



THE TRIDENT DISPATCH



A MESSAGE FROM THE SKIPPER



CDR Mel Naidas
PRT Khost Commander

To the 'Ohana of PRT Khost:

First let me say *mahalo* (thank you) for the overwhelming support and warmth that I have seen from just observing how many care packages the troops are receiving at this time of year. It means a lot to those of us who are deployed that you still remember and that you still care, especially at this time of year when families and friends are gathering to give thanks for what they have and for the good times to follow. It's a priceless moment when you see warriors line up for mail call, with a big grin on their faces as they walk out with 2-3 boxes stacked in their arms. Keep 'em coming!

Second, *Mele Kalikimaka* (Merry Christmas) and *Hau'oli Makahiki Hou* (Happy New Year)! It is hard to believe that nearly two months have gone by. The team has been doing great work and there is no doubt that the Afghans are taking on more and more of the responsibility in what happens over here. That being said, there's no doubt that all of us would rather be with friends and family, especially around this time of year. But one of principles that bind all of Team Trident together is service with honor. We all came here because we were asked to serve.

Every day I see that service and I see improvement in how Team Trident operates and I know that we are making a difference. I see the appreciation in the eyes of the Afghan farmers that the Agribusiness Development Team mentors with various techniques to improve the harvest. I see the determination in the eyes of the Rakkasan Security Force that protects the entire team on every mission. I see the professionalism of the Civil Affairs Team and PRT Staff in planning and orchestrating how to best support the Afghan Provincial and District governments. I see it all, and am very honored to be serving alongside them.

I could not be more proud to associate myself with the members of PRT Khost. They have done an outstanding job and I know that they will continue to perform admirably. Thank you for your support. All of you should be very proud. I know I am.

Aloha!

M. N. Naidas

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A Word from the Sergeant Major



Families, friends, and service members,

Season's Greetings! It's hard for me to believe that we are nearing 7 weeks together in Afghanistan. Despite some challenges, we are performing missions on a regular basis. As one Soldier remarked to me, the days are long, but the weeks are short. Although we missed spending time with our loved ones, we were treated to a Thanksgiving feast. The holiday season brings with it an infusion of care packages from loved ones in the states. I'm encouraged by everyone's willingness to share; thanks for the support. Surprisingly, at least from the perspective of someone who grew up in the intermountain west, the weather here has been incredible. I've always equated Christmas with snow, wind, and sub-zero temperatures. Our average temperatures hover around lows in the 30- 40s and highs in the 60-70's. I know that the holidays are a difficult time to spend separated from loved ones. Hopefully we find comfort that all of us, both here and at home, are supporting and defending the freedoms we enjoy. I recognize and appreciate the sacrifice each of you makes for our country. Thanks and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

SGM Fluckiger



SGM Mark Fluckiger
PRT Khost



"16 Days" Movement in Support of Women's Rights

Khost Leadership recognizes the "16 Days" Movement in Support of Women's Rights

In acknowledgement of the "16 Days" Movement to End Violence Against Women and Girls, Khost's Director of Women's Affairs (DOWA) Khawar Amiri and Director of Youth and Sports Aziz Malang hosted a joint event to raise awareness for women's rights. The event, held at Khost's

Olympic Stadium, was coordinated by the Afghan government with some limited PRT support. More than 40 students from two female Khost City high schools attended the event, as well as elected leaders and five journalism outlets representing television, radio, and print media.

The DOWA declared that educated women are not allowed to work in different government departments except in the education and health directorates though there are many available candidates, including 200 recent high school graduates who took the civil service exam. Lamenting the violent deaths of seven women this year, Amiri stated that violence against uneducated women has increased and that oppression of women also occurs through the withholding of food, sudden divorce and the threat of husbands taking a second wife. The DOWA announced that her offices have recently launched a campaign to prevent violence against women and that she is working with the Khost Ulema Council to release media messages to educate people about the effects of domestic violence.

Aziz Malang, the director of Youth and Sports, said that women should raise awareness against domestic violence. He said that women should have the right to participate in physical activities and referenced that the Prophet Muhammad taught his wife how to shoot arrows for sport. The Director affirmed that the Olympic Stadium is open to all and that women are welcome to participate in sports there. As part of integrating women into competitive activities, he also announced the formation of a chess league in Khost for young females.

Following Malang, Provincial Council member Zuhra Jalal condemned common forms of repression against women such as forced marriage, marriage at a young age, physical violence, using women as compensation, and allowing traditional decision making to be utilized against women instead of following constitutional laws. She encouraged the group to recognize the message of the "16 Days" during this commemoration period and every week during the year.

Following the speeches, the DOWA and the Youth and Sports Director handed over 50 chess sets, copies of the Afghan constitution, and other educational materials to the female students. In addition, the directors handed the students purple ribbons and literature commemorating the "16 Days" movement.

Text and Photos:
 DR. Mehmed Ali
 USAID Field Development Officer
 PRT Khost



Firoza Zadran, the head of the Khost Women's Cultural Community, gave a strong message of hope to the young students who attended the event.



Young female students receiving copies of the Afghanistan Constitution, chess sets, and educational materials from the Director of Women's Affairs.

International Security Assistance Force



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Civil Affairs Command



SGT Yarrish walking with a local youth at the Agricultural Compound. US Army Photo by SPC Christina Roy

Civil Affairs Update

PRT Civil Affairs builds relationships for Afghan future:

The PRT Civil Affairs team is out building relationships across the districts with colleagues from the Departments of State, USAID, and USDA, working with institutions, and strengthening partnerships to invest in the Afghan future. We conduct street level engagements with civilians in markets, villages, and cities, as well as meet with key leaders in government and business for Khost Province. The Afghan people are glad to see us help them, and present challenges they are having from road construction to conducting business transactions. We offer them guidance through training, and point them in the right direction for problem solving through the Afghan government systems.

Recent events include 1LT Ron Roberts and SGT Matt Ingalsbe worked with District Governors in eastern Khost on improved civil military communications; 1LT Greg Holyfield and SGT Frank Yarrish conducted a security shura with village elders; SPC Christina Roy and SSG Scott Kim promoted women's education and athletic opportunities; and MSG Byron Hall and MAJ Dan Keenaghan spoke with the business community to increase trade and jobs in the region.



MAJ Dan Keenaghan
PRT Khost Civil Affairs Chief



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US Army SPC Jared Rybolt delivers a planter to the FOB Salerno test fields in order to demonstrate the benefits of row planting to local agricultural leaders.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



SPC Jared Rybolt and SFC Michael Spurgin describe the operation of the seed planter. The training was attended by the Agricultural Extension Agents and DAIL (Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Land) Staff on the "North Farm" of FOB Salerno test farm.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



SPC Jared Rybolt explains seed distribution and how to calculate plant population to attendees of the planter training.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)

Agribusiness Development Team



SPC Jared Rybolt explains the operation of the planter to the attendees of the planter training. The seed planter, primitive by American standards, is a new concept to many Afghans, who still hand broadcast their fields.

(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



SPC Jared Rybolt explains the operation of the seed planter as SFC Michael Spurgin drives the tractor.

The planter was manufactured in Pakistan.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



SPC Jared Rybolt and SFC Michael Spurgin explain poultry care to local agricultural leaders who attend an animal care clinic on the FOB Salerno "South Farm". Our linguist "Isah" translates for the class.

(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



Dolly the sheep is a reluctant participant in an animal care training event held at the FOB Salerno Test Farm.

(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





US Army CPT Sophie Hilaire enjoys tea with a local family in the far east of Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by 1LT Brian Sells)



CDR Naidas expresses his appreciation for the work Dr. Alyson Peel, of USAID, has done for PRT Khost and the people of Afghanistan, at her going away party. (U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



SFC Michael Spurgin demonstrate the proper method of measuring medication during animal care training on the FOB Salerno demonstration farm. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Scott Godby)



CDR Naidas and MAJ Lake serve Thanksgiving dinner for the Troops at FOB Salerno. (U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





SSG Bankston supporting the Team for an engagement in Bak (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



Specialist Everett on the lookout at the Matun Hill fort (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



The PRT's Female Engagement Team assisting for the 16 Days Movement in support of women's rights (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



SPC Keefer and 1st PLT Angel Co 3-187 IN readying for the PRT Patch Ceremony (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





The PRT lines up for a portrait after receiving their 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division shoulder sleeve insignia (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



Protecting the Team atop Matun Hill in support of a recent survey of the Khost city water system (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



SFC Tyler Arnold in command in Downtown Khost (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



Yoko the bomb sniffing dog joins the PRT in preparation for a movement in Khost Province (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)