

MARCH 2013



THE TRIDENT DISPATCH



A MESSAGE FROM THE SKIPPER



CDR Mel Naidas
PRT Khost Commander

It has been an interesting and rewarding tour here in Khost, Afghanistan with Team Trident. Though it has only been 5 months since taking command, I can say that the performance of the team has vastly improved with time. And as I've said previously, each part of the team has made their own contribution to improving the capability, capacity, and legitimacy of our Afghan counterparts such they can better provide for the Afghan people in Khost. Whether it is providing security for senior Coalition Force representatives to conduct key leader engagements with provincial leaders, to increasing awareness on gender affairs, to improving the level of knowledge of master farmers to create a surplus of wheat to help with improving economic development, Team Trident has done a phenomenal job. But as retrograde takes front and center with other units in Afghanistan, it is now time for Team Trident to make a

graceful exit, and we can do this knowing that the Afghans are ready to transition to being in the lead. We've gone from directly assisting, to working shoulder to shoulder, to working over the shoulder in a purely advisory role. So with that being the situation, I wish "fair winds and following seas." It has been an honor and a pleasure serving beside these Soldiers and Sailors.

CDR Mel Naidas

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A Word from the Sergeant Major

As our time together draws to a close I want to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the NCOs I've worked with over the course of our deployment. The ability to energize others, growing from lessons learned, seeking leadership opportunities, the composure to adapt to changing conditions and of course some very creative approaches to problem solving are all attributes I've observed from you that impress me about the future leaders of our Army. We are all mentored and learn from the example of others. We are the accumulation of experience, skills and lessons learned that shape our leadership styles and in turn will develop and influence future generations of Soldiers. I've learned from you. Continue doing great things!

To the Soldiers of PRT Khost, thanks for your service and for the many thankless things you do. We notice and value your contributions. And to those in my mind who are the real heroes, our families, (cont. pg 2)



SGM Mark Fluckiger
PRT Khost



SGM cont.

I believe our nation owes you a debt of gratitude for your sacrifices and the support provided us. As we begin our last month together I want to remind you that this is likely the most challenging for us to stay focused on the mission. Please remain vigilant, focused, flexible, and conduct yourself with the same level of professionalism I've come to expect. Thank-you for your service!

SGM Mark Fluckiger

International Women's Day



MSG Sharla Stevens



Khost Provincial Governor Jabar Naeemi receives a special certificate of appreciation and recognition from the Director of Women's Affairs, Khawar Amiri on the celebration of International Women's Day (upper left). Over 170 women gathered in Khost City to celebrate the day and to listen to speeches from various influential women of the Province. Topics included increasing women's education, and decreasing violent activity throughout the Province. USAID Representative Ms. Amanda Gordon receives special recognition for the organization's dedication to ending violence on women throughout the nation (lower left).

(U.S. Army photos by SGT Kimberly Trumbull)



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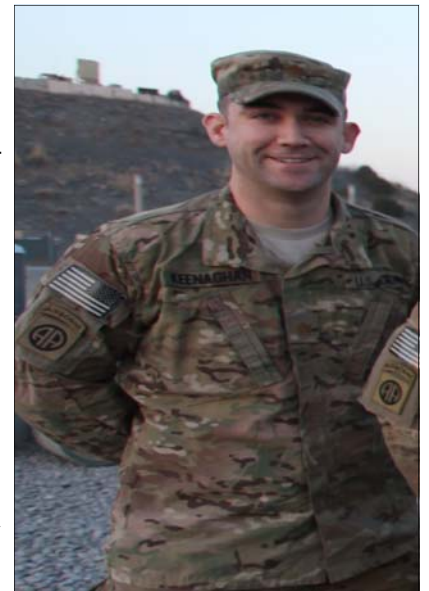


Civil Affairs Team News

As the PRT looks ahead towards the future of Afghanistan, our Civil Affairs Team has a lot on which to reflect. Our work with joint services, civilian agencies, and international allies has achieved sustainable effects across the thirteen districts of Khost Province in the provincial and district governments for governance, education, rule of law, economic development, and civil military partnerships.

Some recent highlights include 1LT Ron Roberts, SSG Scott Kim, and SGT Matthew Ingalsbe conducted successful civil engagements for schools and gender targeted outreach as part of International Women's Day, and Operation Equality with CPT Sophie Hilaire and MSG Sharla Stevens. (See photos on page two.)

Our team also refined and developed skills in marksmanship with a close fire M-4 and M-9 range, physical fitness to include a ten mile run, and even airborne operations proficiency for future jumpmasters! Our Team has engaged and influenced the local populace by planning, executing, and transitioning operations on over sixty combat civil reconnaissance missions for Army, joint, interagency, and multinational operations. The effects achieved reinforce progress for a stable Afghanistan with GIRoA in the lead. We look forward to returning home soon, and thank our friends and family for their tremendous support!



MAJ Dan Keenaghan
PRT Khost Civil Affairs Chief



MAJ Dan Keenaghan with members of the Jordanian religious engagement team at the Bak District Center. MAJ Keenaghan and 1LT Ron Roberts incorporated force multipliers with our Jordanian allies to reach local populations with a peaceful message that builds confidence in the government and a democratic system.



PRT CDR Naidas awards SSG Scott Kim the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for excellence in Unit Movement. (Photo by MAJ Keenaghan)



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Civil Affairs Team News

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(Left) 1LT Roberts learns initial steps for proper inspection of paratrooper SGT (P) Ingalsbe under the close watch from Jumpmaster SSG Kim. (Photo by MAJ Keenaghan)

(Center left) The CA Team is all smiles after completing a 10 mile run around FOB Salerno. (Photo by Dr. Ali)

(Below) Smiling children abound in a local village during a recon visit by the CA team. (Photo by MAJ Keenaghan)

The Civil Affairs Team has done a lot, and looks forward to safely completing the tour and returning home!





MAJ John Lake confers with acting Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Land, (DAIL) Dr. Naqibullah during the final meeting.
(US Army Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



DAIL staff and AG section meeting in the DAIL's office for the last time.
(US Army Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



MAJ Lake with the DAIL staff passing along a few left over supplies from the ADT during the final meeting.
(US Army Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



Farewell handshakes between the DAIL staff and the AG section MAJ Lake and CPT Skomp.
(US Army Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan



Agribusiness Development Team



SFC Michael Spurgin presents NSK Agriculture Extension Agent, Wali Badshah with an ADT Challenge Coin in recognition of his good work.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



MAJ Greg Motz presents flower and vegetable seeds to the Headmaster of Sadeg Rohi Girls High School, a Future Farmers of Afghanistan (FFA) School. The seeds were donated by the children of Cynthia Heights Elementary School of Evansville, IN.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



Soldiers of 1st PLT Angel Co 3-187 IN assigned to PRT Khost enjoying the mud after a rare two days of rain during the last visit to the DAIL's office.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



MAJ Motz comparing rifle magazines with an Afghan National Police officer in Mandozai, MAJ Motz has two mags fastened together, the ANA officer has three.
(U.S. Army photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





PRT's SECFOR Soldiers received 37 individual impact awards during this tour. CDR Naidas presents SPC Ronald Davis (upper left), SGT Edward Smith (upper right) and SGT Ryan Retzner lower left the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for outstanding performance. These soldiers earned the NAM in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo's by Dr. Mehmed Ali)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan



Security Forces

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1st Platoon, Angel Company, 3-187 Infantry, the PRT's SECFOR. 1LT Michael Wright (left) congratulates SPC Christopher Walker (right) after his re-enlistment just shortly after arriving in Afghanistan. This was just one of four re-enlistments made by SECFOR soldiers in the combat zone. (top and left photos by 1LT Holyfield) SSG Albert Carpenter working with two local Afghan National Police at the Khost City Sports Complex. (lower left) SPC Ernest Tincher on a mission. (lower right) (lower photos by 1LT Wright)



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Security Forces



PRT's SECFOR during mission brief. (top and lower tight photos by SGM Fluckiger) 1LT Wright (lower right) gives a mission brief. SPC Jeffrey Rebo pulling security at a District Center. (photo by 1LT Wright)

