



THE ARROWHEAD

"PA GADA BARAI"
(Winning Together)



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Marine Corps Marathon: Running to Remember



From the Desk of the TAAC-S Commander

As many of you know, we celebrate Veterans Day on the anniversary of the armistice that ended the First World War. The "War to End All Wars" as it was ironically known. On the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month, the battlefields of war-torn Europe finally fell silent as more than four years of destruction came to an end.



Brig. Gen. Lee Henry

From 1973 until today, over the last 2 generations, military service has been volunteered. Only 12% of Americans have ever served, many of whom were drafted. Over the years that 12% will decrease. Today, less than half of one-percent of Americans serve in the military. As that small percentage of volunteers, it is incumbent upon us to honor the Veteran's faithful service as we renew, reaffirm and rededicate our commitment to keeping faith with them. As we remember those who have gone before and those whose side we have fought along, we resolve to continue to serve and when necessary to go to war.

For it is their loyalty to their country, their own great courage, and their selfless service which has made our country what it is today

Thank you for this observance. Happy Veterans Day to all of you!

- Arrowhead 66

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 Advise and Assist Teams (SFAAT) have answered our nation's call to serve by directly supporting the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP).



"We Shall Conquer..."

UNCLASSIFIED

... in Spite of Hell!"

BETTER CARE, PLAN FOR NEW FACILITY GIVES HOPE TO AFGHAN SOLDIERS

By: Ken Griffin



KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Two Afghan soldiers smile and casually chat with a handful of U.S. sailors here, talking soldier stuff - their families and hopes for the future. If you were around the corner, it would be impossible to tell the soldiers are both recent double amputees; the sailors are their doctors and nurses.

The U.S. Navy medical personnel run the Multi-National NATO Medical Center here, where they care for the units making up Train, Advise, Assist Command – South, and occasionally some of the Afghan forces they help mentor. The current team is rotating out soon, but they’re leaving Kandahar with a level of support TAAC-S has never seen.

“The care they’re providing will actually endure for years to come, in the form of the Afghan Army’s new Wounded Warrior Center,” said Army Maj. Luke Talbot, public affairs officer for TAAC-S. “The reason those Afghan soldiers were smiling - in spite of their injuries - is because they have hope for their futures.”

The Wounded Warrior Center is modeled after the care U.S. service members receive at home. It brings together all of the providers, equipment and therapy Afghan soldiers need to recover from serious injuries. Perhaps most importantly, it will provide many of these soldiers the opportunity to stay in uniform and continue their service. In the past, amputees and other injured soldiers didn’t have that option.

“They’ve given everything for their country. They deserve futures and to be functional for their families. The new center will help ensure that,” said navy Capt. Robert Fry, commander of the medical center. “Psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation - the new center brings together all of these things. Along with computer labs and other resources for the Afghan soldiers to learn new schools.”

The Australian contingent at TAAC-S, working with 205th Corps Advisor Team, played an important role in conceptualizing the Wounded Warrior Center. The project is largely funded by Australia and the advisors are helping oversee the construction.

Australian Army Maj. Simon Young, deputy, Combined Joint Engineers at TAAC-S, describes the center as a national test case. He hopes that after it’s successful, the Afghan Army will duplicate the center throughout the country, ensuring all injured Afghan troops have the most effective tools for recovery and rehabilitation.

The contractors building the center won’t finish until spring 2017. But in the meantime, the wounded Afghan soldiers here are still smiling, resilient and hopeful. They’ve endured quite a bit up to this point, but they’re optimistic about their recovery. The Wounded Warrior Center and all those involved are largely to thank for that.



Rakkasans Assume Responsibility for Train Advise Assist Command - South in Kandahar

By: Patrick Morgan



Kandahar Province, Afghanistan - Brig. Gen. Lee Henry, commander of Train, Advise and Assist Command - South (TAAC-S) hosted a change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 13 to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of outgoing TAAC-S and 2nd Brigade Combat Team 'War Horse', 4th Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Sammy W. Sparger Jr. and to welcome incoming TAAC-S and 3rd Brigade Combat Team 'Rakkasan', 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur R. Burgoyne Jr.

The transfer of the unit colors is significant in many ways. The history and accomplishments of TAAC-S are symbolized by and embodied in its colors. With the passing, the unit's legacy is passed as a building block for future achievements. Historically, a unit's colors served as the point around which the Soldiers of the organization rallied in battle. The colors are traditionally at the forefront of the formation and signify the continuity of the organization even though its members come and go.

Brig. Gen. Henry recognized Command Sgt. Maj. Sparger and his team as an exceptional organization that set the standard for other train, advise and assist teams to follow throughout Afghanistan.

"Your brigade has proven themselves true to the name War Horse," said Henry "pulling in the harness over the last nine months. You have definitely put TAAC-S in a better position than when you arrived."

Henry welcomed the new perspective and fresh set of eyes from Command Sgt. Maj. Burgoyne and the Rakkasan Team as they begin their eighth "Rendezvous With Destiny" with their fifth deployment into the Afghanistan theater since 9/11.

"It's truly an honor to be the command sergeant major of TAAC-S," says Burgoyne "it's an opportunity to lead Soldiers not only of the US Army, but also to lead Soldiers from the Romanian, Bulgarian and Australian armies as well."



Chaplain's Corner



Have you ever asked yourself, “Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving?” Has that question ever come to mind when November rolls around? The holiday we now call Thanksgiving is often credited to English settlers (often referred to as “Pilgrims”) who in 1621 set apart 3 days of feasting to celebrate their first harvest after a trying year. “How trying was it?” Of the original 102 people that stepped off the Mayflower the year prior in 1620, only 53 survived. Of the 18 adult women who were part of this group, 13 died in the first winter and another in the spring, leaving only four come that first Thanksgiving. Despite the harsh year, I am almost dumbfounded that these early Americans took time to be thankful. They feasted for three days with their Native American friends who had shown them how to grow corn, among other skills, that helped them survive in their new home. Their celebration not only marked a successful harvest but also their survival. It

is this celebration that is often referred to as the “first” Thanksgiving. In spite of great loss, in spite of a horrific year, after watching friends and family die right in their arms, they set aside a time to thank God. It is easy to be thankful when the economy is up, your house is not in foreclosure, and you are sitting around a table full of food surrounded by your loved ones. Isn't that easy? But what about being thankful when times are not so prosperous, when a terminal illness strikes you or someone you love, when dreams are crushed, when relationships are shattered by betrayal or divorce, or when the world seems to be falling apart around you? Being “thankful” sounds cliché.

Why should we be thankful? First, let's look at what the word “thankful” means. This verb “to be thankful “ or “to thank” as used in Scripture comes from the Greek term “eucharisteo.” The Eucharist (or Lord's Supper) which is celebrated by millions of Christians around the world is named from this term. “Eu” means “good” or “well,” and “charis” means “grace.” The point is that “thanksgiving” is rooted in a response to grace. And so being thankful recognizes what has not been earned; being thankful recognizes grace.

When it comes down to it, when you boil it down, being thankful is recognizing the grace in your life, recognizing that though you only deserve death, God has given you life in and through His Son. As one author put it, being thankful is “recognizing the loving kindness of God to humankind finding its only motive in the bounty and freeheartedness of the Giver.” Why celebrate Thanksgiving? Why be thankful period? We can be thankful because of the God given grace in our lives and from this flows a thankful heart.

Honoring Our Veterans



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

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