

Uncasing ceremony welcomes 16th Sust. Bde.

# DCOM SPO-TIMES

December 2012

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*Thanksgiving*  
in Afghanistan

## A living Hero

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North names conference room  
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in battle 11 years earlier

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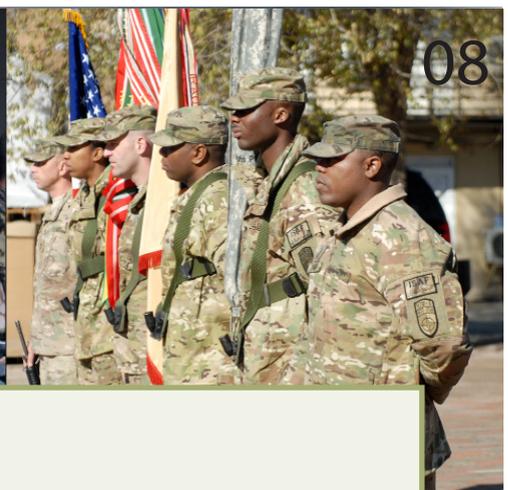
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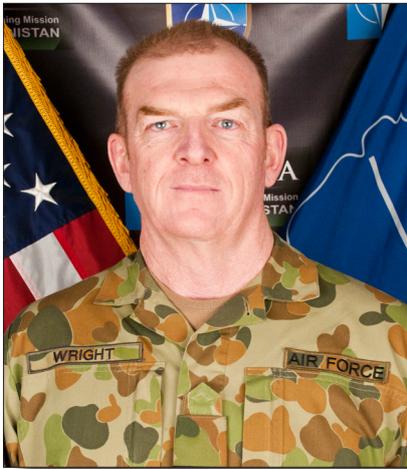
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# DCOM SPO-TIMES

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Commander..... Air Cdre. Alan Wright  
Command Sergeant Major.....Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Rodriguez  
Deputy Commander.....Col. Darren Werner  
Public Affairs Officer.....Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin

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AIRCDRE Alan (Al) Wright enlisted into the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as a Supply Clerk airman on 28 August 1984. Shortly after his promotion to Corporal, AIRCDRE Wright was selected for commissioning, and in July 1989 he commenced his career as a Logistics Officer at RAAF Base Darwin. His junior officer postings included follow-on appointments in Canberra, Brisbane and RAAF Base Amberley. In September 1998, on promotion to Squadron Leader (O-4), he was posted to Headquarters Strike Reconnaissance Group with overall responsibility for logistics support to the F-111 fleet.

In January 2000, AIRCDRE Wright deployed to East Timor as the Staff Officer Logistics to the Australian Air

Component Commander. A tour in Personnel Branch as the Engineering & Logistics Career Manager followed, before he then completed Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in 2003-04. In July 2004, AIRCDRE Wright was promoted to Wing Commander (O-5), and appointed to command No. 1 Combat Logistics Squadron at RAAF Base Townsville, responsible for the provision of specialist logistics support to all Air Force deployed exercises and operations. Following his command tour, AIRCDRE Wright then deployed to Baghdad as the J1/J4 to the Australian Joint Task Force. AIRCDRE Wright returned from deployment to an appointment in the Logistics Operations Directorate within Joint Operations Command.

In July 2008, he was selected for promotion to Group Captain (O-6) and posted as the Director of Logistics (A4) within Headquarters Air Command. During this posting, AIRCDRE Wright again deployed to the Middle East, this time double-hatted as the Headquarters Commanding Officer and Chief of Staff to the Joint Task Force with primary responsibility for all in-theater logistics, personnel, infrastructure and resourcing tasks.

As the A4, AIRCDRE Wright also completed appointments as the Logistics Component Commander in exercises with the Five Power Defence Arrangement nations (2008-09) and with the US Pacific Air Force (2010). In January 2011, AIRCDRE Wright was appointed as the Chief of Staff within Air Force Headquarters Personnel Branch. He was promoted to Air Commodore (O-7) on 9 October 2012. AIRCDRE Wright is considered a supply chain, distribution and logistics governance specialist, particularly in the operational context.

AIRCDRE Wright has been awarded Active Service and Campaign medals for East Timor (2000), Iraq (2006-07) and Afghanistan (2009-10), and a Gold Commendation from the Chief of Joint Operations Command for his work in operational logistics and providing support to deployed Australian Forces. AIRCDRE Wright holds a Masters in Defence studies, a Masters in Human Resource Management and a Masters in Business Administration. He is married to Lesley and they have three adult children. He enjoys renovating houses, reading, playing the occasional game of golf and spending time with family.



Command Sergeant Major Ismael Rodriguez assumed duties as the NTM-A/CSTC-A, DCOM-SPO CSM in November, 2012. He also continues to serve as the 16th Sustainment Brigade Command Sergeant Major, out of Bamberg, Germany. He is a native of the Bronx, N.Y. and was raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He entered the U.S. Army in February 1984. He attended basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and advanced individual training at Fort Dix, N.J.

CSM Rodriguez's previous assignments include Company C, 92nd Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), at Ft. Stewart, Ga.; Company D, 407th Supply & Transportation, 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C.; 32nd Transportation Company, 4th Transportation Battalion in Ludwigsburg, Germany; Company B, 6-10th Infantry at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.; Company B,

124th Main Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Tex.; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-77th Armor, 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany; V Corps, G4 Transportation in Heidelberg, Germany; Company B, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Hood, Tex.; Company B, 704th Main Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Hood, Tex.; the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class # 53, at Ft. Bliss, Tex.; the 842nd Transportation Battalion in Beaumont, Tex., and the 39th Transportation Battalion (MC) in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and the 405th Army Field Support Brigade in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

CSM Rodriguez served in positions as Squad Leader, Operations Sergeant, Drill Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Truckmaster, Corps Transportation Noncommissioned Officer in charge, First Sergeant in a Forward Support Battalion, and a Main Support Battalion, Transportation Terminal Sergeant Major, Battalion Command Sergeant Major and Brigade Command Sergeant Major.

He is a graduate of the Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Officers Course, Unit Equal Opportunity Course, Com at Lifesaver Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, First Sergeant's Course, Contracting Officers Representative Course, Integrated Computerized Deployment Sys-

tem, Joint Operation Planning and Execution System, Light Tactical, Air Assault School, Airborne School, Drill Sergeant School, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class #53 and the Command Sergeant Major Course Class 4-04.

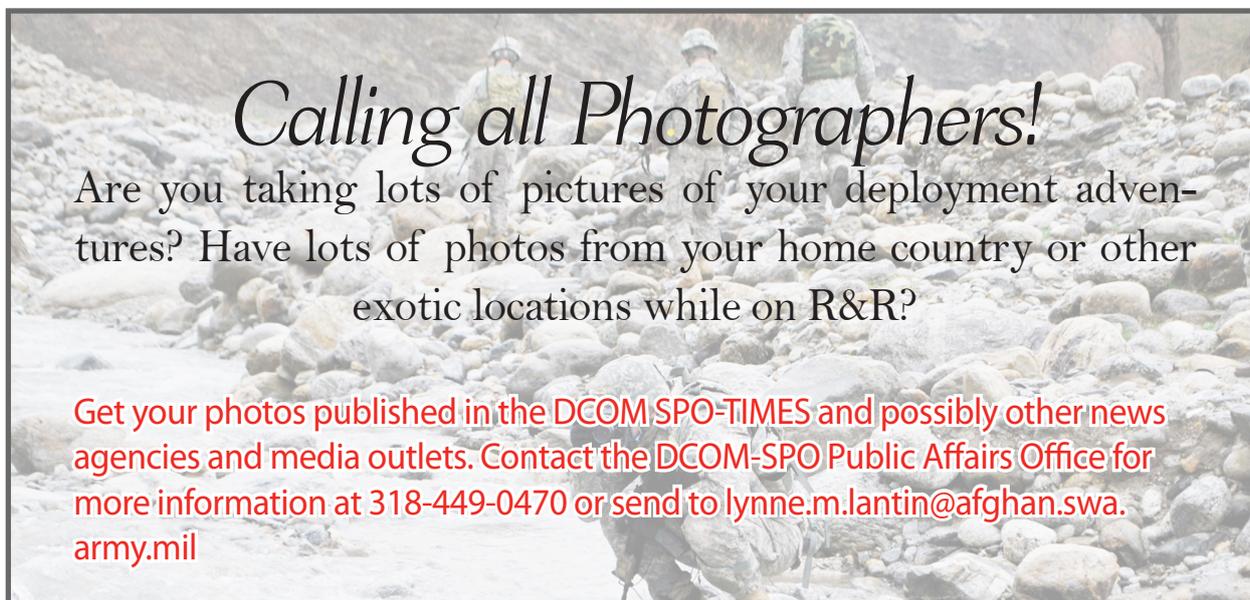
He holds a bachelor's degree from Excelsior College and a master's degree in human relations from Oklahoma University.

CSM Rodriguez's awards and decorations include the Expert Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), Army Commendation Medal (4th award), Army Achievement Medal (6th award), Army Good Conduct Medal (8th award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (with number 4), Army Service Ribbon, South West Asia Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (2), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Drill Sergeant Badge, Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge and the Bronze German Schützenchnur. He is also the recipient of The Ancient Order of Saint Christopher for Transporters and a Honorary Member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

## *Calling all Photographers!*

Are you taking lots of pictures of your deployment adventures? Have lots of photos from your home country or other exotic locations while on R&R?

Get your photos published in the DCOM SPO-TIMES and possibly other news agencies and media outlets. Contact the DCOM-SPO Public Affairs Office for more information at 318-449-0470 or send to [lynne.m.lantin@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:lynne.m.lantin@afghan.swa.army.mil)





Many times since I have been a chaplain in the US Army, Soldiers have asked me, "What is the word of the day, Chaplain?" They are looking for some snippet of wisdom or comfort from the padre, as many of our Coalition Forces call their chaplains. My word of the day for today is "assurance." The mission we are doing gives us the assurance we can face the challenges in our lives.

We have been asked to do a complex mission here in Afghanistan for DCOM-SPO in the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. There are Soldiers from many different countries within our offices- Australia, Canada, France, and Turkey, to name a few. Somehow, we all come together to make it work. The mission we face in helping our Afghan partners is also challenging, joining people from different cultures and different ways of doing things in a common effort. Our loved ones back home also face challenges of their own. Somehow, in the midst of all the challenges we face, things get done. Missions are accomplished. Progress is made. Challenges are met. Throughout it all, we can have "assurance" that whatever future challenges we might face, or the challenges we face today, we can meet them and be successful. Having assurance we can face our obstacles with hope, whether it is here in Afghanistan or half a world away in the

US or Europe of wherever you might find yourself, having assurance gives us peace of mind. We can get the job done and do it well. Have "assurance" Our efforts will bring success.

Camp Eggers Chapel Services (in the Clamshell)

Saturday 1800 Bible Fellowship  
Sunday 0900 Traditional Protestant  
Sunday 1030 Catholic Mass  
Sunday 1900 Contemporary Protestant



# THINK WEAPONS SAFETY!

- T**reat every weapon as if it is loaded.
- H**andle every weapon with care.
- I**dentify the target before you fire.
- N**ever point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- K**eep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

   
ARMY STRONG. <https://crc.army.mil>  **OWN the EDGE**  
Leading on the Edge

# Happy Birthday Marine Corps

By Maj. Tatiana Quintana  
*RSC-Capital Resource Manager*

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan- Service members and civilians from NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan came together Nov. 10 to celebrate the 237th Marine Corps birthday at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan, with a motivational run and cake-cutting ceremony.

Approximately 30 former Marines, along with members of the other armed services, began the celebration with a motivational run led by U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Dave Manwiller, the Regional Support Command-Capital logistics officer and Staff Sgt. Tomas Hernandez, the

End Use Monitoring noncommissioned officer in charge, RSC-Capital. The participants ran a 1.5 mile route around Camp Phoenix while chanting traditional Marine Corps cadence and proudly displaying both the U.S. Marine Corps colors and a personal guidon created by the Marines aboard Camp Phoenix.

Following the run, a cake-cutting ceremony took place at the Camp Phoenix dining facility. Guests bowed their heads in prayer led by Capt. Robert Jackson, U.S. Army chaplain, and then enjoyed this year's birthday message, presented by Gen. James Amos and Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett, the commandant and ser-

geant major of the Marine Corps. The video message honored the valiant efforts and sacrifices of Marines both past and present. Guest of honor, Col. Thomas E. Starr, director of Public Works for the Kabul Base Cluster, addressed the audience before the ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake.

Keeping true to the Marine tradition of slicing the first pieces of cake with an NCO or officer's sword, the Camp Phoenix-based Marines adapted by using a KA-BAR knife, the traditional combat knife first adopted by the U.S. Marine Corps in November 1942. The first piece went to the guest of



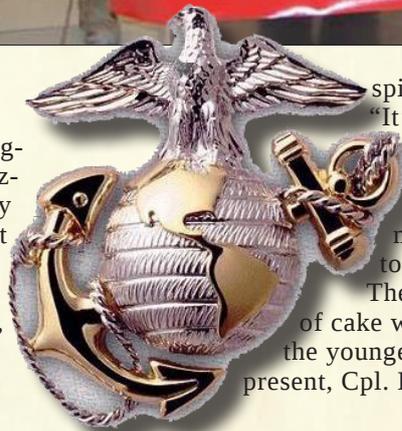
Soldiers and civilians participate in a Marine Corps birthday run led by Capt. Dave Manwiller, a logistics officer for the Regional Support Command-Capital at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan Nov. 10. Leading cadence for the run is Staff Sgt. Tomas Hernandez (far right), the End Use Monitoring noncommissioned officer in charge for Regional Support Command-Capital. (Courtesy Photo)

During a traditional cake-cutting ceremony Nov. 10 at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan, in honor of the Marine Corps 237th birthday, the first piece of cake is presented to the guest of honor, Col. Thomas E. Starr (second from right), the director of Public Works for the Kabul Base Cluster by Capt. Dave Manwiler (right), logistics officer



honor and the second to the oldest Marine present, who passed his piece to the youngest Marine present, symbolizing the passing of the history and the traditions to the next generation.

The oldest Marine present was Mr. Aaron Balderas, 61, the Acquisition Analyst for RSC-Capital, and although he has joined the 'former Marine' ranks, he still maintains the steadfast



spirit of one. "It's an honor to be a Marine," said Balderas. "They made me who I am today."

The second piece of cake was passed to the youngest Marine present, Cpl. Kristin K.

Waupoose, who is currently assigned to Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435, Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan.

Hernandez said, "It was an honor to celebrate the Marine Corps 237th Birthday here with my fellow Marines, past and present."

Capt. Dave Manwiler, a logistics officer for Regional Support Command-Capital, presents the ceremonial guidon from the 237th Marine Corp birthday run to guest of honor Col. Thomas E. Starr, the director of Public Works, Nov. 10 at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan. (Courtesy Photo)





# the mission begin

*By Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin  
DCOM-SPO Public Affairs*

**CAMPEGGERS, Afghanistan** –The 16th Sustainment Brigade uncased its colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony here Nov. 30, symbolizing its official start of operations in Afghanistan. Brigade headquarters personnel deployed to augment the Deputy Command of Support Operations, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan taking over mission operations from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) after a year-long deployment.

The 16th Sust. Bde., based in Bamberg, Germany, and the only Sustainment Brigade to support all of U. S. Army Europe, was notified earlier this year by the Department of the Army that its expertise was needed to help the Afghan National Security Forces

build and sustain a functional logistics system before the scheduled withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in 2014.

“From our notification, our Soldiers were trained and ready to deploy in four months,” said Col. Darren Werner, the 16th Sust. Bde. commander. “We are proud to join the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from over 25 different nations contributing to the NTM-A mission; the mission to support the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and generating and sustaining the Afghan National Security Force to develop its leaders and to establish an enduring institutional capacity to enable accountable Afghan-led security.”

Werner takes over as the Deputy Commander for the DCOM-SPO, NTM-A mission.

Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMas-

ters, the commander of the 13th ESC and outgoing DCOM-SPO commander, welcomed the 16th Sust. Bde. as he said goodbye to friends and comrades.

“You have a new team member now who is equally committed to the same goals, and those are your goals,” said LeMasters as he addressed his Afghan partners in the audience. “I’ve seen great and many accomplishments in the short time I’ve been in Afghanistan. I ask you to continue that momentum. The logistic support you provide enables your security forces to stand between your people and those who wish to destroy all that you have earned in many years of war.”

Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger, the commander of NTM-A and guest speaker at the ceremony, said goodbye to the Soldiers of the 13th ESC, praising them for

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tremendous accomplish-  
over the past year. He also  
om the 16th East. Bolger  
expressed his confidence that  
l continue the mission with  
success.

oday the 16th Sustainment  
ide takes over," said Bolger.  
16th motto on their flag is  
istics, the key to win'. You'll  
at key right on their unit  
nia and it's partnered with  
elease, because sometimes  
ave to kill some bad guys to  
here you need to go. Since  
med, the 16th has both  
nt and sustained in campaign  
campaign to include four  
oyments to Iraq, and now the  
is here in Afghanistan. Your  
on's as straight forward as  
motto; help the Afghans  
de the key and win this  
. That's why we're here."

Although we case the colors  
e 13th Sustainment Com-

mand, and uncase the colors of  
the 13th Sustainment Brigade  
this ceremony is not just about  
these two units," said LeMay  
during his closing speech. "It's  
about the incredible teamwork  
of the entire DCOM-SB." "It is  
not just about these Soldiers who  
stand here today representing  
these two units. It's about many  
nations, many people coming  
together for a common purpose.  
And although we wear different  
uniforms, we work together to  
accomplish the NTM-A mission  
every single day."



Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Rodriguez, the command sergeant major of the 16th Sustainment Brigade leads the formation during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Nov. 30 on Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A Public Affairs)



Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Conde leads the platoon of 16th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Nov. 30 on Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A Public Affairs)



Afghan and Coalition Soldiers and civilians from Camp Eggers and various camps around Afghanistan watch on in attendance at the Transfer of Authority ceremony between the 16th Sustainment Brigade and the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Nov. 30. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A Public Affairs)

Col. Darren Werner and Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Rodriguez, the commander and command sergeant major of the 16th Sustainment Brigade uncase the brigade colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Nov. 30 on Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A Public Affairs)



Col. Darren Werner and Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Rodriguez, the commander and command sergeant major of the 16th Sustainment Brigade raise the brigade colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Nov. 30 on Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A Public Affairs)



Col. Darren Werner, the commander of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, addresses guests during a Transfer of Authority ceremony Nov. 30 on Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in support of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A Public Affairs)



# Afghan logistics

## *Moving forward*

### National Logistics Center-Wardak transitions to Afghan National Police control

By U.S. Army Capt. Monika Comeaux  
DCOM-SPO Public Affairs

**WARDAK PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – The National Logistics Center-Wardak passed to Afghan National Police control during a ceremony Nov. 18, 2012, at one of the facility’s new maintenance bays.

The signing of transition documents and a ribbon cutting symbolized the transfer, with more than one hundred coalition and Afghan guests present.

“This is where engineering and logistics intersect, to make a significant step for the Afghan

National Security Forces, specifically the Afghan National Police logistics system,” said NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan Engineer Director Andy Backus.

“It has been a very good project,” added Backus. “A lot of the logistics facilities in the Kabul region are compressed. When you get out here and see NLC Wardak, you see that it is a significant site. They have warehouses spread out, they have place for a container yard, loading ramp - that type of expansive facility was not available here in Kabul,” he said. From a logistics standpoint, access to the facilities is

much easier at the Wardak location than it would be at locations in Kabul, Backus explained.

“During the past 10 years during the recent history of the ANP, this is the first very large modern national facility that we are taking over,” said Deputy Minister of Support ANP Lt. Gen Whadat “NTM-A and the coalition partners have contributed a huge budget to this facility. This facility will enable us to support the ANP all over Afghanistan and they will greatly benefit from this facility over here,” he said.

The facility is designed to be the center for the ANP logistics and



NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Afghan National Police dignitaries cut a ribbon symbolizing the transition of the Wardak National Logistics Center from coalition forces to the Afghan Ministry of Interior Nov. 18, 2012, at one of the facility’s maintenance bays. (Photo by US Army Monika Comeaux, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A PAO)

Senior Afghan National Police leadership survey a formation of ANP members formed up minutes before the start of the National Logistics Center-Wardak ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 18, 2012. The center consolidates smaller ANP logistics sites from Kabul, allowing more modern space for storage and maintenance. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Monika Comeaux, NTM-A/DCOM-SPO PAO)



will house the Ministry of Interior Support Center (MSC), the Police Materiel Management Center (MMC-P) and the Interim Logistics Facility (ILF), currently located in Kabul,

**this is the first very large modern national facility that we are taking over**

– ANP Lt. Gen. Whadat

said Whadat.

The MSC provides command and control to all operational organizations and elements of the Department of Logistics. MSC provides interface to the logistics infrastructure at the national, regional and provincial level. The MSC also provides planning and support requirements for all vehicles and equipment assigned to the Afghan Ministry of Interior.

MMC-P provides logistical support in the areas of supply operations, weapons, property book management, fuel, transportation and maintenance support and management, in order to provide responsive and efficient support to the ANP and meet operational needs of the MoI.

The Interim Logistics Facility is the ANP's National Supply Depot. It holds various classes of supply for forward distribution to regional ANP units. It receives its tasks from the MSC and MMC-P. The facility also requests, receives, stores and issues Supply Class I (subsistence and bottled water), Class II (clothing and bottled water), Class III (P) (Packaged petroleum, oils and lubricants), and Class VI (personal demand items) for the ANP.

“It is very important that we up-keep these buildings in their current condition and conduct the proper maintenance on them ... I would like to urge everyone to be proactive in keeping this facility operational,” said Whadat addressing all who will work at NLC-Wardak.



An Afghan National Police color guard stands in formation awaiting the arrival of Afghan dignitaries to the National Logistics Center-Wardak ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 18, 2012. The construction project on the center started in 2009. Today it is a modern facility that will be responsible for managing ANP supplies at the national level. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Monika Comeaux, NTM-A/DCOM-SPO PAO)



UZBEKISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

# AFGHAN

TAJIKISTAN



An Afghan National Army officer takes notes during a contracting and procurement class on Camp Shorabak, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 5, 2012. The Afghan Ministry of Defense held the training throughout Afghanistan to enhance their skills and ability to procure their own supplies and material. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)



An Afghan National Army recruit lines up with other recruits before heading out to a squad-level ambush tactics training lane during Regional Warrior Basic Training at Regional Military Training Center Southwest in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 19. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)



Afghan National Army recruits stand in formation and listen to a speech by an ANA officer from the 215th Maiwand Corps during a Quran Swearing ceremony at the Regional Military Training Center Southwest in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 8. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)

UZBEKISTAN

# PARTNERS

TURKMENISTAN

Afghan National Army recruits place their hands on the Holy Quran during a Quran Swearing Ceremony at the Regional Military Training Center Southwest in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 8. The ceremony is for ANA recruits going through Regional Warrior Basic Training. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Rodney Abrams, the officer-in-charge of the engineering cell, RSC-Southwest, talks with a contractor building an Afghan National Police district headquarters in the Now Zad district of Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 16. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)

An Afghan National Police officer searches an Afghan before he enters the ANP Helmand Provincial Police Headquarters in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct., 23. The man was going to the PHO to pick up Eid al Adha donations. Eid, also called Feast of the Sacrifice, is celebrated annually by Muslims around the world. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)



# Looking to the Future



## NTM-A mentors, Afghan partners attend logistics conference

By U.S. Army Capt. Monika Comeaux  
DCOM-SPO Public Affairs

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – Over 100 participants, amongst them NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan personnel, listened to logistics updates from the Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army and coalition briefers in a daylong conference Oct. 30.

The International Security Assistance Forces Joint Command, headquartered at the Kabul, Afghanistan, International Airport, organized the conference.

The long list of participants included Regional Support Command Logistics Training Advisory Team members, IJC Security Forces Advise and Assist

Team members and ANA and ANP logisticians from the national and regional levels.

Turkish Capt. Fatih Cesur, representing the International Security Forces Afghanistan Combined Jointed logistics section (CJ4), set the stage for the briefers to follow. He outlined three major lines of operations the coalition currently focuses on in regards to Afghan National Security Forces logistics development. “The three LOOs we currently work with are human capital, material systems and infrastructure, and network of influences,” said Cesur.

“As the 2014 drawdown gets closer, we want a self-sustaining and self supporting ANSF. As you know, we still face significant

challenges,” said Cesur. However, means exist to overcome this, he continued. These include compliance with the logistics cooperation agreement between the MoI and MoD, investing in training and education, simplifying and shortening the reacquisition process, and taking ownership of problems, just to mention a few.

As Cesur explained, coalition forces believe that the ANSF needs to plan and prepare now to maintain, support and sustain themselves post 2014. In preparation of this support, there are already several initiatives in place. The fielding of equipment based on Tashkil authorizations is ongoing.

The deputy commander of the ANA’s Logistics Command,

Brig. Gen. Mohamand Katawazi proudly shared statistics from the past eight months, going into great detail on the number of work orders completed in national level workshops. In the Central Work Shop alone, during the past month, among many other accomplishments, they repaired 7790 light

As the 2014 draw-down gets closer, we want a self-sustaining and self supporting ANSF

– Capt. Fatih Cesur,  
Turkish Army

weapons and 681 heavy weapons; in the CWS body shop, they painted eight Afghan Air Force helicopters and 111 vehicles.

An ANP briefer clearly stated that the ANP is ready to take over fuel management in certain areas of the country by 2013, and that the ANA has pushed out all of its winter clothing items as part of winterization.

While coalition forces briefed on the availability of training, the status of building projects and changes in contract management, several ANSF participants used the forum to highlight issues and ask for further coalition assistance in the form

of additional NATO weapons, vehicles, counter improvised explosive devices equipment and trained CIED personnel. Col. Hadi from the Afghan Ministry of Defense's Acquisition, Technology & Logistics department also highlighted the issues in the area of training. "In some instances, we may not have been ready to take over, but all of a sudden we were prompted to take charge," he said.

The ANA is not ready to take over maintenance responsibilities, Hadi stated. The ANA's procedures are significantly different from the ones the coalition uses. Things move much slower through our system, than the coalition can make things happen, Hadi said.

Col. Paul Schlimm, the chief of current operations (J3) for Deputy Command of Support Operations under NTM-A, talked about different training programs available for the ANSF. "Most of the training targets the operators, but from next year on, there will be several management-level courses available," said Schlimm. He urged all interested ANSF partners to indicate the need for training through their mentors and trainers. Schlimm also forecasted more mobile training teams, which will be able to travel to remote locations and train the ANSF at their home stations.



Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Mohamand Katawazi, the deputy commander of the ANA's Logistics Command, briefs participants of the International Security Assistance Forces Joint Command Logistics Development Conference Oct. 30 about major accomplishments at the ANA's Central Workshop. The conference took place at the Kabul, Afghanistan, International Airport, and the more than 100 participants came from all over Afghanistan to attend. (Photo by US Army Capt. Monika Comeaux, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A PAO)



Participants of the Sept. 29 Senior Security Shura focused on ANSF logistics listen attentively to a speaker. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Monika Comeaux, DCOM SPO PAO)

# Heroes Behind the scenes

**By Army 1st. Lt. Nestor Mercado  
RSC-South**

On a recent visit to Regional Support Command-South, Maj. Gen. Jim Ferron, deputy commanding general for NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, visited the Kandahar Regional Military Hospital and took the opportunity to address a physician's assistant class.

"Canadians have been fighting for more than 10 years alongside Afghans, and have lost over 150 soldiers," said Ferron. "Though that does not compare to the Afghan losses, the one thing that they both need is someone to take care and look after them when facing the enemy."

"After visiting several injured

Afghan National Army soldiers and police throughout the hospital, and when asked what they planned on doing upon being released, they stated that they wanted to go back and fight. You are part of that medical team that is training to save lives. Can you think of something more

proud of what you are doing, and know that Afghanistan has the capability to save the lives of soldiers, police and civilians," Ferron added.

While touring the RSC-S headquarters, Ferron met with ITAT section lead Maj. Brian Nazarian, and stated, "My brain thinks on three lines of communication, which encompass functional capabilities, sustainment, and infrastructure."

Ferron thanked KRMH commander, Brig. Gen. Sayed Azim Husaini, and Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Mohammed Sadiq for their emphasis on stressing the importance of medical care for soldiers, police and their family members.

"We expect soldiers to fight, and police to enforce the law, and KRMH is a shining example of bolstering their confidence in medical care," stated Ferron.



honorable or important than saving the lives of soldiers and police? Be

Maj. Gen. Jim Ferron, deputy commanding general for NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, visits the Kandahar Regional Military Hospital to address an Afghan National Army physician's assistant class (U.S. Army courtesy photo)



# NOVEMBER'S FEATURED Coalition Partner

## Lt. Col. Saulius Vainutis



### **Are you in the Army/Navy/AF in your country?**

*I am an Army officer in my country. I am stationed in the capital of Lithuania, VILNIUS.*

### **What is your unit back home?**

*After this mission I will start to fulfill my task as senior executive officer at TRADOC department of Lithuanian Armed Forces.*

### **What was your job/duties and responsibilities at home before you deployed?**

*I was a head of Armaments and Equipment Systems Section of Armaments Department Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Lithuania and mainly responsible for the acquisition process of weapons systems for the Lithuanian Armed forces.*

### **How long have you served in your military?**

*I have been in the Army since 1984, so more than 28 years.*

### **When did you arrive to Afghanistan and how long are you staying?**

*I arrived to Afghanistan on July 4, 2012. This is my first deployment.*

### **What are the challenges and benefits of working with other coalition forces?**

*U.S. Army is for me the third foreign Army within I have served during my 28 years of service, and the main and first biggest challenge of working with coalition forces is language. The second challenge, in my opinion, is to be calm, not nervous or upset, because only in the calm condition can you make the right decisions. The benefits of working with other coalition forces is to take new things and share your own experience with others.*

### **What do you find rewarding about your job?**

*This job as fuel officer is very satisfying, because for five years I studied this professions' "secrets" at higher military technical school as a fuel engineer and more than 10 years fulfilled the tasks (at Soviet Army and Lithuanian Armed Forces) as fuel supply officer. I will use the experiences from this mission to write National Logistics concept.*

### **Where do you hope to see Afghanistan in 10 or 20 years down the road?**

*The people of Afghanistan are very musical. I hope to hear more new Afghan songs than AK-47 rifle fire.*

### **What do you miss most about home?**

*I miss swimming in the lakes and walking through the forests.*

### **What would you want others to know about your country?**

*Maybe that the Lithuanian language isn't similar to Russian, Polish, and German languages. The Lithuanian language is 80 percent similar to Sanskrit language, which is 19 thousand years old. Lithuanian is an archaic language. It has retained its ancient sound system and morphological characteristics: "DIEVAS DAVE DANTIS, DIEVAS DUOS DUONOS" in Lithuanian  
"DEVAS ADADAT DATAS, DEVAS DAT DHANAS" in Sanskrit  
"DEUS DEDIT DENTES, DEUS DABIT PANEM" in Latin  
"GOD GAVE THE TEETH, GOD WILL GIVE BREAD" in English.*

### **Is there anything you would like to add about your job, working with DCOM-SPO as a coalition member or Lithuania?**

*The fuel supply "golden rules":*

*1. Do not forget, that you can move forward only if you have fuel in the tank. When you run out of fuel, you are a good static target for the enemy (and in winter time for arctic cold!) 2. Without fuel you do not have electricity (power), so you cannot communicate (send email, phone, see TV, surf internet ... only read books at daylight and candlelight!) 3. Oil your weapons, because the dust is "killer" for technical mechanisms. 4. Take care that fuel capacities (Fuel trucks, trailers, reservoirs, canisters) are always filled 100 percent by fuel.*

# From around

Military representatives of six nations supporting the German Armed Forces Tactical Advisory Group Mission of mentoring the Afghan National Army's Combat Service Support School stand in formation during the 10th anniversary celebration of GAFTAG, on Nov. 17, 2012, at Camp Warehouse, Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Monika Comeaux, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A PAO)



Afghan and Coalition officials pose for a photo Nov. 14 at the ISAF headquarters in Kabul after signing a document outlining the administrative procedures for bulk fuel management transition for the Afghan National Army. From left to right: Mr. Pamir Patang, ANA Lt. Gen. Whadat, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr. and British Col. Adrian Parker. (Photo by US Army Monika Comeaux, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A PAO)

Distinguished Afghan National Army guests listen attentively to a speech during the 10th anniversary celebrations of the German Armed Forces Training and Advisory Team Nov.17, at Camp Warehouse, Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo by US Army Monika Comeaux, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A PAO)



# the battlefield



Members of Nato Training Mission-Afghanistan Deputy Command Support Operations show off their certificates for winning first place in a relay race against Mongolian Army Soldiers organized to commemorate the 850th birthday of Ghengis Khan Nov. 18 at Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin, DCOM-SPO/NTM-A PAO)

Sgt. Maj. Donna King with Deputy Command-Support Operations, poses with the first two female sergeants major to graduate from the sergeant Major's Academy at Kabul Military Training Center in Kabul, Afghanistan Dec. 12. (courtesy photo by Sarah Jones)



Soldiers from National Training Mission-Afghanistan, Deputy Command Support Operations pose for a group photo outside of their headquarters building on Camp Stone near Herat, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army courtesy photo)

# A living hero

Regional Support Command-North names conference room after Air Force captain wounded in battle 11 years earlier

*Story by 2nd Lt. Gretchen N. McIntyre, RSC-North Financial Readiness Officer*



**CAMP MIKE SPANN, Afghanistan** - When it came time to name the Regional Support Command-North conference room, the command team knew exactly who to pick; one of their very own heroes.

The "Score" conference room was dedicated in honor of Air Force Capt. Michael Sciortino during a short ceremony here Oct. 18. The living hero, who served as a physician assistant mentor with RSC-N during the past six months, was humbled during the surprise unveiling of the new site.

"When I joined the military in 1994, I would never have imagined the team I served with 11 years ago would have had such an impact on this area," said Sciortino after cutting the ribbon to open the facility. Col. Ted E. Donnelly, RSC-N

commander, pointed out that Sciortino's presence in the area represents the full spectrum of the war in Afghanistan. For the past few months, Sciortino mentored the 303rd Afghan Uniformed Police and the 5th Zone Afghan Border Police Surgeons. However, this was not his first tour to Afghanistan.

Eleven years ago, then Staff Sgt. Sciortino rode to Mazar-i-Sharif via horseback with the rest of his rapid reaction force team with one mission in mind: free the city of Mazar-i-Sharif alongside their Northern Alliance counterparts from the Taliban control. The first obstacle the team faced was a prisoner uprising in the Qala-I Jangi fortress.

Ant occusci llupta volupid quam, co "As we made our way to the fort in our unarmored pickup trucks, I was able to hear the loud explosions for miles," started Sciortino. "You could hear the bullets whistling overhead and random explosions could be seen from mortar

rounds landing along the northern wall that surrounded the fort."

It wasn't too long before Sciortino was in the heat of battle and looked death in the face, literally.

"A 2,000-pound bomb landed 20 to 30 feet behind us," said Sciortino. "The bomb blasted through the 30-foot-high brick and mud wall and knocked us off the wall."

The wayward bomb left one team member unconscious and Sciortino with two blown eardrums, facial burns and random bumps and bruises. Fortunately, everyone made it out alive and young Sciortino became the first airman to be awarded the Purple Heart in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"When I look back, it was an honor to serve with fellow warriors and I am grateful to have played a part in that mission," said Sciortino.

The captain went on to explain how the near-death experience showed him how short life is, how important it is that he makes good decisions, to not take anything too seriously and to appreciate the moments of life that should be enjoyed.

Moments like finding out he would be returning to Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan.

"I never thought, of all the places in Afghanistan, that I would be back to an area, less than a mile away from the Qala-I Jangi fortress," said Sciortino.

To top it off, the camp Sciortino went to was named after CIA Agent Mike Spann, who was killed during the prisoner revolt 11 years prior.

"Visiting the fort over the last couple of months has been surreal. It seems like so long ago but certain details are still so vivid," finished Sciortino.

While the memories are still fresh, the

differences Sciortino noted from his first deployment to this one are extraordinary.

"When I was here for the first time in 2001, there really were no Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police, and I do not remember rank structure," said Sciortino. "They have definitely made great strides but they still have a long way to go to ensure the security of their people."

Although the country of Afghanistan faced many obstacles over the past decade, Sciortino saw his fair share of challenges. The cost of the war has been significant, to include losing fellow teammates and seeing the results of the war from a medical provider's viewpoint.

"My hope is that the sacrifices made by our military will translate into a dominant force for good in this region as well as for the United States in



its global war on terrorism," said Sciortino.

As for now, Sciortino is returning back to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio to continue working as a primary care provider. But, there's still no telling if he'll get another set of orders sending him back to Afghanistan to continue the fight for freedom.

Air Force Capt. Michael Sciortino, poses with the sign of the conference room named after him Oct 18, at Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan.

# Giving Thanks

## RSC-W celebrates Thanksgiving with Afghan partners

By Lt. David P. Varney MSC, USN  
DCOM-SPO, RSC-W Public Affairs

**CAMP STONE, Afghanistan** – Members of Regional Support Command-West and their Afghan counterparts shared a Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 22 at Camp Stone in Western Afghanistan. For many of the Afghan participants, it was their first experience of Thanksgiving dinner.

The ceremony was attended by the RSC-W commander Col. Keith Detwiler, RSC Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Mark Huston, Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Ghulam Mustafa, ANA Brig. Gen. Mohjuddin Ghory, 606th Zone Afghan National Police Commander Toyakai Abdagani, and Regional Training Center Herat Commander ANP Col. Mohammadi, along with many other RSC-W staff, coalition officers from Italy, Lithuania, and Albania and civilian contract personnel.

“Thank you for joining us for Thanksgiving dinner,” said Detwiler just before the dinner. “Thanksgiving is one of the most special holidays we celebrate in the United States. There are no gifts exchanged, where friends and

family share a meal to give thanks for the blessings of the years’ passed and for new hope for the year in the future.”

partners left an indelible impression on many, including Maj. Jeffrey Marsteller, RSC-W Transition Coordinator. “In the



The dinner was attended by more than 50 Afghan and coalition personnel, with traditional Thanksgiving fare, in addition to Afghan staples.

The meal and fellowship between Afghan leadership and their coalition

absence of family it is good to be able to break bread with our Afghan brothers,” said Marsteller. “This is one of the few times that we have had representatives from 207th Corps, Regional Military Training Center, 606th Zone, 3rd

An Afghan National Army recruit lines up with other recruits before heading out to a squad-level ambush tactics training lane during Regional Warrior Basic Training at Regional Military Training Center Southwest in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 19. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)



Bde, Afghan National Civil Order Police, RTC Herat and Afghan Judge Advocate General at a single event, and it shows how strong the bonds are between the Afghans and their coalition partners. This is an indicator of a great level of comfort, trust and friendship amongst all who attended.”

“Thank you for inviting us to Camp Stone for Thanksgiving dinner,” said Ghori, after enjoying the meal prepared by Camp Stone’s outstanding culinary staff. “I know you are far away from your families, and to have us here as guests, for Thanksgiving is an honor.”

RSC-W, headquartered at Camp Stone, near Herat, Afghanistan, is the home of many coalition advisors who partner with their Afghan counterparts across the wide-ranging spectrum of the Afghan National Security Forces to include ANA, ANP, ANCOF and Afghan Women’s Police Corps to prepare them for self-sustaining operations.

The dinner’s purpose was to build further rapport and understanding of their respective cultures in an informal environment. The mission, according to Col. Farah Hassan, commander of RMTC-West, was a success. “This was my first Thanksgiving dinner,” said Hassan. “It is much like our holidays, where the purpose is to give thanks for the blessings we have received and for our families. The food was great, and so was the company.”



*16th Sustainment Brigade  
Command Team*



*NTM-A Commander Lt. Gen. Bolger*



*13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)  
Command Team*

# Taking Control

## Transition of Regional Logistics Center Southeast

**LCDR Keith Boylan, SC USN  
Officer-in-Charge  
LTAT RLC- Southeast**

On 1 Nov. the Regional Logistics Center Southeast located in Gardez City, Paktyia Province, transitioned to full control by Afghan National Police. The site went from construction to independent operations in less than three years. It is the first RLC center in Afghanistan to attain the distinction of being fully independent.

Since its inception, there have been four Coalition mentoring teams located at the Regional Logistics Center led by the Regional Support Command-East. The mentors put in tireless hours advising the Afghans to support over 13,000 Afghan National Police Forces throughout six provinces in eastern Afghanistan, with vehicles, personal equipment, weapons, and ammunition. In all they support all pillars of Afghan National Police: Afghan Uniformed Police, Afghan Border Police, Afghan Civil Order Police, Afghan Local Police, Provincial Response Company, and Counter Narcotics Police.

The challenges overcome by the Afghan leadership in this region are astounding. They successfully established a forward logistics distribution site from the ground

up, using newly created policies and procedures, and moving from decades of a “push” system to a “pull” system of logistics. The Regional Logistics Center personnel embraced the concept of accountability for equipment and supplies. Without Coalition assistance, they planned and executed 18 resupply convoys in the last five months, as well as three Logistic Package (LOGPAK) missions, where they delivered supplies, completed organizational level maintenance, and retrograded broken weapons. While Coalition expertise is a contributing factor to the success of this Regional Logistics Center, the ultimate credit goes to the Afghan leadership and their personal drive

to take ownership of the security in their region and all of Afghanistan.



Afghan Local Police truck loaded with supplies just received from Regional Logistics Center Southeast. Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 19. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)



Afghan Local Police truck loaded with supplies just received from Regional Logistics Center Southeast, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 19. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam)



(Left) Brig. Gen. Clark LeMaster with Brig. Gen. Ali Zai the Zone 505th Commander explaining the transition of Regional Logistics. (U.S. Army courtesy photo)

(Right) Regional Logistics Center Southeast Afghan civilians offloading a truck from an organic resupply convoy. (U.S. Army courtesy photo)



# Saying Goodbye

## RSC- Southwest says farewell to mentors, friends

By Bill Putnam  
RSC-Southwest Public Affairs

**CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan** – One team is arriving, and another one going home. U.S. Marines with the Regional Logistics Support Command-Southwest Advisory Team, Regional Support Command-Southwest, held a relief-in-place ceremony here Nov. 26.

Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Sayed Malook, the commander of the ANA's 215th Maiwand Corps, said, with the help of a translator, he was happy but also sad that U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Luke Kratky and his team of U.S. service members were leaving, but Malook hopes the new team led by U.S. Marine Capt. Miguel Valle would continue their predecessors' momentum.

"Today we are losing one of our friends. Lt. Col. Kratky and his team worked really hard. He helped us with getting all these nice facilities that we see today, and also helped us to get supplies," said Malook. "I hope his replacement follows his steps and keep the work as it was going." ANA Lt. Col. Aslam, an officer with the RLSC and master of ceremonies, said Kratky and his

team of Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors were famous around the headquarters of the 215th Corps.

"Thank you very much for the hard work of Lt. Col. Kratky and his team," said Aslam.

There wasn't a true American-style passing of a unit guidon. Kratky and Valle simply marched up one at a time, saluted Aslam and took up a position in the reviewing area.

They each gave speeches; Kratky in Dari and Valle in both English and Dari.

Kratky, who read his speech in Dari, said he was proud of the ANA. The RLSC, an above corps logistics and maintenance unit, had come a long way since being formed in early 2012.

"You have demonstrated the potential of the country that nothing is impossible if you believe in yourself," Kratky said. "You know what it feels like to win." "Seek your advisors opinion as a last, not as a first option because you know what right looks like," he advised.

Kratky and his team of just under 40 U.S. servicemembers arrived at Camp Shorabak in early 2012 and essentially started

the ANA's RLSC. The RLSC Advising Team helped form an above corps unit that learned as it went. The advisors took separate units and helped mold them into one unit that supports all ANA in Helmand and Nimroz provinces. They've helped the ANA set up supply stores, helped run supply convoys to the brigades of the 215th Maiwand Corps, and helped start a comprehensive maintenance system for vehicles.

The key to gaining that success was letting the Afghans "run with the ball," Kratky said in an interview a few weeks ago.

Since September 2011, the RLSC has run more than 45 resupply missions to the corps' brigades. They've built up approximately \$47,000,000 in supplies on hand on Camp Shorabak. They're running their own junior noncommissioned officer courses and their own drivers training courses. Damaged vehicles are being tracked by the ANA from the beginning to the end of the repair process; vehicles that can't be repaired on Shorabak are conveyed to the ANA's central maintenance facility in Kabul. The advisors also

Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Aslam, left, with the ANA Regional Logistics Support Command, salutes U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Miguel Valle, the incoming officer-in-charge of the Regional Logistics Support Command Advisory Team, during the RLSC Advisory Team relief-in-place ceremony on Camp Shorabak, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 26. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam, RSC-Southwest Public Affairs)



# Afghan National Police learn weapons maintenance skills

By Bill Putnam  
RSC-Southwest Public Affairs

**LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan** – Afghan National Police officers recently graduated from a five-week weapons maintenance class at the ANP Provincial Police Headquarters here.

The seven students, who are also their precinct's supply officers, were trained on weapons capabilities, zeroing, and trouble shooting on Afghan Ministry of the Interior Russian-made small arms, said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Cartagena.

Once back at their precincts the officers will be able to act as first-line maintainers on the weapons the ANP patrolmen carry out in the field, explained Cartagena, a logistics advisor with the Regional Logistics Center, Regional Support Command Southwest.

"The personnel trained on this course will be able to troubleshoot, identify and attempt to repair any minor issues, jams or miss feeds from any small arms weapon before requesting maintenance support outside of their precinct," Cartagena said.

If there's something they can't fix, they'll submit the right paperwork and get it up to the contracted weapons maintenance shop at the PHQ, he explained.

The role of weapons maintainer at the precinct will be a secondary duty, Cartagena said.

"They are the primary armory personnel who can teach the Policemen from their Districts to properly operate and maintain their own assigned weapon," he said.

Hamidullah, who like many Afghans goes by one name, was the course's chief weapons maintenance. This class was his second at the PHQ. He retired two years ago after serving in the Afghan military for 25 years, he said.

One morning in November the students were clustered around an

AK-47 rifle, working on a trigger assembly. The weapon's bolt and some tools were on the table as the students worked to remove a broken spring.

After a few minutes, an assistant

lator. "What's the weapon for? The weapon is for security of themselves, to defeat the enemy."



Afghan National Police officers fix the trigger assembly of an AK-47 rifle during a weapons maintenance class at the ANP Provincial Police Headquarters in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 15. Students learned weapon capabilities, zeroing, troubleshooting, and weapons assembly and disassembly on a variety of weapons during the five-week class. (U.S. Army photo by Bill Putnam, RSC-Southwest Public Affairs)

instructor fixed the spring and put the rifle back together. Hamidullah then did a quick functions check to make sure the weapon worked properly.

More classes like this are planned and the training will benefit the ANP in the future, said Cartagena.

"This training will benefit the ANP on their weapons readiness and Police Officers knowledge and fighting skills to defend their country more effectively," he said.

But it wasn't the students that learned during the class. Cartagena would stop by and talk with Hamidullah during breaks and talk about weapons. The adviser said the old retired colonel – whose favorite was the Russian-made PKM medium machine gun – said something that really made him think: "You can engage and kill the enemy only with one bullet if your weapon is zeroed versus spending lots of rounds with a weapon that is out of tolerance."

"(The ANP) should know their responsibilities, they should know how to use the weapon," Hamidullah said through a trans-

## (Relief ceremony cont'd)

helped the RSLC move into and set up a new series of buildings, like where the ceremony was held.

All of that was accomplished by the ANA in such a short time because Kratky's team gave them the ball, Kratky noted.

Valle, in a short speech, said he was looking forward to continuing the work.

"This past week and a half have opened our eyes and shown us all the hard work that has been accomplished by you," Valle said of Kratky and his team. "Our advisor team will continue this and share in your success."

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