

# ON POINT!





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COVER

1st Lt. Dillon Kareive, an officer with 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, Combined Task Force Arrowhead, watches for spotters in the mountains while providing security for Afghan National Army soldiers during operation Kalak Hode 5 in the Mizan District of southern Afghanistan Sept. 5, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young)

BACK COVER

(Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua S. Brandenburg and Sgt. Christopher McCullough, Combined Task Force Arrowhead Public Affairs) (Illustration by Spc. Mark Neace)

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Training the trainer, Afghan-style

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Christopher McCullough  
Combined Task Force Arrowhead

With the withdrawal of International Security Assistance Forces looming in the future, coalition forces are focused on their partnered training programs so that the Afghan National Security Forces will be adequately trained when the bulk of coalition forces depart in 2014. One such approach ISAF is using is a program that has proven successful in the U.S. Army: the train-the-trainer program.

While often associated with combat training, the trainer-the-trainer program, when applied to traditional partnered training in Afghanistan, allows knowledgeable small-unit leaders and trainers the opportunity to train and mentor their Afghan counterparts in the basic ways and means of needed skill sets.

A skill set not often considered, but important to the Afghan National Army mission, is the proper operation and maintenance of a crane. Such training would allow the ANA to move disabled vehicles around their motor pool in order to repair and maintain their equipment; a task which is currently tedious and time consuming without such equipment at their disposal.

One such coalition unit providing crane training is the 132nd Engineer Company (Mobile-Role Bridge), California Army National Guard, from Redding,

Calif. The 132nd EN Co. (MRBC) is nearing the end of their tour of duty in Afghanistan, however, before leaving they took the opportunity to provide the basic skill sets necessary for a couple of ANSF non-commissioned officers from the 5th Kandak (battalion) to teach their soldiers how to operate a crane they had in their inventory.

“We attempted to teach them the basic concepts of how a crane operates and the safety involved with it (and the) maintenance (skills) essential for it to operate,” explained Spc. Richard Malacky. In essence, the goal of their training is to instruct the ANSF on how to operate the machinery safely and properly which gives the ANSF a better working knowledge of how their equipment works.

The crane training the soldiers of the 132nd EN Co. (MRBC) are instructing the ANSF in is something they, themselves, learned over several weeks at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. This fact speaks to the expertise of these soldiers as they were able to teach the basics of crane operation to the ANA soldiers in just a couple days.

For that reason the primary focus of Malacky’s training focused on the safe operation of the crane. Emphasis was placed on the use of the outriggers - metallic pads located on the sides that assist the crane when it lifts loads by putting the weight of the load on the stabilizers - as well as how to conduct preventive maintenance,

checks and services which will help extend the life of the ANA’s vehicles. Additionally, the importance of not overloading the boom was examined at length.

One of the Afghan trainers being instructed this day is Sgt. Ghulam Mahudin of the 5th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 205th ANA Corps. Mahudin, who will train additional ANA soldiers back at his unit following this block of instruction, agreed that the training he received here was good and would help him in the future.

“Before this training, I did not know more information about this boom,” said Mahudin, “but now I know when the boom has to be short so I can pick up heavy things. It means my experience became more and my experience has become good.”



Spc. Richard Malacky, 132nd Engineer Company, instructs an Afghan National Army soldier in the basic concepts of how a crane operates at Forward Operating Base Eagle, Sept. 3, 2012.



# Community development program keeps military-aged males off battlefield

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Brendan Mackie  
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

During Ramadan, in summer temperatures exceeding 100 degrees, the sounds of construction workers swinging pickaxes and the clangs of their shovels striking rocks drowned out the noise of passing traffic along the Kandahar-Quetta Highway near the district center here.

Approximately 550 skilled and unskilled laborers worked to build a walkway and an improved drainage system here thanks to a community development program offered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Central Asia Development Group and the local Afghan government.

"They are constructing 18,000 square meters of sidewalks, 6,000 meters of drainage ditches, and 30 culverts along both sides of the Kandahar-



Lt. Col. Joseph Cetta, an officer with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and Combined Task Force Arrowhead, speaks with U.S. and Afghan civilians about a construction project outside the district center in the city of Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, July 23, 2012.

Quetta Highway," said Trisha Bury, a field program officer with USAID. "The finished project will provide safety to pedestrians seeking government services at their district center and engaging in commerce at the bazaar."

This infrastructure rehabilitation project, which kicked-off in June and is slated to be complete by the end of October, is a cash-for-work employment program for Spin Boldak residents.

"This project will help the population because it's going to make our city cleaner and will prevent flooding in the area," said Mohammad Hashim Agha, district governor of Spin Boldak. "It will also

"Many people engage in insurgent activities merely because they cannot find other economic opportunities."

In addition to the obvious benefits of a walkway and improved drainage system, there is an underlying benefit of employing military-aged males and other at-risk populations.

"It is a good idea to employ these young men – especially at this time – because schools are off and they are employed here, earning money to support and provide for their families," Agha said. "It will prevent them from joining the insurgency and being employed – and used – by the Taliban against the Afghan government."

"Many people engage in insurgent activities merely because they cannot find other economic opportunities," Bury said, commenting on a community that suffers from an estimated 80 percent unemployment rate, according to a report by USAID. The hiring of at-risk populations is a cornerstone of the organization's community development programs.

This at-risk demographic includes: unemployed

locals, families without a secure income, people with recurring debt, individuals who care for a disabled person, families who live on credit in the winter, people who beg for a living, and other parties faced with economic hardship.

"Even though the work is short term, people can take pride in bringing home a legitimate income, learning a new trade on the job, and helping build something that will benefit their community for years to come," Bury said.

Since 2009, about 170 of these cash-for-work projects were completed, providing income for thousands of Spin Boldak residents, many of them part of the at-risk populace.

"A lot of good projects were done for the benefit of the people in this area," Agha said. "I hope development projects like this will continue in the future. All aspects of life, including education and agriculture, will be better in this district thanks to these projects."



An Afghan civilian collects water in an improved drainage system at a construction site along the Kandahar-Quetta Highway in the city of Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, July 30, 2012.



Afghan workers pause during the construction of an improved drainage system along the Kandahar-Quetta Highway in the city of Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, July 30, 2012. The project is part of an effort by the U.S. Agency for International Development and Afghan government to keep military-aged males and at-risk populations employed in programs that will enrich their community.



# Lagman UMT reaches out to soldiers through books, noodles and the MWR

Story and photo by Sgt. Christopher McCullough  
Combined Task Force Arrowhead

Gen. William Sherman said that “war is hell.” If that’s true, then the counterbalance to such misery is the unit ministry team.

The UMT is a team of religious support operations professionals - usually at least one chaplain and one chaplain assistant - who plan, provide and perform religious support operations. These devoted individuals are not only religious advisers who provide spiritual support to their congregation; they are also counselors, morale organizers, friends and even cooks, when the need arises.

One such UMT, located at Forward Operating Base Lagman, Qalat City, Zabul province, is overseen by Chaplain (Capt.) Chang J. Kim unit chaplain for 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, Combined Task Force Arrowhead. Kim’s congregation largely consists of Protestant Catholics - he estimates 80 percent of parishioners are Christian - though he is always able and willing to arrange for chaplains of other faiths to visit FOB Lagman if the desire is there. “I have to provide (Protestant) worship services whenever they request it,” said Kim. At FOB Lagman that means two Sunday services and two Wednesday Bible studies led by Kim, or a layman, in his absence. He also provides services to soldiers at numerous combat

outposts throughout the battlefield every other week when he conducts his “battlefield circulation.”

The 1-37 Field Artillery Regiment UMT provides more than just religious services. During the holidays, like Easter or Christmas, they organize special services and gatherings for fellowship, where they serve up food and drinks for everyone to enjoy.

“The chaplains organize caroling and some events like ... the (5K) turkey run,” said Kim. “With the MWR program, the chaplains can add more.”

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation program is an Army-wide program that “offers soldiers and families opportunities to enrich their lives culturally and creatively,” according to the website, [armymwr.com](http://armymwr.com). “(MWR) programs relieve stress, build strength and resilience, and help the Army Family stay physically, mentally and financially fit,” aspects that 1-37 FAR’s UMT is interested in helping their soldiers maintain.

“Basically boosting morale is (in) our same interest (the MWR and the chaplaincy) ... we can definitely communicate and create (events) for the soldiers and share resources too,” said Kim. “The MWR, they can provide us a number of care packages too.”

The other half of the Lagman UMT is Pvt. Christopher Baldwin. Baldwin was not available for comment

but Kim explained that the role of the chaplain assistant is very important to the UMT’s work, as the chaplain is considered a noncombatant so he does not carry a weapon or ammunition.

“The chaplain assistant is the only means of protection and returning fire when I get into trouble,” explained Kim. “When I go to (a) remote area, I don’t go alone; I am always accompanied by my assistant.”

The chaplain assistant is always an enlisted soldier who usually lives with and socializes with those soldiers that the UMT supports. This allows Baldwin, and in turn Kim, to assess the state of the soldiers as they sometimes talk to Baldwin about aspects of their deployment that Kim might not otherwise know about; issues that could affect the readiness or welfare of the affected soldiers.

“He basically knows the soldiers. He lives with them in their tent, like five or six of them together,” Kim said. “So sometimes he gives me insight into what the soldiers need and how they feel about this stage of the deployment. He definitely adds more perspective and views to the chaplaincy.”

Every UMT has a unique skill that is all its own - some aspect or quality the chaplain or his assistant brings to the team - and this team is no different. In Kim’s case, the ability that he brings to the table is his cooking skills.

“I usually try to help the soldiers in very practical ways, so when I visit the soldiers I see their needs,” said Kim. “I know there’s a lot of remote areas where they do not have a good (dining facility) or no U.S. DFAC at all; they either get their food from the Romanian dining facility or the Australian dining facility. Whenever I visit there I try to bring some (Korean) noodles and I cook for them, so we have a feast there. I did this a couple of times and the soldiers loved it.”

“It’s traditional Korean noodles that my wife sends me,” Kim further explained. “The soldiers love to have some different tastes, so we have a great supper together and that leads us into the great fellowship. I had quite a good time.”

In addition to everything Kim’s UMT does for the “Red Lions,” he also ensures that the soldiers living away from the larger FOBs have access to some of the same programs the UMT offers at the larger locations; programs such as “United through Reading.”

“United through Reading” is a family-support program found on FOB Lagman that is facilitated by the UMT. According to their website, [unitedthroughreading.org](http://unitedthroughreading.org), “the military program helps ease the stress of separation for military families by having deployed parents read children’s books aloud via DVD for their child to watch at home.” It is a popular program with the soldiers, according to Kim, and one that he brings to the soldiers at remote FOBs. It is a popular program with the soldiers, according to Kim, and is constantly requested by soldiers at remote locations.

“We went out to COP Wally and COP Adrian and there were five or six soldiers who were looking to send their readings to their children,” said Kim. “I want to provide the same opportunities to the soldiers in remote areas,” and he is accomplishing as much by bringing the programs to the soldiers in the field.

Part of the UMT’s success stems from the commander’s backing and support.

“My command group (provides) excellent support for the chaplain and the chaplain’s program,” said Kim. “They have 100 percent support for the chaplain’s ministry.” The “Red Lions” tour of duty is drawing to a close in a few months, and many of their soldiers are looking forward to reuniting with their families. Nevertheless, Kim and Baldwin are thinking ahead to the next group of soldiers who will replace them and how to help the new UMT best serve them.

“The previous chaplain, their UMT (left us) a great environment for the ministry so I appreciate them,” said Kim. “We will do the same thing - try to do our best to set up the environment for the next team to come. We would like to set them up for success.”

Capt. Chang J. Kim, unit chaplain for 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, Combined Task Force Arrowhead, preaches the sermon to the Protestant congregation at Forward Operating Base Lagman, Aug. 26, 2012.





# Zabul province hosts Economic Development Strategy Conference

Story by Sgt. Jason Nelson  
Photos by Senior Airman Joshua Turner,  
Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul

Over 30 Afghan government officials, including key provincial line ministers, gathered in Qalat City, the capital of Zabul province, to discuss the development of a comprehensive economic strategy Sept. 13, 2012. The purpose of the conference was to gather input from those officials on how to best move the province forward as it seeks to build its economic capacity and infrastructure.

The conference, sponsored in part by the United States Agency for International Development, focused on the development of agri-business in Zabul and the expansion of export operations

into neighboring provinces. The all-day session resulted in extensive input from the officials and helped to formulate the strategy of the provincial government as the region moves to transition from International Security Assistance Force support.

“The goal of the conference was to lay out guidelines for regional economic growth, while relying on efforts from those who not only are the local experts, but will also be responsible for its long-term implementation,” said Wesley Nguyen, USAID’s private sector official. “We presented the development strategy with the hope that the government members would bring their own ideas to the table and that we

could incorporate those ideas into the final project.”

The conference began with introductions for those present and then explained the purpose of the Economic Development Strategy. Nguyen says that the immediate goal was to create solutions that were organic to the province, and therefore sustainable.

“The first goal is to harness the local agri-business potential, increasing crop yields and quality,” said Nguyen after the conference concluded. “The second goal was to create opportunities for the expansion of the export operations that currently exist. By increasing market opportunities for those



Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Director Rahim Dad and Director of Sectors Abdul Uszgani of Zabul Province receive instruction from a U.S. Agency for International Development adviser at an Economic Development Strategy Conference in Qalat City, Sept. 13, 2012.



Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan officials incorporate their ideas into an Economic Development Strategy at the EDS Conference in Qalat City, Zabul province, Sept. 13, giving its resulting document an organic quality that would help to ensure its success.

products, you can improve the lives of farmers and business owners in Zabul Province.”

Director of Sectors for the Provincial Governor Abdul Uszgani saw the EDS as an opportunity to increase stability in the region.

“By increasing farm-to-market capacity, we will increase employment in the province,” said Uszgani. “This will in turn improve the overall quality of life for our people.”

“This type of activity (the conference) helps to build important relationships,” said Rahim Dad, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development director for Zabul Province. “Long-term planning helps to provide a blueprint for the people,

one that will lead to success of the economy.”

After initial presentations had concluded, the attendees split into smaller working groups with the goal of providing contributions to the EDS. These contributions were presented to the entire group at the end of the day, and will be incorporated into the strategy.

“The officials left with a positive view of the conference, and some really great ideas were presented,” said Nguyen. “These included the idea to create a bank for agri-specific lending, the creation of a trade association and plans to increase agri-specific training.”

The completed EDS will include these suggestions, and the plan will be reviewed by a specially-

appointed council that includes the provincial governor. This council will then bring the strategy to donor organizations in Kabul with hopes to begin immediate action to the region.

“As security improves in the region, it is important that we continue to make improvements in economic sectors,” said Uszgani. “Then the lives of every Afghan will improve, and there will once again be opportunity for those who live here.”

“By increasing farm-to-market capacity, we will increase employment in the province.”



# New outpost is bad news for insurgents in Mizan

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Joshua S. Brandenburg  
Combined Taskforce Arrowhead

The landscape of the Mizan District in southern Afghanistan is dominated by many hills and mountains creating pockets of farmable land in the valleys along the Arghandab River. Taliban fighters have long intimidated the local villagers and used this area and its villages as a safe haven for their operations.

However, the peaceful farmers of what is known as the Mizan Bowl (as it is nearly surrounded by mountains and high hills) have less to fear from the Taliban than ever before, thanks to a higher presence of Afghan National Army soldiers in the area and the addition of a new outpost.

The ANA engineers of 2nd Brigade,

205th ANA Corps have built a new outpost in support of Kalak Hode 5 in the Mizan District, and Afghan soldiers from the 6th Kandak, of the same brigade, already have a continuous presence of security from this location and will be able to conduct enduring operations in the surrounding area.

“The overall effect of this outpost is that it is extending the forward line of troops about four kilometers from where it previously was inside the Mizan District center area,” said Maj. Nathan Whitlock, team leader for Security Forces Assistance Team 42, Combined Task Force Arrowhead partnered with the 6th Kandak.

Whitlock went on to say that the outpost allows the 6th Kandak to dominate terrain in all four



Afghan National Army mortar men of the 6th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 205th ANA Corps fire their 82 mm mortar from the construction site of their future outpost at an insurgent's position after an Afghan patrol received small-arms fire in Mizan District, southern Afghanistan Sept. 4, 2012. Afghan National Security Forces provided their own security during the construction of the outpost.

directions.

Construction was fast paced and the engineers were ahead of schedule within the first day. The engineer's tempo did not slow, with leveling terrain, laying and filling Hesco barriers in the first three days. The engineers also bull-dozed a steep dirt path into a one-lane road reinforced with gravel, that they quarried themselves out of the side of a hill, so it would not wash out during the rainy season.

Afghan soldiers from the 6th Kandak along with soldiers of 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division provided security while the

building was under way. The 6th Kandak Commander, Lt. Col. Ultrafullah, wasted little time once securing the construction site and immediately began sending out patrols to the surrounding villages. The patrols further secured the area and showed the populace that Afghan National Security Forces were there for their protection.

“It will allow them [ANA] to really get into the local populace; start building their [villagers] confidence in the ANSF and the idea of security,” said Capt. Brian Rieser, commander of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. “With their [ANA] presence here the Taliban doesn't have the ability to have unmolested freedom of maneuver of the Mizan Valley.”

During the construction a few local elders approached the



Afghan National Army engineers of 2nd Brigade, 205th ANA Corps construct the outer wall of a new outpost using Hesco barriers in Mizan district, southern Afghanistan, Sept. 4, 2012.

hill and had an impromptu Ultrafullah.

meeting with both ANSF and ISAF leadership. All seemed pleased after the meeting and the elders were thankful to see more security forces in the area. That meeting only further heightened the resolve of Ultrafullah and his men.

“With this checkpoint we prevent, observe and spot all the enemies. The enemies cannot do any movement in Mizan,” said

Ultrafullah went on to say that this outpost, although not fully completed, has already changed the Mizan Bowl for the ANA, local villagers and most importantly the Taliban. The outpost is preventing the enemy from openly conducting operations from Mizan District and providing security for the area.



Afghan National Army engineers of 2nd Brigade, 205th ANA Corps watch as heavy equipment levels the top of a hill before they can start building a new outpost in Mizan District, southern Afghanistan Sept. 4, 2012.



Afghan National Army engineers of 2nd Brigade, 205th ANA Corps constructed the base of a new outpost in three days in Mizan District, southern Afghanistan, Sept. 6, 2012.





U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua S. Brandenburg



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua S. Brandenburg



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua S. Brandenburg



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua S. Brandenburg



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young



# Southern Strike III takes swing at enemy forces, supplies

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Brendan Mackie  
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Long after midnight with most residents here fast asleep, 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police and International Security Assistance Force members quietly launched their surprise air assault mission in conjunction with Operation Southern Strike III, an Afghan-led mission that took place in Spin Boldak and Takhteh Pol districts Sept. 1-9.

The air assault team of Afghan, Albanian, and U.S. forces focused on interdicting enemy supplies of improvised explosive device materials and preventing enemy forces from fleeing across the border, said the air assault commander.

"This was my first air assault mission and also the first dismounted mission as well,"

said Pfc. Nick Schumacker, an infantryman with Alpha Company of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment. "It is quite the adrenaline rush when you're getting off the helicopter."

In fact, it was the Tomah, Wis., native's first helicopter ride ever.

"I was pretty excited, never been on a helicopter," Schumacker said. "That was pretty fun, just locked and loaded, and then ran off the helicopter and pulled security."

While Schumacker and others were busy securing the area and searching caves, soldiers with the 569th Engineer Company were creeping toward their predetermined positions, clearing IED threats to make the roads safe for subsequent ABP and ISAF convoys.

"We go out there, clear the routes,



A villager carries bags of grain given to him by the 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police during Operation Southern Strike III in the village of Enjergay, Spin Boldak district, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Sept. 3, 2012.

and we save lives," said Pfc. Forrest Myers, an engineer and radio telephone operator from Hanford, Calif. "Although we do spend the long hours out there, at the end of the day you know each IED that you find could be one life saved. To me, it's all worth it."

During Southern Strike, the engineer company discovered eight improvised explosive devices along routes, while border police and soldiers with A Company, 5-20th Infantry found a cache of 650 pounds of homemade explosives in the form of 14 five-liter jugs.

"When we get intel that the infantry found a cache, it makes us feel that much better," Myers said. "Because we know, 'hey, we didn't just clear this route for the fun of it.' The infantry behind us

was able to do their jobs and were able to stop the Taliban."

During the operation, ABP and ISAF cleared five villages of any possible threats. After that, shuras were held with village elders in an effort to better connect district leadership with these outlying villages.

One of the soldiers responsible for safely escorting the U.S. leadership to these meetings was Cpl. B.J. Buie, an infantryman and team leader with the 5-20th Infantry's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"We are the eyes and ears of the headquarters element," said Buie of Fayetteville, N.C. "We allow the colonel to get to point A to point B so he can talk to all the village elders and get that face-to-face with all those guys."

Without service members on the ground to focus on security and support, the operation's main goal of dislocating the enemy from the local population would have been difficult to accomplish.

"We focus on these little things so the colonel doesn't have to," the corporal said. "He knows the bigger picture so we take care of the small stuff so he can go in there and focus on what he needs to."

In addition to facilitating the shuras in the villages, the operation included the enrollment of individuals in the Secure Electronic Enrollment Kit.

of the 14th Cavalry Regiment.

The ABP also handed out humanitarian aid at the end of each visit. Soldiers offered medical aid to villagers and spent time interacting with local children.

After many 14-hour days spent enduring the weight of bulky body armor and battling the fierce sun, the participating service members and their Afghan counterparts can look back and realize with satisfaction their support mission directly contributed to the large-scale efforts in the region.

"It may be long and hard," Myers said, "but at the end of the day, you can lay down in your bed peacefully knowing, hey, I did my job, I'm going to get up and do it tomorrow."



Members of the 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police provide security during Operation Southern Strike III outside the village of Jandad Kalay, Spin Boldak district, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Sept. 9, 2012. The operation focused on dislocating the enemy from the local populations and connecting the district leadership with outlying villages.



Lt. Col. Steven Soika looks on as Sgt. Chris Hagen hands out a stuffed animal to an Afghan girl during Operation Southern Strike III at the village of Spin Kariz in the district of Spin Boldak, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Sept. 6, 2012. Both servicemen are with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, which is part of the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Soika is from Brunswick, Ohio. Hagen hails from Winter Haven, Fla.



# Arghandab River crossing brings new hope to Mizan

Story and photos by Sgt. Matt Young,  
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Afghan National Army and International Security Assistance Forces teamed to clear the Mizan Bowl area of insurgents in early September during the military operation Kalak Hode 5.

This operation was planned and led by the ANA soldiers of the 6th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 205th ANA Corps, with soldiers of Combined Task Force Arrowhead present every step of the way to provide over-watch and answer any requests from the ANA commander.

The Mizan Bowl consists of four villages: Popuzla Salam, Pota Kallah, Towlkai Salam and Rabajoy. The Taliban has historically had a strong presence in the Mizan District due to a lack of Afghan National Security Forces.

The operation allowed the ANA

to go on the offensive against the Taliban, said Capt. Brian Reiser, the commander of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd infantry Division.

"The 6th Kandak Commander, Lt. Col. Ultrafullah, has now been able to push his front-line of troops down to the Arghandab River. That will allow him to hold the Mizan bowl and secure the area for the local populace," Reiser said.

The leader of Security Forces Assistance Team 42, Maj. Nathan Witlock, explained the importance of the river crossing. Team 42 reports to Combined Task Force Arrowhead.

"The crossing of the Arghandab and clearing of the Mizan bowl area was key to helping the villagers and their inhabitants," Witlock said.



Task Force Arrowhead soldiers make their way back across the Arghandab River in the Mizan district of southern Afghanistan under the watchful eyes of their fellow soldiers, Sept. 5, 2012. These soldiers helped provide over-watch for the Afghan National Army during operation Kalak Hode 5.

The river valley is the agricultural hub and economic hub for the Mizan district. Now that the Taliban presence has been pushed out, it's likely the villagers will prosper and enhance their way of living.

"Since the start of Kalak Hode 5, the 6th Kandak commander has been able to orchestrate this entire operation basically by himself with very little need for ISAF support," Reiser said. "Ultrafullah has not only been able to construct a new check point, but also clear out the Taliban throughout the Mizan bowl."

With KH5 complete, the ANSF control the most dominant terrain in the Mizan Valley. This promises to allow ANSF to deny the Taliban freedom of movement and provide security for nearby villages.



Afghan National Army and Afghan Uniform Police patrol the Mizan District in southern Afghanistan Sept. 5, 2012, in support of operation Kalak Hode 5. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua S. Brandenburg)

"With the Afghan Army's presence here, the Taliban doesn't have the freedom of movement they once had, being able to conduct their intimidation operations on the local villagers," Reiser said. "Now that the ANA are here, the Taliban have pushed across the Arghandab River and out of the villages in the Mizan District."

During Kalak Hode 5, Taliban forces attempted to disrupt ANA operations and deter security within the province. Taliban efforts were thwarted as the ANA used its newly-established positions to counter them and push them back across the Arghandab River and out of the neighboring towns. ISAF forces supported the ANA from over-watch positions as the ANA took the fight to the enemy.

The mission started with coalition vehicles loaded with enough food, water and ammunition to last the soldiers a week before the push north toward the Arghandab River began.

Upon completion of the mis-

sion, key leader engagements were conducted with local villagers. The local populace was very grateful for the presence of the security forces and the great job they did to bring peace back into their villages.

"This operation was huge. Ultrafullah basically told the Taliban 'If I want to cross the river, I can, and it's not hard for me to do it and I will continue to do it,'" Reiser said.

Reiser said the operation was a

success in every aspect ranging from the command-and-control to ground operations.

"The ANSF was spot on in conducting the Arghandab River crossing operation," Reiser said. "We (ISAF) basically stood by providing over-watch for their patrols. We had very little to do with the operations that were conducted, and I think that's the biggest thing. It shows that if we were not there, the ANSF could have still completed the mission at hand."



Afghan National Army soldiers and Afghan National Police talk over the day's objectives before going on patrol across the Arghandab River in Mizan district, Afghanistan, Sept. 5, 2012.



An Afghan National Army vehicle makes its way through southern Afghanistan Sept 5, 2012. The ANA conducted operation Kalak Hode 5 with many mounted and dismounted patrols in the Mizan District.



# Takhteh Pol district to get police substations

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Brendan Mackie  
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Afghan and U.S. forces are working together to expand the Afghan Uniformed Police presence here with the establishment of several police substations at strategic locations throughout the Takhteh Pol district starting this year.

Abdul Manaf, the district chief of police here, and Security Force Assistance Team 15 recently divided Takhteh Pol into four police subzones to implement the police garrison concept, connecting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with the villagers throughout the district.

"The idea is the substations will

project GIRoA's influence into the four subzones," said Lt. Col. Carlos Schroder, commander of SFAT 15. "Those substations will provide the people an opportunity to walk in and say, 'I am having a problem,' or 'I saw the Taliban coming through on a motorcycle last night,' and 'I think there is an IED

"We are just trying to set the stage for further success."

factory over here.' Information comes quicker and the AUP will be able to act on that much quicker."

Establishment of substations throughout Kandahar province's newly formed district is part of the police garrison concept, where police stations are placed in outlying areas among the people.

Because of the greater danger, past security efforts concentrated on getting rid of the Taliban with little focus on community policing, said Capt. Ron Peterson.

"We are trying to get the police out to the people, not just staying here [along the Kandahar-Quetta Highway]," said Peterson, executive officer of SFAT 15. "If



Abdul Manaf, district chief of police, and soldiers of Security Forces Assistance Team 15, Combined Taskforce Arrowhead discuss possible locations for an Afghan Uniformed Police substation near the village of Putakaye' Ulya in the district of Takhteh Pol, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Aug. 9, 2012.

something happens, it takes the police sometimes two, three, or four hours to get out to the villages."

Currently in the district, situated along the highway, there are two AUP checkpoints that are too far away to adequately respond to the needs of remote villages.

"Cause one, you have to get there. You have to go down routes that may not be safe, so you may have to take alternate routes," Peterson said. "So let's get the policemen out there so the people can easily go to them."

Without security in the form of these police substations, providing assistance in the areas of health and welfare, agriculture, commerce,

transportation and education will be difficult, Schroder said.

"A lot of stuff is going on here," Schroder said. "We are working with the district governor, assisting him in building up his cabinet, figuring out how he wants the cabinet to operate."

One police substation is already approved and awaiting construction with others pending. One crucial step is getting these substations built. Although, having the proper management and support to operate these sites are equally important. "I would like to see four subzone commanders appointed and attending security shuras weekly with the district chief of police and district governor,"

Schroder said. "I would like to see the three substations that have been developed, signed off by the Afghan government and sent up to ISAF for review."

The entire process of planning, approval, and construction of one substation can take anywhere from six months to a year, Schroder said.

"What we are doing here is really important. I think this stuff is going to help the Afghan people be able to govern themselves, provide security for themselves and climb out of years of conflict," Schroder said. "We are just trying to set the stage for further success. Assisting the AUP in improving their security throughout the district would be an important part of that."



Abdul Manaf, district chief of police, and Lt. Col. Carlos Schroder, Security Forces Assistance Team 15, discuss possible locations for an Afghan Uniformed Police substation near the village of Putakaye' Ulya in the district of Takhteh Pol, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Aug. 9, 2012. Building substations is part of the police garrison concept of community policing. Schroder is from Lindon, Utah.





U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young



# Army Chief of Staff visits FOB Zangabad and Regional Command (South)

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Ashley Curtis  
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, visited Regional Command (South) and while there, traveled to Forward Operating Base Zangabad, situated in the region's most dangerous area, the horn of Panjwai, Sept. 18, 2012.

Odierno's main priorities during the visit were to meet Soldiers conducting operations in the area, learn up-close about the issues they are up against and how they are working with Afghan National Security Forces to conduct operations.

"It's important for me as the provider of Army forces here,

around the world and especially in Afghanistan, to come and get a first-hand look and talk to the leadership here and also to get a chance to talk to our soldiers to understand what they're thinking, what they're needs are and to let them know what I'm thinking," said Odierno. "Today I had the opportunity to sit down and meet with an Afghan brigade commander, and he talked me through what they had done in order to build their capabilities."

Odierno also wants to make sure Afghan security officials are making inside-the-wire threat mitigation a priority.

"In the back of our minds, is obviously this problem with the insider threats," he said. "We're



A soldier from 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division demonstrates using a Mine Hound metal detector during a counter improvised explosive device lane for the Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno (right), at Forward Operating Base Zangabad, Afghanistan, Sept. 18, 2012.

working very hard to understand what are the right tactics, techniques and procedures. And also [we're] ensuring that the Afghan commanders understand their responsibility to ensure that our Soldiers working with them remain safe."

Making sure that Soldiers are being taken care of and have what they need to be successful is a high priority for the Army Chief of Staff.

"Always, my first priority is to make sure that when [soldiers] come here they're trained, they're ready, they're manned at the right levels, they have the equipment they need to be successful - that's number one. Second, is to ensure once they get over here, do they have the facilities and do they

have the capabilities to execute the mission to standard? And then finally, it's just really about checking: Are we implementing our lessons learned?" he said.

"I'm so very honored that I had the opportunity to work with them, and lead them in the Army."

After meeting with International Security Assistance Force and ANSF leadership about tough

questions like these, Odierno spent the remainder of his time here visiting with junior-level soldiers of 1st. Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash.

"I have been deployed several times to Iraq [and] I've visited Afghanistan on several occasions, and the thing that never, ever changes is the professionalism and preparedness of our Soldiers. As I've had the opportunity to go around and visit them first hand, I am so impressed with their dedication, not only to the mission, but they're dedication to each other," Odierno said.

He administered the Oath of Reenlistment to 18 soldiers of 1-23 Infantry and awarded various medals to about 20 more, including medals for valor and Purple Hearts.

Following the awards presentation, he spoke directly to soldiers and sat down with them for lunch.

He said, "These are young men and women who are just dedicated to our nation and to our Army, and continue to work so hard. I'm so very honored that I had the opportunity to work with them, and lead them in the Army."



Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, swears in 18 soldiers of 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at FOB Zangabad, Afghanistan, Sept. 18, 2012. Odierno's stop at the FOB was part of a Regional Command (South) visit, where he focused on gathering first-hand information from Soldiers on the ground about counter improvised explosive device measures, Security Force Assistance Teams, Afghan National Security Forces progress and inside-the-wire threats, among other topics.



Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, listens to a counter improvised explosives device brief from 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division soldiers at Forward Operating Base Zangabad, Afghanistan, Sept. 18, 2012.



# Arrowhead Remembers



Staff Sgt. Jason M. Swindle

Staff Sgt. Jason Swindle, born in Arkansas, joined the US Army in July 2005 as an infantryman. He went to Fort Benning, Georgia where he completed basic combat training and AIT. He arrived to 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, Ft. Stewart, Georgia in February 2009.

Staff Sgt. Jason Swindle was a strong junior leader with the experience and knowledge other soldiers looked up to. He will always be remembered as a hero to his fellow Bayonet soldiers, the Desert Rogue and Tomahawk families and to a grateful Nation.

He is posthumously awarded the

Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. His other awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal (ISAF) and the Expert & Combat Infantry Badges.

He is survived by his wife Chelsey, and his son Paxton.



Sgt. Louis R. Torres

Sgt. Torres joined the Army as an infantryman in June 2008.

He was assigned to Joint Base Lewis McCord in October. He was assigned to 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment. In 2011 He was reassigned as a team leader in 1st Platoon and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation,

National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with one Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Ribbon (second award). Sgt. Torres has also been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge.

He is survived by his brother Albert A. Torres, his mother Armanda Ellis, and his father Albert Torres.







**Sgt. Sapuro Brightley Nena**

Sgt. Sapuro Brightley Nena was born on the island of Kosrae of the Federated States of Micronesia on September 3, 1987. Sgt. Nena graduated from Kaimuki High School in the summer of 2006. He enlisted into the Army as a 19K (armor crewman) on May 08, 2008. He attended Basic Training at the Army Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky and graduated in September 2008.

As an armor crewman, Sgt. Nena served as a driver and loader for the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. He first deployed to Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division of Fort Bliss, Texas. Upon his redeployment, Sgt. Nena was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington. He was later assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, where he served as a gunner on the Stryker Mobile Gun System. Sgt. Nena was then re-assigned to the 1st Squad-

ron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, where he served as a gunner in 1st Platoon, Crazyhorse Troop.

Sgt. Nena's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart Medal (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal (2nd award posthumous), Army Achievement Medal (2nd award), Meritorious Unit Citation (2nd award), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral 2), NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge and the Driver's Badge.

Sgt. Nena is survived by his wife Sherlyn Nena and his mother Mary Ann Nena.



**Spc. Genaro Bedoy**

Spc. Genaro Bedoy was born on November 21, 1991, in Amarillo, Texas. Spc. Bedoy graduated from high school in the summer of 2010 and enlisted into the Army on November 1st, 2010. He attended basic training at the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia and graduated as an Infantryman on March 8, 2011.

Spc. Bedoy was then assigned to Charlie Company, 52nd Anti-Tank Regiment at Joint Base Lewis McChord on 16 March, 2011. Spc. Bedoy was then re-assigned to 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 11-12. Spc. Bedoy was assigned to 1st Platoon, Crazyhorse Troop where he excelled as a dismount, driver and

gunner. Spc. Bedoy earned the trust and confidence of his platoon and was counted on as a leader among his peers.

Spc. Bedoy's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart Medal (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2nd award), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Spc. Bedoy is survived by his wife Patty Bedoy, Daughter Sophia Bedoy and Parents Jose and Veronica Bedoy.







**Spc. Joshua N. Nelson**

Spc. Joshua Nathaniel Nelson was born on November 2, 1989, in Greenville, North Carolina. He enlisted into the Army on March 9, 2010. Spc. Nelson went to Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and completed his Advanced Individual Training as a 35N (Intelligence Analyst) at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.

Spc. Nelson was then assigned to Delta Company, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Gordon, GA. He later deployed to Afghanistan on June 2, 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Spc. Nelson was re-assigned to Alpha Company, 502nd

Military Intelligence Battalion, then attached to Task Force 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment.

Spc. Nelson's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart Medal (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal (posthumous), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

He is survived by his wife Quamisha Nelson.



**Pfc. Jon R. Townsend**

Spc. Jon Ross Townsend was born on October 28, 1992 in Claremore, Oklahoma. Upon graduating from high school, he enlisted into the Army on May 31, 2011. Spc. Townsend graduated from the Army infantry school at Fort Benning, Georgia and was assigned to the Arrowhead Brigade on October 14, 2011.

Spc. Townsend was then assigned to Crazyhorse Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on December 12, 2012. While deployed Spc. Townsend was assigned to 3rd squad, 3rd (Nite) platoon as a squad auto-

matic weapon's (SAW) gunner.

Spc. Townsend's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart Medal (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal (posthumous), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Spc. Townsend is survived by his wife Brittany Taylor Townsend and his grandmother Lois Fern Harrison





# 2<sup>ND</sup> TO NONE

3<sup>RD</sup> STRYKER BRIGADE 2<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM



ARROWHEAD "ON POINT"

