

Coalition Bulletin

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**The Peacekeeping Forces
of Azerbaijan**





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Editor's Note

By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the *Coalition Bulletin* is pleased to bring you stories covering the activities of the International Security Assistance Force. As ISAF and the Coalition are separate entities, ISAF stories will be denoted by the NATO logo at the top of each page when they appear.

Cover photo: Azerbaijani peacekeepers carrying out guard duty on Hadithah Dam, Al Anbar province, Iraq

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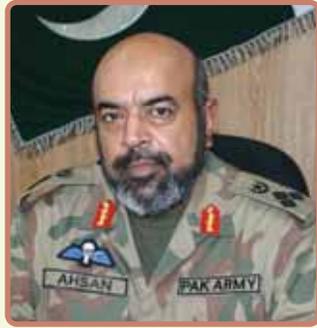
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A free and stable Iraq is still in reach. It has the potential to transform the Middle East and bring us closer to the day when radical regimes are replaced by peaceful allies, when terrorists have fewer places to train and operate, and when moms and dads in the Arab world see a future of hope for their children.

***George W. Bush
President, U.S.***

Editorial

Coalition operations in the AOR are clearly manifesting that military alone cannot create sustainable peace. While military operations in Iraq have resulted in a perceptible improvement in the security environment, the political initiative is clearly lacking. There is therefore a pressing requirement for the Iraqi leadership to take the essential steps for long term sustainable peace.



In Afghanistan, successful operations by ISAF against Taliban have taken the battle to insurgents, however any such space created needs to be filled-in with developmental efforts and political engagement. It is in this realm that the recently concluded joint *Jirga* of the elders of Pakistan and Afghanistan is a positive development and can serve as the model to work towards beneficial peace efforts in the region.

One of the distinctive features of the ongoing conflict is the ability of insurgents to turn most of the Coalition strikes into collateral damage, through an effective IO campaign. Understandably, as civilian activities are further militarized, and military activities are increasingly civilianized, collateral damage continues to remain a major area of concern. While the recent directives on the subject by Commander ISAF and Commander CENTCOM are expected to bring a perceptible reduction of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan, two aspects merit consideration: Reliance on use of high tech precision munitions in areas where no troops are present on ground and the need to factor-in the cultural dimension of such strikes at the time of decision making for such strikes.

Although situation in Somalia remains fragile, yet not all hope is lost. Critics may say that Somali National Reconciliation Conference has little to offer so far, yet the mere effort to pursue the path of reconciliation of such a magnitude is a positive development. It is hoped that with better participation of some of the main 'clans', the undertaking provides a ray of hope, which international community needs to acknowledge and support.

Tampa in last month has seen a period of transition, whereby we now have Major General Thomas Moore the new Chief of Staff, as Major General Timothy Ghormley has proceeded on retirement. We also have a new elected Chairman of the Coalition; BG Arne Skjaerpe from Norway, who has replaced BG Mark Wheeler from New Zealand. While we wish well to the incoming Chairman, it will be apt to recognize the untiring efforts of the outgoing chairman, whose amenable personality was a welcome influence on the diverse environment of Coalition. However, the most serious loss was the retirement of Deputy Commander CENTCOM Vice Admiral Dave Nichols, whose personality and approach made him the champion of the Coalition. We wish him and *Denise* very best for their future, and want them to know that they now have many more friends the world over.

Bulletin like always contains a spectrum of activities in AOR, relevant to the efforts men and women of Coalition are undertaking for a secure and better world.

Ahsan Mahmood
Brigadier-General, Pakistan
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group

Afghan Boy Returns to Kabul After Medical Treatment in Spain

Story and photos
courtesy of MoD of Spain

Bashir Hambollah, an Afghan boy who was transferred to Spain in March 2002 for treatment of a serious tumor-like growth, is now with his parents in Kabul after being discharged from a treatment facility May 31. Once the school year was finished, Bashir took a military airplane to Kabul, where he met his parents in the Defense Attaché office of the Spanish Embassy in Afghanistan.

During the trip, the boy was accompanied by an interpreter, Nadar Mehrpuya, who was with Bashir from the day of his arrival in Spain. Personnel from the Ministry of Defense also accompanied Bashir during his ordeal.



Bashir before the flight back to Kabul

After the first evaluation in the Central Hospital of Defense, Go'mez Ulla, Bashir was transferred to Young Jesus Hospital for specialized treatment. Bashir was discharged from that hospital in October 2002, but continued periodic visits.

In August 2003, at the end of the most intense phase of Bashir's treatment, his uncle, who had accompanied him since his arrival in Spain, returned to Kabul, leaving Bashir in the care and home of his interpreter, Nader Mehrpuya.

During his stay in Spain, Bashir attended the Brothers Marists School of Madrid in the second grade class of secondary education. Bashir was able to visit his family in Kabul on several occasions, during his vacations from school.



First, Always and Everywhere



**Story and photo by
Army Spc. Beatrice Florescu-Vila Verde**

The motto “first, always and everywhere” are the three words that define the driving force of the Macedonian Wolves platoon, detachment for special tasks, attached to the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Camp Taji performing special security operations.

The Wolves, part of the Macedonian Army’s Special Forces, were trained specifically for tasks involving house clearing, raids, arrests and anti-terrorism operations.

“The Macedonian Wolves have prepared for three months for this mission,” said Sgt. Maj. Marjan Misackovski, command sergeant major of the Macedonian Army Special Forces Battalion. “It is a difficult mission because we support operations in an unusual environment, but it is a great experience for the Macedonian soldiers. It is useful and it helps them do their job better. Now they know how to survive outside.”

Misackovski knows about survival — on his first tour he was awarded the Bronze Star for saving an American Soldier’s life while on a mission. The Soldier collapsed and stopped breathing. The Macedonian soldiers decided to take the Soldier to the Aid Station instead of waiting for the medical truck. Misackovski gave him first aid and resuscitated him.

To combat language barriers, Sgt. Andris Jacobs, Company B, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade, currently attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, is



Macedonian Army Spc. Boban Alekseski provides direction in room clearing techniques training of Iraqi Soldiers.

embedded with the Macedonian troops to facilitate communication and ensure clarity.

“I am a liaison between them and the battalion,” Jacobs said. “I help them to obtain equipment when they need it. I go on patrol with them and help them with the radio while on mission to communicate with the battalion.”

Jacobs enjoys working with the Macedonian Wolves. “They are fun to work with and I am also learning a new language,” he said. “I also like to spend time together with them.” A common factor between Jacobs and the Wolves’ commander is that they both are on their second tour in Iraq and enjoy working in international environments.

“I enjoy working with the American troops and other coalition forces here,” said Capt. Vladko Trajkovski, commander, Macedonian Special Forces.

The Macedonian camp is unique as soldiers work to make their area homely. In the last four years, they have built an external dayroom and platforms leading to the command area.

The Macedonian flag stands not only as a testimony of their identity, but also part of their commitment to the coalition efforts. As part of those efforts, they train Iraqi soldiers in their areas of expertise. The Wolves have trained 120 Iraqi soldiers since the beginning of this rotation alone. Based on the good results, they were assigned another 300 Iraqi trainees to complete training during March, Trajkovski said.

The Wolves’ participation in the Operation Iraqi Freedom is a tribute to their traditional spirit and willingness to be the first to arrive, always and everywhere they are needed.



Iraqi Soldiers train on house clearing techniques.



Top U.S. Commander Enters the ‘Lions’ Den’



*Story and photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs*

BAGHDAD — The commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq visited soldiers operating in the southern neighborhoods of the Iraqi capital to get a better understanding of the battle going on in the hotly-contested region.

Gen. David H. Petraeus visited Joint Security Station Black Lion and Coalition Outpost in the northwest section of the Rashid District.

Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, commander of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, said Petraeus’ visit to his battalion bore a special meaning.

“To have the theater commander come here and visit the “Black Lions” and see the tremendous work Task Force Black Lion has done in northwest Rashid is a special occasion,” he said. “We know that we’re the division’s main effort as a brigade combat team right now.

“We want General Petraeus to understand the fight that we’re in,” he added.

Petraeus gained that understanding through a briefing given by Frank about the challenges his battalion is facing.

With troops living so close to the citizens of Baghdad, it allows them to form tighter bonds with the people they’re protecting as well as decrease response time to insurgent activity.

Pfc. Kazan Tamer, a member of the 1-28 Inf. personal security detachment from Patterson, N.J., said there were positives and negatives for soldiers living at the JSS. One of the good things Tamer mentioned was a better response time to attacks, while the biggest negative is the culinary experience.

“We respond a lot faster to attacks. We’re always ready to go at any time,” he said. “The canned food is probably the worst thing.”

Tamer said the COPs were more company-focused than the JSS, which serves as more of a mini-battalion headquarters.

For soldiers like Tamer, living conditions are good at the JSS. Tamer said the primary difference between living at a COP and JSS, as opposed to a larger Forward Operating

Base, is the level of security, but he still feels safe living at the JSS.

“Sergeants of the guard” are on top of it, he said. “I enjoy being at the JSS more than at the FOB. We’re always out there; we’re always first or second to respond.”

The MNF-I commanding general was particularly impressed by the way the Black Lions are conducting detainee operations. He immediately recommended that some of their tactics, techniques and procedures be sent to the Counter-Insurgency Academy.

After the briefing, Petraeus pinned medals on Iraqi army heroes, took a brief tour of the JSS and patrolled to COP Attack in the Aamel region of the Iraqi capital. While at the



Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, commander of the 1-28 Infantry “Black Lions”, briefs Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq, at Joint Security Station Black Lion in the northwest Rashid District.

COP, he pinned the Combat Infantryman’s Badge on soldiers from the Black Lions’ Company A.

Cpl. Mark Sanderson, a team leader in Company A from Thorndale, Texas, said having the MNF-I Commander pin on his CIB was a surprise.

“I didn’t expect that. It was nice,” he said.

The visit had special significance for their battalion commander. Frank served under the MNF-I Commander as the 101st Airborne Division’s deputy operations officer while Petraeus commanded the “Screaming Eagles” in Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

“I have immense respect for him,” Frank said. “He’s invested an immense amount of time in Iraq, so for him to come down and see the Black Lions and spend some of his extremely valuable time with us means a lot.”



The Peacekeeping Forces of Azerbaijan



Story and photos
courtesy of Azerbaijan MoD

The Azerbaijan Armed Forces are composed of the Army, Navy, Air and Air Defense Forces. In July 1992, Azerbaijan ratified the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), which established limits on conventional military equipment. Azerbaijan has also accepted the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, participates in NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. The Army is involved in a regional

by Afghanis. The Azerbaijan Government is trying to do as much as possible for continuous support of the Global War on Terror. Recently, the President of The Republic of Azerbaijan; Mr. Ilham Aliyev declared that Azerbaijan is going to increase the number of its peacekeepers in Afghanistan.

Along with the U.S. Marines, one company of Azerbaijani Peacekeeping Forces commanded by Captain Nasimi Javadov is responsible for guard duty in the area of the



Azerbaijani contingent line up in front of Turkish TFC for instruction

cooperation group (GUAM) with the nations of Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. One peacekeeping battalion has been created within the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, currently Azerbaijan peacekeepers are taking part in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Republic of Turkey is one of Azerbaijan's strongest allies and Azerbaijan officers regularly receive training from both Turkey and the United States. Turkey has trained Azerbaijani Forces to Western standards and the two nations regularly exchange officers for cultural and military purposes.

The Azerbaijani Peacekeeping platoon is part of the Turkish battalion. Together with the Turkish mission, the Azerbaijan Peacekeeping platoon is commanded by First Lieutenant, Shamil Mammadov. It performs patrolling duties in the well-populated district of southern Kabul. Azerbaijani troops are among the few Muslim nations participating in operations in Afghanistan. Daily interaction with locals, and similarities in traditions, culture and religion makes them more acceptable

Hadithah Dam, Iraq. The Hadithah Dam is one of the principal sources of electricity in Iraq. Security and stability



Azerbaijani contingent on foot Patrol in Kabul Afghanistan



Azerbaijani officers and soldiers. Azerbaijan is one of the few nations whose Peacekeeping company is serving together within a U.S. Marine battalion. While in the Hadithah Dam, distinguished visitors to the Azerbaijani Armed Forces spent some time for closer inspection and familiarization with the organization of duty by the peacekeeping company. They visited observation posts, checkpoints and some other key locations in the area. The Peacekeeping Company of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces proves to be a strong, well-organized and essential partner in our common goal in the war against global terrorism.

Today, many of us are dealing with new strategies toward terrorism. We are serving at the

Salute of Deputy Minister of Defense by Azerbaijani Contingent at Haditha Dam

at the dam is one of the essential elements for a successful mission in Iraq. By accomplishing high levels of security at the Hadithah Dam, the Azerbaijani Peacekeeping Company is providing favorable conditions for the Coalition and U.S. forces. This allows them to fully engage the enemy without worrying about one of the main sources of electricity in Iraq. Many accolades have been made by high ranking officers and members of distinguished delegations who visited the Hadithah Dam. The organization and daily performance of Azerbaijani Peacekeeping Company at Hadithah Dam is impeccable. Because of vigilant organization of security duties, no chance is given for terrorists to smuggle explosive devices into the area of responsibility of Azerbaijani troops at Hadithah Dam.

High ranking officers of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces visit the theater annually. Recently, a delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Defense visited the Hadithah Dam located in Al Anbar province of Iraq at the invitation of the U.S. Marine Corps officials. During the visit, they spent time in the theater and the Azerbaijani delegation received many words of appreciation from U.S. Marines who are serving shoulder to shoulder with

time when the weaker side chooses terror as their main tactic of operations. The outcome of this conflict depends not only on the results of military operations on the ground; but also the insurgent tactics of conducting suicide attacks on civilian population. For the insurgents, this is preferable to facing conventional armed forces. We have to put all available means to prevent the spread of this tactics chosen by the enemy.



Deputy Minister of Defense with Company Commander inspecting check points



From Abingdon to Afghanistan: Army Truck Drivers Train for the Future



Story and photos courtesy of UK MoD

A team of British Army truck drivers who are deployed in Afghanistan have been helping to put together a training package for their Afghan National Army (ANA) counterparts.

Combat supply truck drivers from 60 Close Support Squadron, 4 Logistic Support Regiment, based at Camp



Captain Ben Potter surrounded by his Afghan Army comrades. Picture by: Cpl Jon Bevan RLC

Bastion in Helmand province, shared their experiences and skills with soldiers of the Afghan National Army 5th Kandak.

The National Army 5th Kankak is normally based in Shorabak, also in Helmand province. It was the first visit to the British base by the ANA, despite their having worked together on numerous convoys during the last few months. The 60 Squadron commanding officer, Major Gerry Ewart-Brookes, welcomed the 5th Kandak troops, with his squadron providing lectures and giving vehicle demonstration drills.

Major Ewart-Brookes said, “This is a basic introduction to our tactics and drills. It’s the first time they have visited our unit and we will continue these visits throughout our tour, with the ultimate goal of allowing the ANA to provide their own secure environment and to be self supportive in the longer term.

“We can tactically learn from them also, especially their knowledge of mine awareness. There is mutual benefit in what we are doing together.”

The 5th Kandak soldiers were escorted by Captain Ben Potter, a member of the Operational Mentoring Liaison Team

(OMLT). Potter has been embedded with the ANA troops since March of this year. On a six-month detachment from 60 Squadron, Potter’s close links with his British colleagues have helped forge a productive relationship between the two armies and brought realism to the training.

The training sessions involved rock drills, practical demonstrations on mine clearance and an introduction to the 14-ton Demountable Rack Offload and Pickup System (DROPS) vehicle, the workhorse of the British Army.

The Squadron Operations Officer, Captain Andy Rouse, a seasoned convoy commander who has racked up a total of over 50,000 kilometres in the last three months with his troops, used small blocks of wood to replicate convoy vehicles in formation. He explained to the 5th Kandak troops the ‘actions on’ to take in the event of various scenarios they might encounter.

Troops from both sides discussed the demonstrations and, importantly, achieved an understanding of each others drills during a hostile incident, something which could limit potential casualties and maintain the security of future convoys.

Major Muhammed Askar, Officer Commanding 5th Kandak, thanked the British soldiers:

“I have enjoyed the day very much and we shall return the favor by inviting the British truck drivers to Shorabak for the day,” said Major Askar.

Over the past three months, both 4 and 60 Squadrons have delivered a record 18 Combat Supply Convoys to troops throughout Helmand province. This increase has been due to a significant rise in demand by British troops operating in the area, along with American, Estonian, Danish and ANA, all administered by Task Force Helmand.



Captain Andy Rouse demonstrates convoy drills, using model blocks to represent vehicles. Picture by: Cpl Jon Bevan RLC



In the Frontline - Romanian Military Medics



**Story and photo by Romanian Air Force
1st Lt. Dorin Constantin Balan**

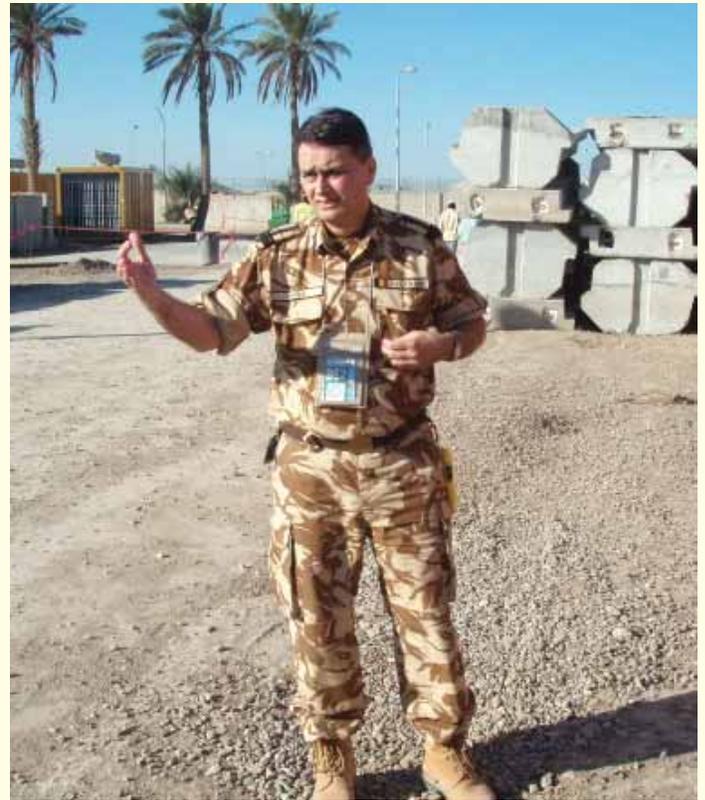
Two Romanian military medical teams are working together with the US doctors and nurses in campaign hospitals, on a six-month basis, Romania being the only coalition partner that participates at this program.

Romania is part of this program starting with 2005, five doctors and fifteen nurses working in almost every section of the hospital such as wound care, internal, surgery and intensive care.

In a multinational environment like this, the way Romanians relate to others is the key factor. Indeed, professionalism is the first who sets the rules but individual qualities are required for a complete connection with the hospital staff. On the occasion of the US rotation that took place recently, colonel D. Sproat, MD, hospital commander, said: "Without the help of the Romanian doctors and nurses, the quality of the medical treatment here wouldn't be at the highest level and the Romanian team is the liaison between the old and the new hospital."

For medical lieutenant Gabriel Molnar, chief medic at the 315th Artillery Battalion in Simleul Silvaniei, Romania, the mission in Iraq is a new experience, both professional and personal, and the focus is on the practical aspects. Speaking about differences, Molnar said: "U.S. medics are basing all of their diagnosis process on thorough clinical and laboratory investigations while in Romania we always consider the cost-efficiency report."

Experiences that one is living in a hospital of this type are unique, even for those who think that they've seen it all. Staff SGT Maria Călin, nurse at the Military Emergency Hospital in Galati, describes such an experience: "First



Col Daniel Sora - Chief of the Romanian Medical Teams in Iraq

bandage for a deep shot wound made me feel unstable on my feet. It was the first time I saw a wound like that and my fellow American ask me to do a relatively easy maneuver which seemed so complicated then ... Eventually, I did it, but I really cannot recall how I did it, among the screams of the wounded..." Speaking about the professionalism, Călin only describes the facts: "One incident that really made my day was when a Military Police Soldier, who was unsuccessful in getting his vein punctured, said (when he saw me approaching), Romanian Nurses? If they don't find the vein, they invent it!"

Medical interventions are, most times, above words. However, the trio made by the patient, the doctor and the nurse are here humans that speak different languages. Staff SGT Simona Ciochina, nurse at the Central Military Hospital in Bucharest (CMHB), expresses the process to getting the common language: "The patient speaks in Arabic, the doctor gives you indications in English, and my brain tries to compile everything in my own Romanian way. Out of all this, the patient gets all the benefit because we're all here for him or her."



Romanian Camp Cropper medical team & friends



Polish Battle Group Overcomes Language Barrier



*Story and photos by Army Spc. Micah E. Clare
4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office*

the people in his village and surrounding areas were that their main roads were now cleared of roadside bombs. He



Sgt. Jack Jedrzejowski, a squad leader in 2nd Platoon, Company B of the Polish Battle Group, stands nearby a Polish Rosomak vehicle in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.

also gave valuable information regarding rumors he had heard about the possible whereabouts of an escaped Taliban commander in a nearby province.

“This makes the work worth it,” Novak said after the meeting was over and he and his men had left. “I love talking with the locals, but when they return our courtesy with the information we need, it’s especially rewarding.”

The necessity for showing respect and cultural awareness for the residents of an area is something that some of the Polish soldiers with previous combat experience have brought with them to Afghanistan. It is something they teach to their comrades.

“Even though we are the ones carrying the guns, it’s very important to show

The Polish Battle Group, which officially took responsibility for the security of several areas in the eastern Afghan provinces of Ghazni and Paktika last month, is the first major Polish infantry unit to participate in international efforts to stabilize the country.

It is also the first time Stachera and most of his men have served in Afghanistan.

“It is very different from what we thought it was going to be,” said Polish Army 1st Lt. Thomas Novak, platoon leader, 2nd platoon, Company B. “We trained very hard before we left, but we are finding ourselves adapting to many unforeseen circumstances every day.”

Novak explained that he and his men were trained to fight and take prisoners but often find themselves doing the complete opposite, making friends and earning trust.

When he led his men into a small, isolated, yet green and terraced village nestled in the Andar district hills of Ghazni province during Operation Maiwand last month, they didn’t find the Taliban they were looking for, just an old man sleeping peacefully under an apricot tree.

After the man’s grandson roused him, he awoke to Novak’s friendly smile and an outstretched hand.

“Salam alaikum,” Novak said rendering the traditional Islamic greeting.

Through his interpreter, Novak asked the man how he and the members of his village were doing and if they had been bothered by the Taliban, who, before fleeing the area at the start of Maiwand, had been threatening people not to cooperate with the International Security Assistance Forces.

The old man kindly offered Novak and his men some of his ripe apricots, and proceeded to tell him about how glad

[locals] that we are their friends, not enemies,” said Polish Sgt.

While an interpreter can’t be everywhere at once, the Poles and Afghans must sometimes be able to understand each other without any words at all, such as situations where vehicles at a traffic control checkpoint need to be searched.



A Polish soldier gives out toys and candy to a crowd of children one evening at his platoon’s field patrol base in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.



Selection of New Chairman Senior National Representatives Coordinating Group



Story by LtC. Ehtisham Tirmizi Chief CPAT U.S. Central Command
Photos by Capt. Manuel Matos CPAT officer U.S. Central Command



Brigadier General Mark Wheeler from New Zealand congratulates Brigadier General Arne Skjaerpe from Norway on assumption of duty as new Chairman

On July 18, the Senior National Representatives of 64 countries selected BG Arne Skjaerpe of Norway as new Chairman of SCG (Senior National Representatives Coordinating Group). The outgoing Chairman BG Mark Wheeler, New Zealand; in this position had worked tirelessly to coordinate all the Coalition activities. The new Chairman plans to continue to lead this group with the same spirit and zeal.



Message from departing Chairman Brigadier General Mark Wheeler, New Zealand

It has been my great honor to have served as the Chairman of the sixty-four nation Senior National Representatives Coordinating Group over the last year (2006/2007). Brigadier

General Arne Skjaerpe from Norway, the new Chairman will be a great Coalition advocate and I wish him and Unni his wife all the very best in their thirteen months in Tampa. As Brigadier General Skjaerpe steps into the chairman role, my predecessor Brigadier General Soren Falk-Portved from Denmark also departs to Washington D.C. to perform his new duties as Danish Defense Attaché. I would like to thank Brigadier General Falk for his mentorship on behalf of the coalition. His energy, corporate knowledge and sound guidance behind the scenes were of a great help which I appreciate.

This coalition is unique; it is comprised of military professionals from 64 countries working together on a daily basis. The networking and bonds created will pay long-term

dividends in the global security environment. I would like to acknowledge the driving force of Vice Admiral Dave Nichols, the outgoing CENTCOM Deputy Commander for his leadership role in continuing to create such an environment. The efforts of MG Minetti, CCC Director; and his staff have been essential in allowing the coalition to function.

I hand over the reigns to Brigadier General Skjaerpe with the coalition in transition: a complete change over of key CENTCOM leadership, changes to CENTCOM and CCC staff and structures, formation of AFRICOM, Joint Staff proposals on how to create a global coalition and ever changing command and control and commitments in the CENTCOM Area of Operations. I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege of representing the Coalition as chairman and please give Brigadier General Skjaerpe every support as he moves the Coalition forward.

Message from New Chairman Brigadier General Arne Skjaerpe from Norway

The coalition of more than 60 nations is of vital importance in the war against terror and we all share a common responsibility for



ensuring that the coalition prevails. CENTCOM is at the very heart of the ongoing operations.

I feel honored by the confidence shown in me by all Senior National Representatives (SNRs) here at CENTCOM. As chairman, I will do my utmost to support the whole coalition.



New Police Training Center Promotes Law and Order



**Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Elisandro Diaz,
Multi-National Security Transition
Command-Iraq Public Affairs**

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Police opened the Al Anbar Police Training Center in Al-Habbaniyah in early June.

The center is tasked with taking citizen recruits and transforming them into Iraqi Police officers.

Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bolani, Al-Anbar provincial government representatives and Coalition personnel were present to celebrate the opening.

The new training center has the capacity to train 750 recruits through 12 courses during a 10-week training session. Some of the courses include democratic policing, the basics of crime and investigation and confronting terrorists, said Steve Ryan, an international police trainer with the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team.

The center also trains recruits in the use of firearms and defense tactics from a civilian police perspective, he said.

Trainees are also taught escalation of force, from giving verbal commands to using deadly force to neutralizing a threat.

“We want to show [the trainees] that there are less-lethal options available before using deadly force,” said Anthony Pask, an international police trainer with CPATT.

Instructing the police recruits will be Iraqi instructors who have been through the U.S. Marine Corps firearms instructor training. Each Iraqi instructor will teach 10 classes shadowed by a Coalition advisor, said Ryan.

“We [the advisors] will start standing back,” said Ryan. “Then we stop being the advisors and turn into the evaluators.”



Iraqi National Police members practice battle drills in the Iraqi Security Force Training Center at Combat Outpost War Eagle in the Rabii neighborhood of Baghdad's Adhamiyah District. Photo courtesy of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs

The construction and opening of this training center will promote the establishment and the promotion of law and order in Al Anbar and throughout Iraq, said Bolani.

“Security is very important for freedom and the Iraqi police will provide that security,” Bolani said. “Everyone is under the law and we must follow the law. No one is above the law. Our loyalty is going to better Iraq.”

Iraqi Army Soldiers bring Supplies to Ramadi

**Story by Spc. Ricardo Branch
1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division**

BAGHDAD — Locals greeted Iraqi Soldiers in central Ramadi with handshakes and smiles. Those smiles are



Iraqi Army Soldiers hand out bottles of water during a humanitarian aid mission in Ramadi, Iraq. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael L. Haas.

something new for the troops who've had to overcome years of violence from insurgents in their quest to secure the city.

Iraqi Army Soldiers patrolling the streets of Ramadi brought supplies to the people during humanitarian missions June 29 through July 1.

“The Iraqi Army here may be from all backgrounds and provinces of Iraq, but that doesn't change how we feel about our country,” said Iraqi Col. Sabah Fadal, 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division commander. “As Iraqi Army Soldiers, it's our job to protect and help the people, which is our goal with these missions.”

During the three-day operation, called Operation Helping Hand, the troops visited the Al Hommerah, and Al Hoz districts of Ramadi, the Women and Children's Hospital and the Ramadi General Hospital in their effort to strengthen relations with the Iraqi Army and locals of the city.

“We chose those areas to show the people that the streets formerly held by insurgents are now held and patrolled by the Iraqi Army,” Fadal said.



HOA Members Survive in Djibouti Desert



*Story by Staff Sgt. Kenya Shiloh
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs*

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Nearly 40 Soldiers and Marines assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, attended a desert survival training graduation held at the 5th French Marine Regiment parade field, near Camp Lemonier, Wednesday, after completing a 10-day desert survival course July 1-10.



Members of the French and U.S. military participate in a desert survival training graduation held at the 5th French Marine Regiment parade grounds near Camp Lemonier, Djibouti.

The training, broken into two phases, was conducted in the areas of Sida and Randa in northern Djibouti. Phase one consisted of class instruction on subjects such as land navigation using global positioning system devices; finding water in the desert; distinguishing between which plants and animals are poisonous and safe to eat; animals and reptiles indigenous to the area; Djiboutian culture and basic techniques on how to survive on the land.

During the second phase, French and American platoons

marched 15 miles a day using camels to carry their equipment. Once they made it to their campsite for the night, they used newly learned skills to survive in the desert.

“The course is a good experience for someone who hasn’t been in the type of situations that can surface out there in the desert,” said Army Spc. Macario Penaflor, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Light. “The information the 5th French Marine Regiment provided was

valuable information for people who may find themselves needing to survive on the land. The class also had a mixture of military services so to work together was a good experience on its own.”

The desert survival training is conducted quarterly by the 5th French Marine Regiment where they offer 40 slots to American military members each time. They also hold the training at different locations throughout Djibouti each time. Along with the 10-day course, a two-day condensed version of the course is offered to military members who are unable to take off work for more than a few days.

“I would recommend this training to anyone regardless of branch of service because it allows you to understand nomad lifestyle and the history of Africa in general,” said Marine Corps Staff

Sgt. Rudy Diaz, 6th Provisional Security Company. “There was much more to this course than just staying alive in the desert.”

Upon completion of the course, military members were presented certificates and desert survival badges. The next 10-day desert survival training course is scheduled for October.

“The training in general was very informative,” Diaz said. “I think it will definitely give those that attend a better appreciation for African-nomadic ways of life.”



Italian Carabinieri to Train Iraqi National Police



*Story by Spc. Emily Greene
Combined Press Information Center*

BAGHDAD — Italian Army Maj. Gen. Alessandro Pompegnani, Deputy Commander of NATO Training Mission-Iraq spoke about his country’s efforts to help train the Iraqi National Police at a press conference at the Combined Press Information Center.

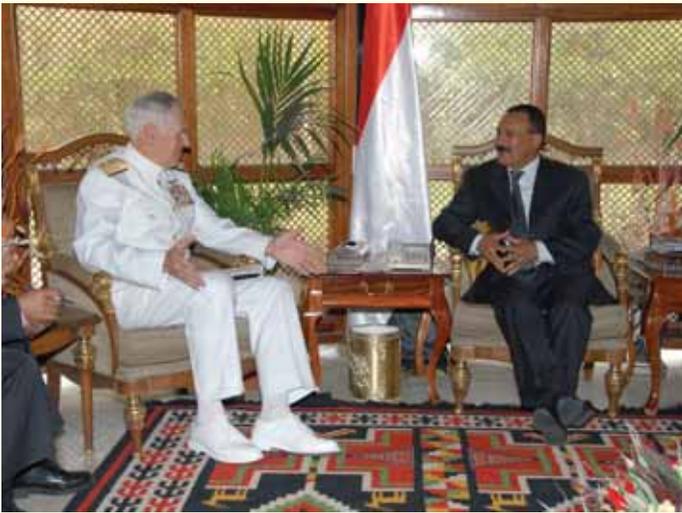
Since 1814 the Arma dei Carabinieri has ensured the rights of the Italian people, both at home and abroad. Now the Carabinieri will share their training techniques with the Iraqi National Police as part of the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

“The Gendarmeria-type training provided by the Carabinieri will help establish the Iraqi National Police as a professional military police force,” said Pompegnani.

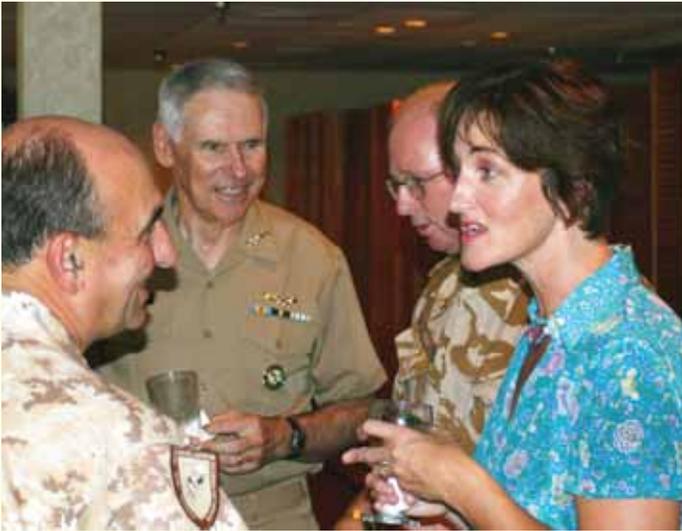


Italian Army Maj. Gen. Alessandro Pompegnani, Deputy Commander of NATO Training Mission-Iraq speaks about the Carabinieri training to be provided to the Iraqi National Police.

Admiral William Fallon Visits CENTCOM's AOR



Farewell Reception for Deputy Commander Vice Admiral David Nichols Jr.



Dutch SNR Farewell party



French National Day Celebration



Maritime Coalition Team vs Air Coalition Team Volleyball Game





Marine Capt. Pamela Unger, Combined Joint Task Force-82 resource management officer, sorts school supply-filled back packs prior to distributing them to Jan Cadam Middle School students. The 125th MP Det. and members of Operation Care at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, distributed humanitarian aid and other items to local children and teachers at the school.