



# THE ARROWHEAD

"PA GADA BARAI"  
(Winning Together)



August 15, 2016

Issue No. 2



## 36 ID troops earn combat patches

Story by Maj. Christopher DeLosSantos

The servicemembers of Task Force Anvil, Train Advise Assist Command – East (TAAC-East), conducted their combat patching ceremony at Advisor Post Lightning in eastern Afghanistan. The advisors of Task Force Anvil directly support the 203rd Corps of the Afghan National Army, also called 'Thunder,' and the 303rd Zone of the Afghan National Police, referred to as 'White Mountain' from the newly reopened AP Lightning.

Joining a military tradition that dates back nearly a century, the newly patched members of Task Force Anvil are the men and women from the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas Army National Guard. During the ceremony, British Col. James Landon, presented the 10th Mountain Division combat patches to the servicemembers who put themselves in harm's way in the combat zone of eastern Afghanistan during Operation Resolute Support. On behalf of the TAAC-East Commander and Deputy Commanding General for Maneuver of the 10th Mountain Division, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Howard, Landon also presented the members of the Security Force Company with the TAAC-East commander's coins for excellence.

The tradition of combat patches in the U. S. Army dates back to 1918 when the 81st Infantry Division 'Wildcats' added a right shoulder patch to their uniforms to honor their combat service in the Great War (World War I). Other Army units and formations mocked the 81st Division

for their pride and flashiness in changing the uniform. The mocking stopped when Gen. John J. 'Blackjack' Pershing validated the 81st Division 'Wildcats' combat patch. Pershing liked the combat patches and directed his other units and formation that had served in the Great War to wear them as well.

Becoming accustomed to the austere living conditions of AP Lightning, an outpost that has only recently added functional showers and hot meals, the incoming advisors join an experienced

*PATCH continued on page 2*



**British Col. James Landon affixes a combat patch on Lt. Col. Alba Melgar's shoulder during a ceremony for Task Force Anvil Soldiers.**

## From the Desk of the TAAC-S Commander

Hello from sunny Afghanistan! I hope your family has enjoyed your summer. It won't be long before the kids will be heading back to school, so I know it is a busy time for you. It is during these busy times that I believe it is vital to schedule time with each other to keep in touch.

As Soldiers on the Task Force Arrowhead team we have worked diligently to refine our unit's battle rhythm, our schedule of events. Knowing how our days and our weeks will run provides a measure of confidence for us in the future and gives us a baseline to adjust from when the unexpected occurs. Our battle rhythm guides us through the best ways to communicate with each other so we are all on the same page. As families with a spouse, parent, child, or sibling deployed, communication becomes both much more difficult and much more valuable as the precious resource that it is.

I encourage all of you, the Soldiers and the families both, to think of your own communication rhythms. How will you share your lives with one another across so many miles and time zones so you are both on the same page during the long days and upon your Soldier's return? Personally, I commit myself to video chat with my family every Sunday unless I am traveling. I have seen others on my staff dedicate themselves to handwritten letters and cards or just a printed photo with a note on the back to share themselves with family. As the long days go by and the weeks become months, the communication rhythm you build becomes a strength to rely on and a tool for a stronger family. - Arrowhead 66



Brig. Gen. Lee Henry

The Army newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Arrowhead are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army or NATO. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Officer.



*PATCH continued from page 1*

team. In addition to providing base security, the Security Forces company support the advisors on their daily missions with a full spectrum of services; such as pre-mission information technology and engineering efforts to personal security details, known as guardian angels, during their leadership engagement. Operation Resolute Support and TAAC-East staff as well as the Army Reserve Sustainment Detachment who manage the day-to-day operations of the

base, are also based full time out of AP Lightning.

These advisors, secured and supported by their brothers- and sisters-in-arms from TF Anvil look forward to enabling 'Thunder' 203rd Corps and 'White Mountain' 303rd Zone to improve local security and overcome insurgent attacks as they work together for an increasingly self-reliant Afghanistan. ■



**Brig. Gen. Lee Henry, awards Australian Col. Mark Wellburn the 36th Infantry Division combat patch during the ceremony. The TAAC-South Headquarters has six Australian Defense Forces officers assigned to the unit, supporting the joint, multi-national train, advise, and assist mission in Southern Afghanistan.**





## SOLDIERS CONDUCT TRAINING IN CLOSE-QUARTERS SHOOTOUT



**Soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division and the 4th Infantry Division conduct a live-fire, close-quarters-marksmanship training event as part of their mission in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Maintaining combat skills while deployed is a vital element of operational readiness. (Courtesy photos)**



## Afghanistan becomes 164th member of World Trade Organization

*Courtesy story by Khaama Press, Afghanistan*

The United States welcomed Afghanistan as the 164th member of the World Trade Organization amid optimism that the country will enjoy new opportunities for multilateral trade.

“We welcome Afghanistan today as the 164th member of the World Trade Organization, or WTO. Afghanistan will enjoy new opportunities now for multilateral trade and expand its potential for future development and prosperity,” State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporter.

Kirby further added “We applaud Afghanistan for the years of effort required to meet this milestone achievement and we look forward to working together with that country as a full member of the WTO going forward.”

Afghanistan formally gained accession to World Trade Organization during the Ministerial Conference of WTO late in December last year.

The terms of accession by Afghanistan to World Trade Organization was formally adopted during the 10th Ministerial of WTO organized in Nairabi, the capital city of Kenya. Afghanistan was given time until 30th of June to ratify the decision by the Ministerial Conference of WTO to become the 164th Member of the World Trade Organization.

The World Trade Organization is a global trading organization that accounts for about 95 percent of the commerce of the world and the membership of WTO is expected to provide a number of rights for the country including the critical right to transit besides opening lucrative markets. ■



# ADVISING IN AFGHANISTAN

TAAC-South's mission is to advise and assist the Afghan National Defense Security Forces (ANDSF) as they defend their country from all enemy forces fighting against the growing democracy. The Security Forces Advisors Teams (SFAT) have answered our nation's call to serve by directly supporting the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP).



**Clockwise from top-left: Maj. Chris Miller and 1st Lt. Gabriel Stewart stand with their ANA counterparts; Lt. Col. Bruce Alzner observes Afghan soldiers during mechanics training; Capt. Ray Hammett and Lt. Col. Jesse Cruz sit down for an evening meal with the Afghan logistics team; Maj. Gen. Dawood Shah Wafadar presents the electric wheelchairs donated by the Turkish government to the soldiers of the Afghan Wounded Warriors Unit; Capt. Ray Hammett, Capt. Carlos Da Silva and Sgt. 1st Class Brad Adair finish a meeting with the Afghan officers they advise.**





