

Maj. Sheldon S. Smith I Victory Sustained

Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz, commanding general of the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and Command Sgt. Major Michael D. Schultz, the senior enlisted for the 143d ESC, salute during the singing of the national anthem at the official ceremony for the 143d assumption of responsibilities as the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan. The JSC-A will assume the responsibilities of logistics in Afghanistan.

# The torch passes

143d ESC assumes the responsibility of all logistic systems in Afghanistan

■ BY STAFF SGT. MARCOS ALICES

Victory Sustained Staff Writer

The 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command officially assumed responsibility as the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan at Kandahar Airfield March 4 in a ceremony to mark the completion of the transfer.

Previously, sustainment brigades held the responsibilities of logistics in Afghanistan, but with the expected increase of troops into theater the need for the 143d ESC was evident.

The 143d ESC will command all sustinment forces in Afghanistan. They will also coordinate the distribution of supplies with coalition, joint and strategic partners.

The 143d ESC arrived in Theater in February and falls under the 1st Theater Sustainment Command located in Kuwait.

# JSC-A provides healthcare to locals

■ BY PFC. ELISEBET FREEBURG

Victory Sustained Staff Writer

The young Dari interpreter standing by the desk translates the words of the American doctor to the young woman, as she sits quietly. An examining table stands against one yellow wall in the small room. Various tools and medical equipment are positioned around the room. Thickly lined with black eyeliner, the young woman's brown eyes light up. Her soft smile widens and she leans forward in her seat. Her husband will not take another wife. After three barren years...she is finally pregnant.

The American doctor, Col. Kathryn L. Hall-Boyer, treated women and children on two separate visits April 14 and 21 at the Afghan National Army Regional Hospital medical clinic at Camp Hero as part of Operation Hearts and Minds. Hall-Boyer is the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan surgeon, stationed at Kandahar Airfield.

"[The mission's purpose] is to



Pfc. Elisebet Freeburg I Victory Sustained

Col. Kathryn L. Hall-Boyer, the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan surgeon, examines a girl's ear for infection at the women's clinic at the Afghan National Army Kandahar Regional Hospital.

provide ongoing medical care to women and children who have limited alternatives to receive medical care," said Hall-Boyer.

Hall-Boyer, an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory University, Georgia, has worked in the medical field since 1979 and provided care in similar clinics while deployed to Bosnia.

"This clinic people can keep

coming back to every week," said Hall-Boyer. "There is continuity for the women here."

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# The Commander's Corner



Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz Ioint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan Commanding General

By now, it's no secret that the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command has been sent to Afghanistan to facilitate the expan-

sion of the U.S. role in the south. Originally scheduled to deploy to Kuwait, the 143d was chosen by high-level military planners as the ESC that would move forward in advance of combat units that would comprise the build-up of forces in Afghanistan.

As members of the 143d ESC, you are the core of Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan, and as your commanding general, I'm proud to say I depend on you and your experience and expertise to make this mission a success. I'm very proud of what you've accomplished to date, and I am sincerely thankful for your dedication and sacrifice - and for most of you, being here is a sacrifice. You have left behind good

jobs and loving families, and I can appreciate what you and our families have contributed to this global fight against extremism.

The bulk of forces will soon begin to move into Afghanistan, and as they do, I can assure you we will have challenges. In addition to working long hours to facilitate the reception, staging and onward movement of forces as they arrive in Kandahar as well as the sustainment for those that have moved to the Forward Operating Bases, you will experience cramped living spaces and longer lines everywhere you go including the dining facilities, post exchanges and other retail stores, barber shops, laundry facilities and other services. However,

our focus must remain on our duty and in supporting our customers, which includes not only the forces for which we provide a wide range of sustainment services but also our subordinate units.

We will stay busy and days will pass quickly until it's time to begin the process of transferring authority to the 135th ESC. I have no doubt that because of your efforts and accomplishments the Soldiers of the 135th will become fully operational within a short period of time. So, I urge you to remain vigilant and to continue in your historic efforts to establish and maintain sustainment operations in Afghanistan.

"Sustaining Victory"

#### Message to the Iroops

We are thousands of miles away from everything we know. We have left behind our families and friends to serve our nation to fight the war on terrorism.

Though a deployment can be difficult, I challenge all to take this time to groom yourselves for success professionally and personally.

Take the time to learn a new skill. It could be taking classes online or stopping by the education center to register for a class. Set a goal to finish or start a degree program. You could also learn a new language. As Soldiers,

vou are offered Rosetta Stone, a language learning software, available through Army Knowledge Online. Education is key in making yourself marketable outside of the military.

Take charge of your military career as well. A deployment is filled with a wealth of knowledge and experience to help further your career. Senior noncommissioned officers should be mentoring Soldiers and passing on their knowledge. It is your job to help improve our Army.

Junior enlisted and NCOs take the time to prepare yourself for the next level. Learn more about your military occupational specialty and the Army. A great way to do so is to step up to compete for Soldier and NCO of the month.

As Soldiers, we are expected to be in peak physical shape. This is a perfect time to focus on physical fitness and eating right. Set a reasonable goal for yourself to improve your Army Physical Fitness Test score or to lose a few

The opportunity to grow as a Soldier is knocking at your

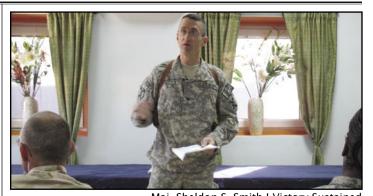


Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz Ioint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan Command Sergeant Major



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices I Victory Sustained

Members of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan participated April 25 in the Country Music Marathon at Kandahar Airfield.



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Col. Michael A. Mann, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan deputy commanding officer, was the keynote speaker April 21 for the 143d ESC Prayer Breakfast in Remembrance of the Holocaust.

**Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan** 

**Commanding General** Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz

Command Sgt. Maj. Command Sqt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz

**Public Affairs Officer** Maj. Sheldon S. Smith

**Editor** Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices

Staff Writer Pfc. Elisebet Freeburg

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### JLC Soldiers train ANA on radio communications

#### ■ BY SGT. IENNIFER PREMER

45th Sustainment Brigade

KABUL, Afghanistan - Soldiers from the Joint Logistics Command trained members of the Afghanistan National Army's Central Movement Agency on radio procedures March 23 through March 28.

Proper radio communications will allow the Afghan soldiers to communicate to the Tactical Operations Center, which tracks information on current operations.

The CMA is a transportation brigade responsible for transporting supplies from the headquarters throughout Afghanistan.

"Most of the students know how to turn the radio on and talk, but they don't know how to do the more complex things such as change the channel or the frequency," said Staff Sgt. Mandi Null, the JLC primary radio communications trainer.

The JLC Soldiers, who drew from their own experience, designed the training program to accommodate the ANA Soldiers, who are largely illiterate.

"Many of the Soldiers cannot read or write, so they can't simply open a book and figure out how to work the radio," said Spc. Carmen Ramos, an assistant radio trainer with the JLC.

The ANA soldiers demonstrated a desire to learn and were grateful for the training they received.

"This experience is good for



Sat Jennifer Premer L 45th Sustainment Brigade

Staff Sgt. Mandi Null, the primary instructor for radio communications training, demonstrates how to input radio frequencies for members of the Afghan National Army during a block of training in Kabul, Afghanistan March 26.

me because when we go on convoys, we need to know these things," said Ashur Aji Noor Ali, a member of the ANA who attended the training. "Since I got promoted I use the radio all the time, and now I know how to do more, and I am very happy about that."

"Before [this training] I had a lot of problems with the radio, but now it's better," said Shukerullah Latfullah, a squad leader with the ANA.

In addition to learning the new material, graduates of the class are expected to teach fellow troops their new-found skills.

"There are students from each company within the brigade who attend the training; if they spread the word, it becomes a force multiplier," said Maj. Ben Kaffo, the JLC Afghan National Army Partnership program chief.

"We need guys who know how to work the radio," said Col. Fateullah Hamdast, the CMA brigade commander who described the radio as the "brain" of the Army. "I appreciate this training and want [the JLC Soldiers] to come in the future."

Following the week-long training class, the students participated in a graduation ceremony.

"We want to reach beyond the training, "said Kaffo. "The graduation is a way of instilling proper coordination into the organization and showing the troops what the Army does - reward Soldiers for their accomplishments.

"This [training] is part of setting the conditions for future transition back to Afghan National Army security and stability of their country, said Kaffo. "This training will allow them to be a professional army and to do what a professional army does."

## Cyclists raise \$7,000 for local children through charity organization

#### ■ BY PFC. ELISEBET FREEBURG

Victory Sustained Staff Writer

The loud, electronic beat of 'Shivers' pulsed. Wheels spinning in time with the music's beat, troops from Australia, Canada, the U.S. and the Netherlands rode indoor cycles April 18 on the Kandahar Airfield Boardwalk stage.

The 40 cyclists were participating in a marathon to raise money for the charity War Child.

"War Child is an international organization that helps children with needs in war zones," said Warrant Officer Rene Derksen, a Netherlands air force Air Task Force personnel officer. "It's very difficult for us to go

[outside KAF] and help the local children. War Child has the resources.'

Derksen helped organize the marathon, which raised nearly \$7,000 for the charity. The monev will be used to develop sports and learning programs for children in Afghanistan.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffery L. Rhoades, the U.S. Army Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan safety officer, donated \$100 to reserve a bike for the marathon.

also collected Organizers money through a donation box placed on stage during the mar-

Troops from Coalition Forces and KAF civilians donated money during the marathon.

Rhoades helped raise a total of \$500 for the charity by riding four hours in the marathon.

Those participants who rode four or more hours received a towel embroidered with the date and location of the marathon. The marathon was eight hours total.

An indoor cycling program instructor for six years, Rhoades prepared for the marathon by attending seven or eight indoor cycling exercise classes a week as well as teaching classes here.

"I'd never done an indoor cycling marathon before," said Rhoades. "Once I found out what the charity was for, I thought it was a great cause."



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**Warrant Officer 3 Jeffery** L. Rhoades, the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan safety officer, rides an indoor cycling bike during a marathon at KAF Boardwalk stage April 18 to benefit Afghan children.

#### **Victory**Sustained



Pfc. Elisebet Freeburg I Victory Sustained

Master Sgt. Clayburn C. Sowell shaves the head of Col. Stanley E. Puckett to raise money for St. Baldrick's Society, a charitable organization that raises money to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and research for possible cures. The fundraiser organized by Master Sgt. Timothy M. Frey, raised \$2,650 for charity.

# Bald is the new style

# 143d ESC Soldiers shave heads to raise money for children's cancer research

■ BY PFC. ELISEBET FREEBURG

Victory Sustained Staff Writer

Soldiers of the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command raised \$2,650 for charity by shaving their heads at Kandahar Airfield April 1.

"The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a charitable organization that raises funds for children's cancer," said Master Sgt. Timothy M. Frey. "I asked others, how much would you pay to see me with a shaved head?"

Frey, an Army reservist and noncommissioned officer in the 143d ESC Support Operations section, serves the public as a Lancaster, Pa. police officer. Frey's police platoon organized a fundraiser through the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Although stationed at KAF, Frey decided to get involved.

"Their message, by people shaving their heads, encourages others to ask questions," Frey said. "They organize these events and challenge people to challenge others."

St. Baldrick's is a cross between the words bald and St. Patrick's Day when it originated in 2000. Not only does the St. Baldrick's Foundation commit to increasing awareness that cancer is the number one disease killer of children in the U.S., it also raises money to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and to research for possible cures.

Frey attended a daily NCO meeting and presented the charity to those present. The first sergeant of the 143d ESC, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sgt. Steven Valentin, agreed to participate and challenged others to raise \$500 to see him shave his head.

"It was a good cause for the children who desperately needed the money," said Valentin. "I was wondering if they could raise \$500, but they raised over \$1,000."

Besides Frey and Valentin, five other 143d ESC Soldiers participated: Col. Stanley E. Puckett, Master Sgt. Robert J. Dahlem, Staff Sgt. Justin W. Matarese, Warrant Officer 1 Benjamin A. Joyette and Master Sgt. Albert Ouellette.

The St. Baldrick's Foundation finances institutions for research, gives grants to physicians and scientists and funds research fellowships. Since 2000, the St. Baldrick's Foundation has raised more than \$50 million.

## Chaplain teams visit remote FOBs

■ BY PFC. ELISEBET FREEBURG

Victory Sustained Staff Writer

The religious support team for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan ministered to troops April 8 and 9 on multiple forward operating bases as part of the joint-service mission Easter Contingency Operations to provide religious support in South-Eastern Afghanistan.

Along with Navy, Air Force and other Army teams, The JSC-A team visited FOB Lagman, FOB Cobra, FOB Baylough and numerous other FOBs to perform services and provide religious support.

Spc. Lindsay A. Canterbury, a chaplain's assistant in the JSC-A religious support team, visited several FOBs as part of the mission.

"Every Soldier has the right to practice their religious beliefs according to Army Regulation 165-1, [Chaplin Activites in the U.S. Army]" said Canterbury.

"The [mission's purpose] was to provide religious support to those FOBs that might not have chaplains assigned to them because of their size and location. There are just not enough chaplains mobilized to cover all of



Pfc. Elisebet Freeburg I Victory Sustained

Col. Stanley E. Puckett, the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan chaplain, gives an Easter message to Bravo Co. 14 Soldiers at FOB Lagman before they leave on a combat patrol.

the bases out here," she said.

Many of the Soldiers deal with stress over rough accommodations and a lack of phones or computer access, said Canterbury. They have a lack of religious support, and many of these Soldiers go on missions for weeks at a time.

As part of Easter CONOPS, Spc. Joshua A. Sennett, the 286<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion chaplain's assistant, visited FOB Mizan along with Capt. Earl Weigelt, the 286<sup>th</sup> CSSB chaplain.

"I wanted to be where soldiering was," said Sennett. "Being in a FOB the size of Kandahar Air-

field has a lot of benefits such as the Post Exchange and the Pizza Hut, etc. FOB Mizan has more than 60 people crammed into three rooms, the space the size of our office here. They have only a mess hall acting as a [Morale, Welfare and Recreation] facility and a chapel, when they get a chaplain.

"That's why I do it," Sennett said. "That's what I like about it. That's where I want to be as a chaplain's assistant. That's where it's needed."

Other members of the unit ministry teams also believe the need of religious services to be great "I expected there would be Soldiers there who would not ordinarily have religious support," said Weigelt. "Because they're in a small unit with no unit ministry team. That was the case."

After the mission, the overall feeling was that of success.

"I think the visit was appreciated," said Weigelt. "I'm hoping to develop more of a relationship with them by going back again for some continuity."

"I think the UMT provided much needed spiritual and morale support for the troops that were there," said Sennett. "They welcomed us with open arms. We had a couple of guys who were just thrilled to show us around."

"The mission was successful for the same reason there was a mission," said Canterbury. "We provided Soldiers the means for religious support and services that they are not able to receive on a daily or weekly basis."

"I was just honored to go out there and meet with them," said Weigelt. "I look forward to going out hopefully again and meet with them."

Weigelt said that unit ministry teams are currently planning and seeking approval for similar future operations.



### JSC-A awards the Soldier, NCO of the year

#### ■ BY STAFF SGT. MARCOS ALICES

Victor Sustained Editor

Several Soldiers came out to Kandahar Airfield April 26 to compete for the right to represent the Joint Sustainment Command -Afghanistan as the noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the year.

In order to determine the NCO and Soldier of the year, the Soldiers had to go through several tests.

"I thought the WTT [Warrior Task Trainingl was above any other competition," said Staff Sgt. Mark Robinson, the 484th Movement Control Battalion Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear NCO. "The 50 question test was challenging and difficult and the essay was very thought provoking."

The Soldiers were tested physically and mentally. The competitors' endurance was tested as they took part in an Army Physical Fitness Test. The participants knowledge of the Army WTT was also challenged as they were expected to read a map, conduct first aid, and several other combat related WTT. They were also given a 50 question



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices I Victory Sustained

(From Left to Right) Sqt. David A. Leakev, JSC-A NCO of the year, Command Sgt. Mai. Michael D. Schultz, JSC-A senior enlisted, and Spc. Andrew R. Hein, JSC-A Soldier of the year, poses with their certificate of achievement.

multiple choice test and had to face a board of NCOs, which questioned them on topics such as land navigation, policies, the NCO and Soldier Creed.

"This was my first board, so it was a great

learning experience," said Spc. Jarad Ewing, a 484th MCB Signal Support Specialist. "I plan on teaching and preparing other [specialists] for the promotion board."

Spc. Andrew R. Hein, a member of the 45th Sustainment Brigade convoy escort team, won the Soldier of the year and Sgt. David A. Leakey, the 45th SB, Headquarter and Headquarter Company training NCO, won the NCO of the year. The Soldiers received an Army Commendation Medal, Certificate of Achievement and military accessories. All participants received a Certificate of Achievement.

"It feels good to know that all your work pays off," said Leakey.

Hein and Leakey will be representing the JSC-A at the next level, which is the 1st Theater Sustainment Command in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"It shows they have what it takes to be successful leaders in the Army," said Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Ramos, 45th Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major. "If they remain focused they will be successful at anything they do."



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices I Victory Sustained

Country singer Toby Keith performs for coalition forces from his collection of hit songs April 25 at Kandahar Airfield.

# **Award-winning** superstar takes the stage

■ BY STAFF SGT. MARCOS ALICES Victory Sustained Editor

Country singer Toby Keith excited a crowd filled with coalition forces with several hit songs from his collection April 25 at the Kandahar Airfield Boardwalk stage.

Keith performed for the troops as part of the Uniform Services Organizations/Armed Forces Entertainment tour.

This is the country singer's seventh consecutive USO tour. This was the first time his band accompanied him to the region.

He has actively been involved with the organization since 2002 and has visited 10 countries, participated in more than 128 events and entertained more than 100,000 servicemembers.

During this visit, he performed at several small, remote forward operating bases and took the time to talk to servicemembers.

Servicemembers did not want the visit to end as they begged and waited for an encore.



She was contacted by USAF Col. David Lannen of Task Force Phoenix Assistance Group who told her that the clinic was in need of female physicians.

The clinic provides laboratory services, x-ray and ultrasound. Hall-Boyer provided predominantly women's health services and family planning.

"Women in Afghanistan have one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world," said Hall-Boyer. "It's because they don't receive medical care during their pregnancy."

Most women arrived with several children in tow. As their mothers were examined by the clinic staff and visiting physicians, the children received cookies and coloring books from female U.S. Soldiers in the waiting room.

"For the children who came it was predominantly checking for acute illnesses," said Hall-Boyer. "Colds, coughs and diarrhea are most common."

In spite of the work of the clinic staff and visiting physicians, not all needs could be

"One patient had a gynecologist problem that she really needed a specialist for," said Hall-Boyer. "Families don't really have money to spend on girls. They have limited resources to



Pfc. Elisebet Freeburg Victory Sustained

The 286th Combat **Sustainment Support Battalion** first sergeant, Karri L. Bennett, gives cookies to children at the women's clinic at the ANA Kandahar Regional Hospital.

seek help elsewhere."

Another concern at the clinic is the lack of medical records.

"People have no idea what they've been treated for," said Hall-Boyer. "So I may give them the same treatment that's not working for them."

Although the physicians and staff cannot always cure every illness, the positive influence of Coalition Forces in Afghanistan can be seen when some women arrive for a second opinion.

"Some patients have seen Afghan doctors," said Hall-Boyer. "But they want to hear from American doctors."

Future visits as a continuation of Operation Hearts and Minds are planned.

### Easter spirits rise with the Kandahar sun

■ BY PFC. ELISEBET FREEBURG Victory Sustained Staff Writer

Soldiers of the Joint Sustain-Command-Afghanistan participated in an ecumenical

Easter sunrise service at Kandahar Airfield April 12.

Service highlights included a play on the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, a choir that sang a variety of worship songs and hymns, and a message about unexpected events in life.

"The songs were very powerful," said Spc. Carmen Montalvo. "Because of the words and how they moved to the gospel music as they sang."

Montalvo, a JSC-A personnel specialist, attended the service after receiving a flyer announcing the service as an e-mail attachment. It was her first sunrise service.

The choir, composed of several JSC-A Soldiers, was led by 1st Lt. LaMeka D. Grayson, a JSC-A support operations officer.

"She's amazing," said Lt. Col. Casey Chamberlain, "She has a beautiful voice. She can sing and direct. It was really good."

Chamberlain, also a JSC-A support opperations officer, attended the service with the purpose of hearing her fellow JSC-A Soldiers sing in the choir, but her favorite part was the play.

"The skit was probably the

most moving part," said Chamberlain. "It really made you think, you know? About what Jesus went through, getting beat, carrying the cross. It showed the real meaning of Easter."

Staff Sgt. Craig Huggins, a JSC-A command group noncommissioned officer, played the part of Jesus, and Sgt. 1st Class Cynthia D. Francis, a JSC-A support operations NCO, played the Angel of the Lord.

"The entrance of Jesus with the cross was also powerful," said Montalvo.

According to Montalvo, Huggins entered while other actors hit him with belts. They then reenacted the crucifixion in front of the crowd.

"After the crucifixion, the two Marys were crying," said Montalvo. "An angel came over and started [dancing] to what the song was talking about, that Jesus Christ is not dead. They were to stop crying."

Staff Sgt. Oshaonna L. Bryant, a JSC-A support operations NCO, played one of the weeping women at the crucifixion and empty tomb.

"I enjoyed being in the skit," said Bryant. "The fact that we are deployed and they still had a service just like at home makes it feel like home, even though we're in Afghanistan."

Other Soldiers had feelings



Pfc Elisebet Freeburg I Victory Sustained

1st Lt. LaMeka D. Grayson, an officer in the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan Support Operations, leads the choir in a variety of songs and hymns at an ecumenical Easter sunrise service held Kandahar Airfield April 12.

similar similar to Bryant's.

"I liked that I was able to attend a sunrise service on Easter Sunday," said Lt. Col. Phyllis M. Evans. "The same as I would if I was at home in the U.S."

Evans, the JSC-A Staff Judge Advocate, said that attending a sunrise service is a tradition for her family on Easter.

The message was presented by Capt. Ronald J. Wells, the 25th Naval Construction Regiment chaplain.

"My favorite part was the ser-

mon," said Evans. "The Chaplain is a very dynamic speaker. The best part was the chaplain said that only the women believed Iesus would rise from the dead and they went to the tomb early in the morning. The men did not believe and stayed in bed. He said this goes to show that women have got it right!"

The service was held at the KAF Boardwalk stage. The service was open to all and attended by Coalition Forces, civilians and contractors.



1st Lt. Matthew I. Fitzgibbon I 4th Engineer Battalion

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, addresses concerns in a question and answer session during a town hall meeting here with approximately 200 Soldiers. Many questions related to the future and the direction of the Army.

### Hearing it from the top

■ BY PFC. ELISEBET FREEBURG

Victory Sustained Staff Writer

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the chief of staff of the Army visited Kandahar Airfield April 24 to speak with, Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz, the commanding general of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, Kandahar troops.

The JSC-A, an integral part of the coming build-up of forces, controls movement of supply and personnel into and throughout Afghanistan.

Casey ate dinner with several Soldiers before attending a town hall meeting with troops.

He ended his visit after speaking with commanders at the Regional Command South headquarters.

