



# THE ARROWHEAD

"PA GADA BARAI"  
(Winning Together)



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Issue No. 3



(Above) Capt. Michael Hall is awarded the Impact LNO of the Quarter for his positive impact on the Resolute Support Mission while acting as the CONOPS OIC and TAACS LNO. Sgt. 1st Class Amos Valmores is awarded the NCO of the Quarter as he "cranks out CONOPS for critical strategic effects." Capt. Charles Lounsbury receives the Pride & Poise award for the leadership he provides to the Afghanistan National Military Command Centers.

(Right) Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Adair joins hands with his Afghan advisee as they tackle the complex operational environment of Helmand Province shona a shona (shoulder by shoulder)

## From the Desk of the TAAC-S Commander

As we enter our fourth month I reflect on the words of Thomas Paine, a writer who heavily influenced our founding father's thoughts on government:



Brig. Gen. Lee Henry

"What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

Know that while we go through difficult times, it is because Soldiers and families alike are working hard for the freedom without price. Nothing good comes cheaply and everyday you prove the value you bring to the world.

- Arrowhead 66





## AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS WITHIN THE TAAC-S RANKS



**Clockwise from top left: Brig. Gen Lee Henry provides her first salute in the rank of Major; Chief Warrant Officer - 2 Frank Hinnant is pinned as Chief Warrant Officer -3; Jeffrey Gilmore is promoted to Lt. Col. during a ceremony attended by his family via Skype; the newly minted Capt. Michael Hall moves up in rank and out to Kabul taking on increased responsibility as the Resolute Support liaison officer; and newly promoted Lt. Col. Pedro Agapay moves the message forward as Chief Information Operations Officer.**





# 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).





# Afghanistan Independence Day Celebration

Story by Maj. Luke Talbot

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – A child runs through the legs of adults waiting to see the parade begin and microphone checks are conducted on the grand stand. The sound of the brass band warming up drifts along the tree-lined street as notes of a familiar Independence Day martial tune resonate in the air and the hearts of the people waiting. Except for the location and the persistent threat of violence this land has come to know, it could be any Main street of any rural town throughout the world eager to celebrate their national day of freedom.

The people of Afghanistan celebrate their independence day on August 19 every year to commemorate the signing of the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919 which brought about the end of the Third Anglo-Afghan War. The treaty allowed Afghanistan independence to manage its own foreign affairs as a sovereign nation. Afghans on both sides of the current conflict remember themselves as the first nation in the region to win their independence from the global British Empire.

“On occasion and with empty hands, our fathers fought the Empires throughout history for our freedoms,” Maj. Gen. Dawood Shah Wafadar, commanding general of the 205th ‘Hero’ Corps Afghan National Army, speaking to the gathered

crowd. “After three hard-fought wars we won our independence, and we will continue to fight for our independence.”

From 1919 until the present day, Afghanistan has seen kings and prime ministers, presidents and communist parties, Soviet invasion, and Taliban rule by sharia law; and now the democratically representative Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Their culture has seen peaceful growth where women attend universities without coverings, the development of poetry, classic art, painting, and monumental landmarks. They have seen those landmarks destroyed by war and the effect of over 30 years of conflict upon the infrastructure of their country.

As the fighting continues in the mountains and villages outside of the walls and guard towers of Camp Hero, home of the 205th Corps, a sergeant from the Afghan Commandos unit stands at the podium, clears his throat, and begins to recite a poem; inviting his enemy to come join the community once again.

“What are you doing in the mountains?” His voice rising as he calls to the foe, to the man who raises his weapon against him. “Come down to your family. Come down to your children. Come down to your orchards. Come down to your flowers.” He invites, asking his countrymen to join him in peace.

“We fight because we must, because there is an enemy who wants to hurt us. But we only want peace and to bring our country together”, Wafadar says as he explains the meaning of the poem being read.

The brass band leads the parade of Soldiers, police officers, firemen, construction workers, medics, and the soccer team by the grandstand. All of them







saluting their fellow soldiers as they pass. The community has gathered together to demonstrate their solidarity as they remember their struggle for independence.

"It is a testament to the security the 205th Corps brings to the area that we can see celebrations like these moving through the street," said Brig. Gen. Lee Henry, the commanding general for the Train Advise Assist Command-South (TAAC-S). "The music and the language is different, but the people and the atmosphere here is the same as if I were back in Texas." Henry is the US Army commander of coalition troops based out of Kandahar Air Field (KAF) assigned to the NATO Resolute Support Mission.

As the last of the military units march past the grandstand, a cluster of young men in purple loose-fitting athletic wear come to the center of the parade field. The

crowd draws close as the Soldiers of the 205th Corps martial arts team demonstrate their hand to hand combat skills. There are classic demonstrations of choreographed maneuvers. Their team captain performs a feat of strength and will as he drives his bare hand through a stack of ten bricks, while other members of the team demonstrate their agility and speed by executing leaping high kicks sending shards of clay pots flying when their feet strike.

The crowd gathers closer and closer with each next exhibition roaring with thunderous applause and exhortations to see their fighting men at their best. The demonstration draws to a close as the martial arts team cleans up their path until no evidence is left of their prowess. They softly move into the crowds who fold them into the group. The parade marches on.

"The story of the brave soldiers are written in gold and never fading," Dr. Humayun Azizi, the governor of Kandahar Province, stated during his address. "Aghans respect and support the duty of these men and women in uniform."

As the last of the vehicles on demonstration drives by, the crowd remains, no one wanting to be the first to leave the revelry. The parade draws to a close and the day wears on, both soldiers and citizens drift into smaller pockets, sharing a cup of chai and breaking pieces of nan, traditional Afghan baked bread, and continue to celebrate together.



**(Left, Above) The 205th 'Hero' Corps Martial Arts team demonstrates their military prowess with flying jump kicks at clay targets and hammer-fist blows to 10 stone bricks during the Afghan Independence Day. (Below) Soldiers from all Afghan National Defense Forces march in the parade.**







## Chaplain's Corner

Most of us are like the rest of us. No one enjoys situations of conflict, discomfort or separation. Most of us would rather run from them. And yet it is within these situations, if they are faced and dealt with, that the treasures of life are mined and ultimately experienced. I can think of no better image of this than the one of Jesus heading towards Jerusalem, knowing what awaited him... with his disciples hanging back in fear.

"They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to

Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." The worst thing that could ever happen brought about the best thing that could ever happen.

In life our Jerusalems are places of conflict, discomfort or separation... whatever those places or situations may be. They are places of pain, struggle and even death. That's what makes them so scary. That's precisely why we try and avoid them at all costs. But, hidden in those Jerusalems is the treasure of resurrection, new ways of seeing, new ways of relating, and new ways of being. The only means of appropriating those ways and living them out is by going in and dealing with them. Our Jerusalems have to entered, dealt with and conquered. Your Religious Support Team is here to help along life's journey, cause most of us are like the rest of us... in spite of Hell.

*In Remembrance of 09/11*



## Family Readiness Group: Ears to Hear, Hands to Help

Get linked into Texas Military Forces Family Support Services on the web:  
[tmd.texas.gov/tmd-family-support-services](http://tmd.texas.gov/tmd-family-support-services)

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### After Hours

1-800-252-8032 (English)  
1-888-443-2124 (Spanish)

### See your Soldiers in Action

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