement home, the 143rd uncases its colors and stands ready to accomplish its mission here in Afghanistan.

"I'm very proud to be a part of history in the making with the 143rd in Afghanistan. Having served with the 82nd, I feel like I am a part of something bigger being in an Airborne Battalion," said Sgt. 1st Class James Balandran of Austin, Texas.

Tracing its lineage back to the Independence of Texas, the 143rd has conducted operations in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II where it participated in the Salerno beach head landings, and the capture of Grenoble and Montelimar along the Rhone River. In 1968, the unit first became an Airborne Infantry unit serving as a round out brigade for the 82nd Airborne Division. On September 1, 2009 the unit was again designated as an Airborne Infantry unit regularly participating in airborne operations until it was called upon again to serve the nation. This is the first time since World War II the Battalion has deployed for an operation.

To the joy of the Soldiers standing in formation, Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Shawn McGrath of Devine, Texas kept his speech short and sweet simply greeting distinguished guests and visitors and saying, "All policies and procedures are still in place. Thank you."

Lt. Col. McGrath said the operations and security of Camp Phoenix are vital and on-going as this is an enduring base here in Afghanistan.

"It's an honor and privilege for me to be serving all the men and women that make up the 1-143rd IN (ABN). Please understand that it's also an honor to serve you. All of our Soldiers will tell you that I am old school and that's a fact. I give you my word I will instill this discipline into all of our Soldiers, their training and most of all this deployment to Afghanistan," said Command Sergeant Major Charles Harris of Brownwood, Texas.

Both the Commander and Command Sergeant Major said they look forward to doing a great job for the tenants of Camp Phoenix providing security and other services to help Camp Phoenicians accomplish their missions and one day casing their Battalion colors.



Breaking the Sound Barrier

By Master Sgt. Janet Hil

KABUL, Afghanistan – The legendary Maj. Gen. (Ret.), Charles “Chuck” Yeager, the first person to break the sound barrier, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, visited

when he flew the experimental Bell X-1 at a speed of Mack 1.

While here, Yeager promoted 1st Lt. Gary H. Suen, of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade to Captain, during a formal formation for the

Michael sang his latest single, “Uncountrify Me,” as well as several of his other songs that kept the audience tapping their feet, especially when he played “Hero’s and Angels,” which he wrote in honor of the World War II Veterans.



Col. Andy Hall (left), the commander of 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and Task Force Hydra commander, along with Capt. Marie B. Herbolt (right), intelligence officer in charge for TF Hydra, stand on both sides of 1st Lt. Gary H. Suen, intelligence officer for TF Hydra, as he waits for Ret. Maj. Gen. Yeager to promote him to Capt. (Photo by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill)

the troops here in the Kabul Base Cluster on April 16, 2012, during his “Speed of Sound Tour.”

Yeager, a test pilot in the United States Air Force, was the first man to travel faster than the speed of sound in 1947,

event that was held in Patriot Square on camp Phoenix.

Touring with Yeager was musician Barry Michael, a country singer from Atlanta, Georgia.

“That’s what I admire about you guys. You take care of me when I’m at home (in the United States), and right here (In Afghanistan),” said Michael between songs.

Following Michael’s performance,

Yeager's wife Victoria took the stage and said, "A picture is worth a thousand words," which was her way of introducing Yeager as a video of Yeager's career began to play on the screen.

The video ended in applause as Yeager made his way to the stage and spoke to a captivated audience as he told of his many missions and story's of his accomplishments.

One of the things that Yeager repeated several times when asked about his accomplishments was "I was in the right place at the right time."

After Yeager finished speaking, he took the time to answer several questions from the audience,.

When asked how he felt about breaking the sound barrier, and Yeager



Country singer Barry Michael (left) plays one of his songs for Soldiers at Camp Black Horse during his tour with Charles "Chuck" Yeager, on Yeager's "Speed of Sound" tour. (Courtesy Photo)

When asked what his favorite aircraft



Col. Andy Hall, the commander of 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and Task Force Hydra, escorts Ret. Maj. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Yeager to a promotion ceremony. (Photo by Master Sgt. Janet J. Hill)

SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN RUN IN MEMORIAL OF FALLEN GEORGIA SOLDIER

By Capt. Jacqueline Wren

Soldiers of Georgia Army National Guard's 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Task Force Hydra, hosted a shadow of the Lula, Ga. Some Gave All 5K, here at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan Saturday.

Like the Georgia race, The Kabul race was held to pay tribute to Maj. Kevin Jenrette, a Georgia Army National Guard member who died in Afghanistan in 2008 along with other fallen Soldiers from Georgia.

Over 200 U.S. Troops, Coalition Forces and civilians participated in the race which took place at 6:30 a.m. Task Force Hydra Soldiers from other Kabul camps also made the trip to participate.

Many of the Georgia participants served alongside Jenrette at some point in their careers.

"Kevin was exemplary leader and friend," said Lt. Col. Michael O. Hulsey, the Task Force Hydra civil operations officer and a classmate and fraternity brother of Jenrette at North Georgia College. "He had a great sense of humor but was all business when it came to his duties as a soldier."

The shadow run was planned by the Morale Welfare and Recreation team and Chaplain, Lt. Col. Michael W. Summers, who said a prayer for the fallen soldiers and those currently serving before starting the race.

"This race reinforces that if something does happen to soldiers, they are always remembered," said Summers.

Col. Andy Hall, Task Force Hydra commander also spoke to the participants before the race begun, telling the history of the race and thanking everyone there for participating.

Male and female over all winners were awarded with certificates. Army 1st Lt. 1LT Edwin Kain from the 1st Battalion 143 Infantry Regiment and Army Spc. Blanca Lopez from the 756th Transportation Company were the winners.



Task Force Hydra Public Affairs Team

Please submit your KBC Stories and Photos Monthly!



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