

THE WARRIOR DISPATCH



A MESSAGE FROM THE SKIPPER



CDR Mel Naidas
PRT Khost Commander

To the Families and Friends of PRT Khost:

Howz'it! Having taken command of Provincial Reconstruction Team Khost on 03 November, 2012, let me first say that it is my honor and privilege to be serving alongside these Soldiers and Sailors. In the very short time that I have had to observe the entire team operate, they have impressed me with their professionalism and enthusiasm to perform the mission, a mission that remains relevant, and a mission that remains important. I offer my thanks and congratulations to both LTC Dave Roberts and SGM Mike Stafford for providing the guidance and leadership to the team prior to my arrival, and in setting a high standard to follow.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the family and friends of the warriors here. There is no doubt that you are the anchor and strength that we count on to persevere as we operate in the challenging environment that is required. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and we all appreciate you for doing what you do.

O'hana, Hawaiian for "family," is the most important thing to me and I thank you for your support.

Seeing as how I'm the new guy, I guess I should start with introductions. Hi, I'm CDR Mel Naidas, US Navy. As alluded to earlier I do consider Hawaii home, even though I was born in Guam. I've been a Submarine Officer in

the Navy for about 15 years and have been stationed in Hawaii for most of that time. Yeah I know, rough duty, but I think my wife Karen would say that of the 14 years that I've been stationed in Hawaii most of it probably has been spent at sea, underway. Wouldn't have it any other way!

I do look forward to this tour of duty with Team Trident. Your loved ones personify the greatest values of America. Even in the face of grave

danger, and not knowing who the enemy looks like - they don't wear uniforms out here - your warriors make time to greet and smile with each stranger they meet, while always remaining keenly aware of their surroundings. The stability operations that we've asked these young men and women to perform is a daunting task - yet these warriors meet the challenge with pride and confidence every single day. I could not be more proud to associate myself with the team members of PRT Khost. I know you feel the same about them.

With great respect,
CDR Mel Naidas, USN, Commanding

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A Word from the Sergeant Major

I'll take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is SGM Mark Fluckiger (Flew-Key Ger). I'm married and have three children under the age of 15. I joined the Army Reserves while in high school, and have been with the military ever since. Prior to my assignment on the PRT, I was assigned to a Civil Affairs command in Mountain View CA. Our Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) began to form as a group at Camp Atterbury Indiana in June 2012. I'm sure many of you know from speaking with your loved ones that PRT's are unique unit's comprised of many sections (Civil Affairs, Agricultural Development Team, security force, a staff section, civilians from the Dept of State and USAID, and translators) that all function as one team. It wasn't until just a few weeks ago that the Civil Affairs, security force, and staff sections that trained collectively in Indiana, integrated with the remainder of the team that has been performing missions together in Afghanistan since the spring. I think that regardless of whether this is a first or fourth deployment, the stresses and strains our families bear are the true stories of sacrifice. Thanks for what you do to contribute to our success. I look forward to working together with your warriors over the next several months as we do our part in accomplishing the mission in Afghanistan.



SGM Mark Fluckiger
PRT Khost
Sergeant Major



Kids Helping Kids

Students at Khost Orphanage and Elementary School will enjoy a more comfortable winter this year due to a special gift from the students of Highland Hills Middle School in southern Indiana. Highland Hills students began thinking of ways they could help the people of Afghanistan nearly two years ago as one of their teachers was preparing for a deployment to Khost Province. After hearing stories about the level of need in Afghanistan, the students and staff at Highland Hills developed a plan to help. The school organized a fundraiser and was able to send over \$1,200.00 US to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Khost Province.

The soldiers of PRT Khost met with government officials and village elders throughout the province for several months to determine how the gift could be used to support the children in Afghanistan. It was determined that the best place was the Khost Orphanage and Elementary School. This school teaches both boys and girls up to the fifth grade. There are approximately 300 students at the school. Of these, approximately 40 students are orphans who live at the school.

The first portion of the donation was used to buy fabric to make clothing for the 70 girls who attend the school. Each student received enough fabric to make two dresses. The mothers made the dresses for the students. In addition to the fabric, shoes and other clothing articles were purchased for the girls. In many cases, these are the only clothing items the girls will receive this year.

The remaining donation was used to buy school supplies, 200 thick wool blankets, 150 pairs of shoes, and toys for the school. The supplies filled six boxes and totaled approximately 180 cubic feet. These boxes were loaded onto a large flat bed truck. Soldiers, students, and staff spent about an hour unloading all of the supplies. Outside, soldiers scanned the crowds near by and the mountains in the distance. Every soldier in the convoy came to Afghanistan with the hope of helping the people of Afghanistan while protecting the people at home. This type of mission provides an opportunity for soldiers to feel good about the work they are doing.

Soldiers also had the opportunity to tour the school and speak with the students. Male soldiers are only allowed on the male side of the school. Only the female soldiers are permitted to view the female areas of the school. In one small classroom, eight barefoot boys study Pashtu while seated on a thin rug placed over a concrete floor. The walls are bare and the only light is from the large windows. Across the hall, nine boys study math in a similar setting. In the large room at the end of the hall, there are two classes of younger students taught in the same room. This room also contains the stacked up beds that belong to the orphans.

As winter comes to Afghanistan, the supplies that were delivered will make a positive impact on the lives of the children at this school. They will remember and appreciate the work and kindness offered by students at Highland Hills Middle School.



CPT Adam Paris
PRT Khost—ADT



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





US Army SPC Jared Rybolt explains the basics of tree care and orchard management to local farmers. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



FOB Salerno Orchard as we “inherited” it. As is apparent, it had been neglected for quite some time. It took several man hours just to pick up the trash. (Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



FOB Salerno Orchard after pruning. SPC Jared Rybolt and SGM Michael Stafford spent several hours pruning. The trees will produce a better crop and the orchard can be used for further training of the Agriculture Extension Agents. (Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



Soldiers with Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost prepare for an agricultural mission in Khost Province, Afghanistan . (U.S. Army photo by SPC Lui)



SFC Michael Spurgin with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, examines a cow with the local veterinarian, Khost province, Afghanistan, November, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Lui)



SPC Grant with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, stands guard over veterinary training Khost province, Afghanistan, November, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Lui)



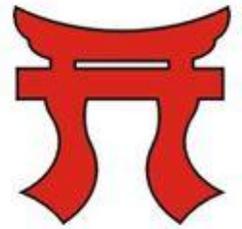
SPC McCorkle with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, stands guard over veterinary training Khost province, Afghanistan, November, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Lui)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





Pictures *from Afghanistan*

US Army 1LT Sophie Hilaire enjoys lunch at the bazaar with Hafizullah—the carpet man.



US Army MSG Sharla Stevens assists in training of Military Working Dogs on FOB Salerno



SPC Christina Roy and CPT Marshall Brink watching the birthday celebration for MSG Stevens. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



Sox

New Additions to PRT Khost. Two goats and two sheep were flown in to assist in animal care training for local farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



New Additions to PRT Khost. Two goats and two sheep were flown in to assist in animal care training for local farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



Diablo

New Additions to PRT Khost. Two goats and two sheep were flown in to assist in animal care training for local farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



Ollie and Dollie

- Ollie is a six year old black faced fat tailed ram
- Dollie is a four year old black faced fat tailed ewe
- Diablo is a seven year old long haired black head billy
- Sox is a six year old long haired red headed nanny

(Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





US Army PFC Stephen Eyring standing guard outside the NSK District Center. Khost Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



US Army 1LT Holyfield examines the courtyard at the NSK district center prior to meeting with district officials. Khost Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



PRT Khost Commander CDR Mel Naidas examines the courtyard at the NSK district center prior to meeting with district officials. Khost Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)