

THE WARRIOR DISPATCH



Greetings from FOB Salerno!



MAJ Gregory Motz
PRT Khost
Executive Officer

Greetings from FOB Salerno! Another month has passed and we are saying hello to rotation Juliet and preparing for the departure of rotation India. Just in time to be home for the holidays!

We have been blessed to work with many great Americans and made many great friendships along the way. I give my sincerest thanks to everyone at home for the sacrifices that you and your families have made. I can only imagine the difficulties that you bear so that we can remain focused on our mission and get our job done safely. With the Holiday celebrations in the near future, please keep in mind that post deployment celebration usually involve alcohol and have fun, but find a designated driver or make arrangements to ensure that everyone arrives home safely at the end of the night.

I will truly miss those who are heading for home and am looking forward to continuing the mission with rotation Juliet.

Inside this issue:

Strangers become Friends	2
Team Vulture	4
Awards and Promotions	6
Mission Picture	10
Meet our Linguists	13
Physical Fitness Test	14



International Security Assistance Force

In support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, ISAF conducts operations in Afghanistan to reduce the capability and will of the insurgency, support the growth in capacity and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), and facilitate improvements in governance and socio-economic development in order to provide a secure environment for sustainable stability that is observable to the population.

A Word from the Sergeant Major

The air is filled with excitement as we are putting together this final edition of the Warrior Dispatch. The time is drawing near that many of our unit will be departing Afghanistan to reunite with their families and resume more familiar activities at home.

I have enjoyed my time with all of your soldier's and sailor's and will miss them as they leave the few remaining unit members to begin their journey back to the United States. It has been a challenging and yet, I hope rewarding year as we end our time together as a unit. This has been a special group assembled for a short period of time to accomplish a specific mission. We would not have been able to accomplish all that we have without each and every one of our unit members.

I hope that all of our group have a great reunion with their families and enjoy their time together before everyday life kicks back in. I wish each of you the best for your future and want to thank the families again for your sacrifice that you have endured as well.

SGM Stafford



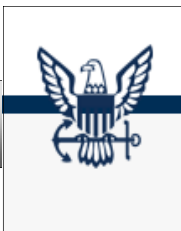
SGM Michael Stafford
PRT Khost
Sergeant Major



Internet links



<http://www.army.mil/>



<http://www.navy.mil/>



<http://www.defense.gov/>



<http://www.state.gov/>



<http://www.usaid.gov/>

Military deployments bring together strangers that become friends

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.

- Dan Lipinski

Military deployments bring together strangers that become friends. While we look forward to returning home to our friends and families it will be difficult to leave our friends we have made on this deployment.

We started our deployment back at Camp Atterbury last November and it was our home away from home for three months. Some of us would say that the time in Atterbury was too long but I think the time was necessary for us to come together as a team. Bringing together Army and Navy reserve, National Guard, and Active duty Army and Navy with different military cultures was something that took time. There are always a lot of differences between units and their cultures but the one thing that remained was our common interest in seeing the mission done well.

We deployed to Afghanistan in early March and after some turbulence with our command team we really started to work and function together well as a team. The days turn into weeks and then months and here we are now looking at leaving in a couple of weeks. Such is life in the military.

I always say that every deployment is different and we will never be able to create what we have here again. I wish all of the PRT members well and thank them as they head off in their separate directions. I think we have done a job we can be proud of – HOOAH.



LTC James Blashford
PRT Khost Civil Affairs



Civil Affairs Command



Indiana National Guard



1st Battalion (Airborne)
143rd Infantry Regiment



We're on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/PRTKhost>





Members of PRT Khost Agribusiness Development Team display a large banner created by students at St. Mary of the Knobs Elementary School. The banner was sent with multiple care packages.



Students from St. Mary of the Knobs Elementary School pose with care packages and a larger banner that were sent to show their appreciation for the soldiers of PRT Khost.





SSG Thomas W. Van Scyoc
Civil Affairs Team Leader



"One of the most important lessons I learned that day is this, you cannot get skinny enough with incoming mortars!!! You have no idea where they are going to land. You can hear them careening through the air...but to where?"

- SSG Erick Crawford

In the early morning hours of August 21st, two CH-47 twin-rotor heavy lift helicopters swept down through the darkness toward the gravel covered open space that serves as the vehicle staging area and helicopter landing zone (HLZ) at joint combat outpost (JCOP) Sabari. This place serves as home for a combined force of Afghan Army soldiers, police, and elements of a company of US Army Infantry. The blacked-out Chinooks flew in from the south, over the mountains beyond which lay FOB Salerno. As they descended, flared, and settled to the ground, the pilots rotated the aircraft to face northwest. Down went the ramps, and the faintest glow from the darkened interior could be seen by the US Soldiers with their night vision. Two of the men gathered among the paratroopers of Apache Company, 1-501st INF (ABN) and Afghan security forces were NCOs with the CAT-A of PRT Khost. This team is the tactical detachment of Civil Affairs Soldiers who operate as small elements embedded with maneuver troops that are responsible for the "battle space" of Khost Province.

The two helicopters surged upwards, following their noses and the broad path of the *wadi* below them. The many villages of Sabari District lay sprawled below. The terrain of this part of the province is a long valley that in some ways resembles a miniature cousin of the larger "Khost bowl," to the south. The dry tributaries feeding down from the mountains eventually make their way to the main *wadi* running down from the northwest to the southeast, into the adjoining district of Terezayi. The well-irrigated fields of corn and rice growing along the edges of the *wadis* form a patchwork of green scattered across the arid, rocky landscape. The furthest village of significant size from COP Sabari, located at the top of the valley, is Zambar.

This was the second lift going in amongst the fields to the north of Zambar. 1st Platoon, D Co. 1-501st was already moving off of their LZs, and into position around their objectives. 3rd Plt, Apache Co. was now on its way. The flight took only ten minutes, and then the birds were on the ground, the ramp dropped, and men were on their way out. SSG Johnson and his weapons squad were first off, pushing to get distance from the aircraft, and establish security by setting in his M240 team. Among the men fanning out to form 3rd Platoon's perimeter were the PRT's CAT-A: SSG Thomas Van Scyoc and SGT Erick Crawford. After a few short minutes of consolidation, multiple columns of American and Afghan forces began to make their way through terraced fields of corn that stood as tall as a man's head.

The weather had been variable that week; hot in the mornings and early afternoons, then cooling as the humidity built up brief thunderstorms that would break in the later part of the day. By midnight the skies would be clear, and the cycle repeated itself. By 4:00 AM it was already warm enough, especially for troops carrying all the food, water, ammo and other supplies that were needed on an air assault. Soldiers were sweating under the weight of body armor, weapons, and equipment as the Afghan Army led the way to the group of *qalats* that made up our first objective. The smells of mud, freshly trampled corn stalks, manure, and the heavy, sticky-sweet perfume of weed clung to us in the humid morning air. *Cannabis* grows wild all over Khost, but it really flourishes in the remote areas where there is abundant water. I've never seen it as thick as I did in Zambar that day. The going was treacherous, as the high corn obscured everything around us. Looking through the green tunnel of our monocular night vision devices, it was a matter of closely watching the man in front. Those who didn't pay attention to the path being beaten down before them could easily tumble into a ditch or off the edge of a terrace, falling down 3 or 4 feet to the level of the next field.

There were good intelligence indications that at least one high-value target could be in among the many *qalats* that composed the greater village. As the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) began to search homes, the troops of Apache began to take up supporting positions in and around the area. Overhead, AH-64 helicopter gunships flew an orbiting overwatch, keeping a protective eye out for those below. With daylight breaking to the east, grey shadows began to melt from the mountains at our backs. The morning prayers were sounding out over the speakers from the small *madrassa* in the village, the calls to the Muslim faithful mingling with the crowing of roosters and dogs furiously barking.

(Civil Affairs—continued on page 5)

Civil Affairs — Team Vulture

(Civil Affairs—continued from page 4)

Why Civil Affairs?

PRT Khost's mission is to support and mentor the officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) throughout the province. The PRT pursues this goal through multiple lines of effort, at both the district and provincial levels. Civil Affairs Soldiers are the Army's specialists in all matters of Civil-Military Operations. The PRT CA team works in two elements, the CMOC (Civil-Military Operations Center), and the previously described CAT-A known as Team Vulture. The former focuses on interactions at the provincial level of government, and its personnel are those who work daily with the PRT SECFOR and Department of State civilians on missions in and around the Khost city urban area. The CAT-A team are the "invisible" guys, gone for a week or two at a time, rotating from one district to another where there is a need for their skills. In locations where there are no dedicated Civil Affairs assets, the PRT's team stepped up to fill the breach. In this manner, a very close and productive partnership was formed with the elements of 1-501st INF (ABN) that could use our presence. One such example was at COP Sabari, with Team Apache.

One way to think of the CAT-A would be as scouts whose mission is civil reconnaissance. We seek out ground truth, the realities and circumstances influencing the daily lives of Afghanistan's rural population. We meet with District Governors and their staffs. We meet with village elders, *mullahs*, and farmers. What we see and describe is often a very different picture than what is being discussed in broad, general terms by "higher-ups" sitting in meetings in air conditioned offices in capital cities. And the information we gather is all critical to completing a common operating picture for leaders at the level of our own PRT, and that of higher commands as well.

Meanwhile, back in Zambar...

The operation was proving a successful one. As 1/D made their push through the objectives below their LZs, a group of fighting-age males were spotted by the Apache helicopters overhead. These individuals were clearly trying to flee from the net being cast around the village. They made their break for it too late, however, as the choppers continually turned them back into the path of the joint forces closing in on them. They were successfully detained.

While this was occurring 3rd platoon was also making progress on its objectives. As the US and Afghan forces continued with the clearance actions, SGT Crawford had the opportunity to conduct meetings with elders in the village square. There was a long and very informative dialogue, and he gained a lot of awareness about issues impacting their lives. Unlike many other villages we have visited, during our time here there were no offers to drink tea with the leaders of the community. It also did not escape our attention that nearly every male old enough to do so was wearing a full "Taliban-style" beard. In villages farther east, back down the *wadi* toward the COP, grooming habits are much more moderate. Platoon leader for 3 Apache, 1LT Mike Blanchard, had explained to us before the mission that Zambar was not a friendly place. On the couple of occasions when they had been there before, contact had always ensued.

By 10:00 A.M. all of the objective *qalats* had been successfully cleared. Both platoons and the ANSF formed up and began to move out of the village. To the north and across the wadi is a large ridge that rises to a commanding height above the valley floor. The southwestern face of this terrain feature is covered in what qualifies as heavy woods in this part of Afghanistan. Amongst the thorn and olive trees at the base of the slope are a handful of old cemeteries that stretch for several hundred meters in some places. The ground is cut by numerous small gullies and dry creek beds which criss-cross their way toward the open flats along the main *wadi*.

(Civil Affairs—continued on page 8)



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Van Scyoc observes his sector of fire at the patrol base near the village of Zambar in eastern Afghanistan.



Elements of 3rd Platoon, Apache Company and Civil Affairs -Team Vulture conduct a patrol in Sabari district. The CAT-A team are the "invisible" guys, gone for a week or two at a time, rotating from one district to another where there is a need for their skills. In locations where there are no dedicated Civil Affairs assets, the PRT's team stepped up to fill the breach.

DoD Terminates Iraq Campaign Medal

by Jim Tice • Staff writer

Reprinted from *Army Times*

POLICY GUIDANCE officially terminating the Iraq Campaign Medal and Operation New Dawn has been issued by the Pentagon.

An order terminating the campaign medal was issued April 23 by the Defense Department, but is effective to Dec. 31, 2011, the day Operation New Dawn ended. This means the ICM is not authorized for service in Iraq that occurred Jan. 1 and later.

The Defense Department earlier designated these seven campaign phases for the war in Iraq:

- Liberation of Iraq, March 19, 2003-May 1, 2003
- Transition of Iraq, May 2, 2003-June 28, 2004
- Iraqi Governance, June 29, 2004-Dec. 15, 2005
- National Resolution, Dec. 16, 2005-Jan. 9, 2007
- Iraqi surge, Jan. 10, 2007-Dec. 31, 2008
- Iraqi Sovereignty, Jan. 1, 2009-Aug. 31, 2010
- New Dawn, Sept. 1, 2010-Dec. 31, 2011

U.S. military troop levels during these campaign phases ranged from 67,700 in 2003 to 4,100 in early 2012, with highs of 148,300 in 2007 and 157,800 in 2008, according to data compiled by the Congressional Research Service.

For award eligibility specifics based on service during these campaigns, soldiers should consult Paragraph 2-17 of Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards).

Basic criteria require that soldiers must have served in direct support of land, air or sea (out to 12 miles) operations in Iraq.

Under Army policy, one bronze star shall be worn on the suspension and campaign ribbon of the ICM to denote participation in each designated campaign, according to the awards branch of Human Resources Command.



U.S. Army Cpl. Kyle Norton received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM) for achievement in combat from the PRT Commander.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Michael Berenson (above), U.S. Army Spc. Jimmy Sustaita and U.S. Navy Corpsman Christopher Luna (below) receive the Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) for their service in support of OEF.





U.S. Army Sergeant Heriberto Castro was promoted to Staff Sergeant during a recent promotion ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno.



U.S. Army Sergeant Erick Crawford was promoted to Staff Sergeant during a recent promotion ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno.



U.S. Army Major John Spangberg was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel during a recent promotion ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno.



Recent PRT Awards and Promotions



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Van Scyoc and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Erick Crawford receive the Combat Action Badge (CAB) from the Provincial Reconstruction Team Commander U.S. Army Lt. Col. David Roberts.



U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer and U.S. Army Spc. Jacob Gutierrez receive the Purple Heart Medal from the Provincial Reconstruction Team Commander U.S. Army Lt. Col. David Roberts and U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Michael Stafford.



U.S. Army Sergeant Heriberto Castro meets with government officials at a local district center.



SGT Crawford recalls the start of the contact as follows. “After about an hour of setting up individual positions, we were allowed to get some rest, as it had been a very long day.

SSG Van Scyoc and I had a position close to a graveyard and toward the front of the element. It was my turn to ‘stand watch,’ as it were, when from nowhere, a large and very loud explosion came through the quiet Zambar air.”

A security perimeter was established with good cover and concealment provided by the graves and vegetation, oriented west toward Zambar. That afternoon around 3:00 P.M. the patrol base was attacked with indirect and small arms fire. As everyone ate and rested in shifts several rounds of recoilless rifle and mortars came in from the southeast of the position, and a group of insurgents engaged from the southwest, to the front of 3rd Platoon’s position. One of 3/Apache’s machine gun teams opened up first, the gunner having spotted five enemy moving through the brush and defiles 200 meters in front of the perimeter. After Afghan and US forces returned fire, a team went forward to sweep the area. In the process of this action, another group of suspicious fighting-aged males was detained.

SGT Crawford recalls the start of the contact as follows. “After about an hour of setting up individual positions, we were allowed to get some rest, as it had been a very long day. SSG Van Scyoc and I had a position close to a graveyard and toward the front of the element. It was my turn to ‘stand watch,’ as it were, when from nowhere, a large and very loud explosion came through the quiet Zambar air. My first thought was a car bomb...and a very close car bomb at that. However, this explosion was followed by small arms fire from the distance. We stood back for a moment to determine the best course of action and then we moved forward to gain a better vantage point and fighting position.”

The PRT has the good fortune to have a couple of truly excellent linguists working for us. They understand the various quirks and idiomatic twists of American English, and Soldiers’ slang as well. They pick up on lots of unspoken Pashto cultural subtleties and communicate them to us very effectively. One of these is the character with the handle, “Gizmo.” He has been in the game as an interpreter for several years and is a true asset. With a great sense of humor and broad base of experience working throughout Khost, he is a popular addition to the mission anytime we bring him out with us. He definitely pulled his weight on this day, helping us and the troops of Apache to interact with our fellow Afghan soldiers, the people of Zambar, and the persons that were detained as well. We left him to work for a little while with the members of an intelligence gathering team that also came along on this mission. SGT Crawford and I then climbed up the face of the ridge to the steep and narrow spine that faced back down the *wadi* with view out over the entire district. After briefly talking with SFC Anthony Pisano, Apache 37, we paused a while to take stock of the day’s activity. Out over the valley floor OH-58 helicopters from FOB Salerno were working methodically around the points of origin for the indirect we had taken.

The afternoon had worn away and the sun was descending the mountains to our backs. We climbed back down to our position between rifle squads, near the graves we had sheltered behind during the first attack. Twilight was coming on, and I went to check on Gizmo. The Intel team had finished questioning the group of young men that had been held. All but one was released; the individual taken back into custody was in possession of incriminating evidence, and would be processed by the Afghan police at COP Sabari. By now the shadows in among the trees were starting to deepen into pools of hazy blue darkness.

SGT Crawford and I were situated on either side of the stones of a large old grave. As darkness came on, Lt. Blanchard came along the line checking his men. He stopped to speak with us for a moment, and his words were something to the effect of, “Pretty exiting day, huh?” After a brief exchange of small talk, before he could move on, gunfire erupted to our front, from the same general area as the earlier attack. It had only been perhaps 30 minutes since the group of men who had been released walked out of the perimeter and back toward Zambar. One of the men taken in the village that morning had indeed been a high value target. Another local facilitator had been held after the gunfight. Now, after having come up short in the first encounter, the local bad guys wanted to get in another shot at us. More recoilless rounds and other indirect fire crashed into the hillside around the patrol base. A sharp firefight unfolded, bullets cracking overhead. We returned fire. And then as quickly as it had started, it was over, and the enemy melted away into the dark.

Civil Affairs — Team Vulture

(Civil Affairs—continued from page 8)

No sooner had this contact ended and everyone gained accountability of men and equipment, it had become dark enough to require our night vision. After the explosions and the deafening rattle of gunfire, it was jarringly quiet. We waited in the silence and kept watch in the direction that the enemy had twice approached from. After an hour or so the company formed up and the joint forces began to move toward the staging area near the helicopter extraction zone. It had been a fortunate and successful day. A serious pinch was put on the insurgent network in western Sabari. Nobody was killed or injured. The weather had held off for us, too. It had not been nearly as hot and muggy as previous days, neither did it rain on us. Now as the big Chinooks came beating through the night for us, as they had 18 hours earlier, we were able to look up and enjoy a clear sky full of radiant stars.

Parting Thoughts

As this edition of the PRT newsletter comes out, Team Vulture and everyone else who got here in March are soon to be on our way home. A/1-501st, and the rest of 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division have already finished their tour in OEF XII-XIII and preceded us on the way back to the states. We wish to express our personal gratitude to the professionals of the 501st whom we worked with, Task Force Blue Geronimo. It was a privilege to support them, and they certainly enabled our success. For SGT Castro working in Gorbuz District, thanks go to CPT Means and Hatchet Company. For SFC Miller, Crawford, and I, working in Sabari and Bak Districts, thanks go to CPT Stroud and Apache Company. Particularly 3rd Platoon: you guys rock.

For their part on that day in August, both SSG Van Scyoc and SSG Crawford were awarded the Combat Action Badge on the 6th of October. In the same formation that afternoon, the orders promoting Sergeant Crawford to Staff Sergeant were read. As he sees it, the PRT's Civil Affairs CAT-A, "should play an integral part in the PRT... to connect the people to the government and to advise the district level and provincial level governors and enablers how to best listen to the people in order to be effective in their roles."

When it comes to listening to the people, obviously one must be out among them, in villages near and far. In the farthest-flung mountain communities, as much as those along the main roads and commerce corridors. SSG Crawford also notes that much of the value the CAT team brings to the table in Khost "comes from supporting information requirements generated by the battle space owner's Commanding Officer. To that end, the CAT-A team has been very successful thus far." Exactly right. And to do it, we go out with them every chance we get. Most days we get to play nice and everything is pleasant chats, smiles, and drinking tea. And some days, you get one like August 21st, 2012. Team Vulture is ready either way.

Staff Sergeant Thomas W. Van Scyoc
PRT KHOST CIVIL AFFAIRS
CAT-A Team Leader



U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Thomas Van Scyoc
and U.S. Army 1st Lt. Mike Blanchard engage with
local leaders during a civil reconnaissance.





A child pumps water for a toddler to get a drink in a farming community in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. The Provincial Reconstruction Team Khost was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)



U.S. Soldiers with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, use an interpreter to talk with farmers living in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)



U.S. Sgt. Jaime Esparza, Delta Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force, 4-25, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, plays with a toddler during a visit to a farming community in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)



U.S. Soldiers in Delta Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force, 4-25, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, provide security for an ongoing meeting in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathan Flores, Delta Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force 4-25, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, shows off the photo of his children during a visit to a farming community in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)



Mission Pictures *from Afghanistan*



U.S. Soldiers in civil affairs attached to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, use an interpreter to talk with farmers living in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)



U.S. Soldiers in civil affairs attached to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, provide security for a secured meeting area in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)



U.S. Army Captain Kristoffer Paris with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, gives a little girl a treat during a visit to the garden inside the home of a farmer living in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)



U.S. Soldiers in Delta Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force, 4-25, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, provide security during a visit to a farming community in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)

Meet our Linguists



MSG Brian Williamson
Agribusiness Development Team



A U.S. Soldier with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, use an interpreter to talk with farmers living in the Nadir Shah Kot district, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 27, 2012. PRT was visiting local farmers to discuss their growing conditions and availability of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull)

I am the Linguists Manager for the PRT and I thought you may be interested in learning about our linguists support team. The linguist support team provides translation of documents and goes on missions to provide translation support when meeting with Governmental Officials and other Local Nationals during the course of business of the PRT. The PRT has eight linguists for support of our missions. One US National, a Local National (LN) "Cultural Advisor" and six LN linguists.

The LN's who work for and with the Coalition forces have been targeted by the insurgents. Most have received "night letters" (death threats to them and their families) and are in danger when on missions or even at their homes if it is known they work for the Coalition forces. They generally don't want it known who they work for in order to protect their families, so I won't post photo's that could ID them. They all have nicknames to protect their real ID's. They receive a very good wage compared to an average Afghans' earnings, but when the risk is considered, they are brave guys!

"Nick" is our "Cultural Advisor"; as such he has greater responsibilities and duties than the other LN linguists. He generally works in the office, but does go on missions when we meet with higher level government officials. He has worked with several of the Indiana ADT's. He is married, has a son and three daughters and is finalizing his Visa packet so he can move his family to the US. Nick is passionate about the need for Afghans to pursue education to improve their country.

"Barry" has worked for coalition forces since 2007; he is married and has two sons and a daughter. Barry always seems to have a two day growth of beard on his face. Maybe I should give him some razors! He has a great sense of humor but likes to wear "unauthorized" insignia on his uniform. I've been trying to retrain him about that!

"Gizmo" is happily single, I'm not sure where he got his nickname, but to be safe, I don't feed him after midnight. He loves his country and considers himself a bridge between the coalition forces and the afghan people to improve the country. He has been working with the US since 2007.

"Hunter" is our youngest guy; he is engaged to be married soon. I asked him the other day when the wedding is but he wasn't sure, he said in about one month (!?). I teased him about making up the whole fiancé/girlfriend thing just so he could get "wedding" presents. His is also working on his "Special Immigration Visa" packet.

"Isah" has worked with all the Indiana ADT's and now works for the PRT. He is a great guy and always has a smile on his face. He is nearing the end of the process to be able to immigrate to the US where he has relatives living in Connecticut. He is married and has two sons and a daughter. His wife does embroidery and sewing.

"Muhammad" Is a dedicated young man with a wife and daughter who also is working on his immigration packet. He was injured by an IED earlier this year but still is eager to work for us.

"Tariq" is a more serious and soft spoken than some of the others. He is a confirmed bachelor I am told.

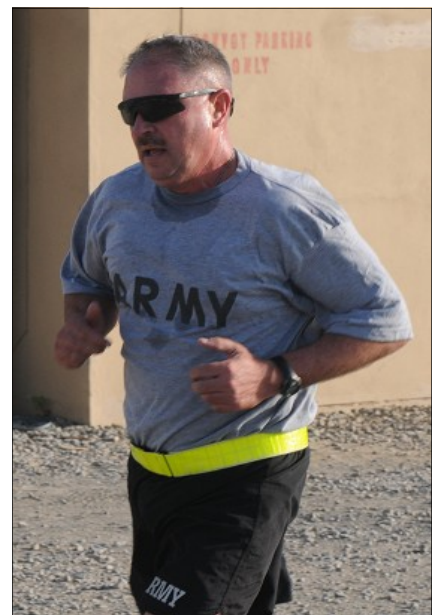
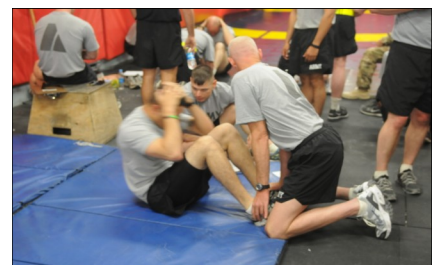
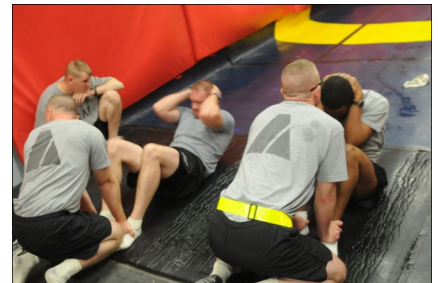
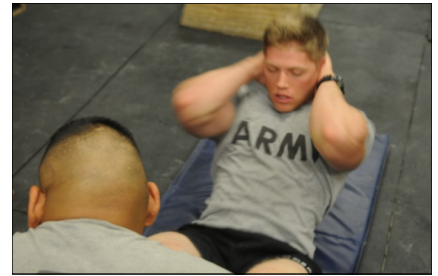
Karmella is our US citizen, contract linguists. She is from California and is "Happily Single". She is the mother of two who are in college in California. Her heritage is Assyrian, and her "native" language is Aramaic, she learned Dari and Pashto in California. She is always willing to help out wherever she is needed. She enjoys cooking spicy food, working with the Female Engagement Teams (FET) and visits to orphanages to share the good will of US donors.

All of our guys (and Karmella!) are issued protective gear and are required to wear it on missions "outside the wire". They also wear US uniforms (no US insignia) when on missions. They are not allowed to carry or handle weapons.

I'm sure you have heard about "green on blue" incidents (attacks by LN's on Coalition forces). I want to put your minds at ease about our guys. I work with them every day and I trust them. We have safeguards in place and we maintain a professional working relationship that protects both the LN's and Coalition forces. We always maintain a safe working environment. We respect our LN's and the work they do for us. They have a difficult job in a country that has seen turmoil and strife for their entire lives. They are trying to improve their country by their work with coalition forces and we appreciate their hard work.



The United States **Army Physical Fitness Test** (APFT) is designed to test the muscular strength, endurance, and cardiovascular respiratory fitness of soldiers in the Army. Soldiers are scored based on their performance in three events consisting of the push-up, sit-up, and a two-mile run, ranging from 0 to 100 points in each event. A minimum score of 60 in each event is required to pass the test. The soldier's overall score is the sum of the points from the three events. If a soldier passes all three events, the total may range from 180 to 300.





PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST

from Afghanistan

