



THE TRIDENT DISPATCH



A MESSAGE FROM THE SKIPPER



CDR Mel Naidas
PRT Khost Commander

PRT family and friends, greetings from Afghanistan! We are well into our mission here in Khost Province and have settled into a routine of excellence. The PRT continues to do great work in support of TF RAKKASAN and we have been pushing out to the far reaches of the province in our efforts to improve governance and development. We have been very aggressive with the mission set and continue to keep your great Americans busy throughout the week. We continue to provide mentoring and recommendations to our provincial and district government counterparts in Khost, Afghanistan and I'm further encouraged that transition is happening and that our Afghan partners are ready for the additional responsibility.

The weather remains winter-like; getting as high as 55°F during the day and something well below freezing at night. Definitely weather that I'm not used to, being from Hawai'i. As we say, "Highs in the 80's, lows in the 80's." I'm just glad that I have a calendar in my office that reminds me what the ocean looks like...

I would like to again thank you all for the overwhelming support during the holidays. I think I've truly seen every version of chocolate "snacks" in the past two weeks that I thought existed. Thank goodness for the gym... Not that I'm counting, but we are into the third month of deployment. There is no doubt we miss home, but we will return before you know it.

CDR Mel Naidas

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Reindeer Games | 2 |
| ADT Training | 5 |
| Mission Photos | 6 |

A Word from the Sergeant Major



The Holidays have come and gone and I'm glad the world did not end on 21 Dec 2012, as some predicted. Thanks for the outpouring of support from loved ones back home. As a PRT, we had the opportunity to divide into teams and spend some time competing in six events; darts, tug-o-war, Cross-fit challenge, marksmanship, can-jam (a game played with Frisbees), and volleyball. Thanks to PFC Lopez, PFC Wells, SPC Kodetsky, SPC Keefer, SGT Telford, SGT Ingalsbe, SGT Brown, LSC Urena, SFC Arnold, and MSG Stevens, my team won. I hate losing and I was especially exhilarated to sweep the tug-o-war event despite the Skipper's claim that we didn't have a chance because I was on the team. Better luck next year, Sir.

On a serious note, as we begin our third month together in theater, I want to remind the service members of PRT Khost the importance of following standards, staying fit, wearing your proper personal protective equipment, and remaining vigilant against an enemy determined to undermine our efforts. Take care of yourself and take care of each other.

SGM Mark Fluckiger



SGM Mark Fluckiger
PRT Khost



Reindeer Games

Dear members of opposing teams (1, 2, 3, 4, and 6) -

Thank you for playing. It was fun. However, in spite of your best strategies, efforts, goals, and competitive spirit, it is clear that dominance goes to the gifted, focused, relentless, ruthless, pitiless and unmerciful favorites of the inaugural and only PRT Khost Holiday "Reindeer Games."

Having people miscalculate your abilities, talents and utterly underestimate the winning team is always fun, particularly, if you are one of the "dark horses" of the ultimate winners. In admission, there were a few events that Team 5 did lose (hats off to you, Team 1 in Volleyball) and we probably didn't put our best foot forward on the M4 range, so I will say to those who scored victories, Congratulations.

Team 5 would like to thank the sweet 8lb. 6 oz, baby Jesus for being born miraculously, and for the holiday we celebrated, and for the weather that held out so that Can-It and Darts was actually a good time. Team 5 would like to thank Dr. Mehmed Ali for his awesome ability at catching Chief Urena in great action shots from the Jolly Roger. Team 5 would like to say please make all of the holiday sweets, treats, and "chewies" that remain within the area disappear, please, sooner as opposed to later, some of us have New Year's resolutions to attend to (yes, that means YOU S3).



MSG Stevens and SFC Arnold pose after winning the Cross-fit portion of the Reindeer Games Challenge
(Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)

Many of us were not excited to participate in the events, and probably complained more than we should have. But I count it as a blessing to say that the most danger any of us were in during those few days, was probably of having a good time. "Dear Eight Pound, Six Ounce, New-born Baby Jesus, don't even know a word yet, just a little infant, so cuddly, but still omnipotent", I have to pray that every time my friends and fellow Soldiers roll out of the "wire", that they return safely and unharmed. Thank you for looking out for them. So..here's to a couple of days of smoking, joking, celebrating, kicking back and, in the case of Team 5, asserting complete superiority in athletic talent over our peers.

Anonymous....

ha ha, just kidding, it's MSG Stevens...the one who BEAT the CDR in the Cross-Fit competition...yeah...BEAT HIM in the Cross-Fit competition, and oh yeah by the way, I was sick for 2 weeks before....the MSG would like to personally thank SPC Tincher for counting my repetitions and not cheating (wink wink), and PFC Rebo for handling snotty paper towels during the intense partnered 1,000 meter row, could NOT have done it without you. Oh yeah, and SFC Arnold, for your inspiration and not cussing me out in front of everyone.



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



Reindeer Games



Reindeer Games





A local farmer practices trimming goat hooves during an animal care training event held at the Mandozai District Center.
(US Army Photo by CPT Adam Paris)



Local farmers wait in the warm sun for an animal care training event held at the Mandozai District Center to begin.
(US Army Photo by CPT Adam Paris)



Boys from Mandozai keep an eye on their livestock while they wait for the hands on portion of the training to begin.
(US Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



Livestock owners gather to watch and listen as SPC Rybolt provides hands on instruction on animal care.
(U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





Soldiers of 1st PLT Angel Co 3-187 IN assigned to PRT Khost take a moments rest at the Mandozai District Center during animal care training.
(U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



1LT Wright and SSG Carpenter pause for a photo during animal care training at the Mandozai District Center.
(U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)



US Army CPT Sophie Hilaire spent Christmas at FOB Shindand with her sister, 1LT Nicole Hilaire.



1LT Roberts and SGT Ingalsbe pause for a photo during animal care training at the Tani District Center.
(U.S. Army photo by CPT Adam Paris)

MISSION PICTURES



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