

Five U.S. governors tour Afghanistan

FREEDOM WATCH AFGHANISTAN

August 2009

**Flying Tigers keep
legacy alive in
Afghanistan**
pg 14



from the kids



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Cover Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Cole, 40th PAD

Soldiers from the 549th Military Police Company, 385th
Military Police Battalion, take the opportunity on July 12 at
Bagram Air Field to inspect an A-10 Warthog. The plane
came to the company's defense during an attack on June 2,
in eastern Afghanistan.

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FREEDOM WATCH
AFGHANISTAN

Tennessee guardsmen 'volunteer' expertise in Paktia, Paktika

Story by Sgt. 1st Class George Winters, Tennessee National Guard ADT, Public Affairs Office



Courtesy Photo by Spc. Todd Steffen

Col. Jim D. Moore, commander of the Tennessee ADT, visits with village elders in the Paktia Province during a mission to evaluate a proposed project site, June 1. The Tennessee National Guard ADT, which recently deployed to Afghanistan, is the first unit of its kind in the Paktia and Paktika provinces. The ADT intends to implement up to 50 projects, including many agricultural training projects for area Afghans.

The Tennessee National Guard Agribusiness Development Team, which recently deployed to Afghanistan, is the first unit of its kind in the Paktia and Paktika provinces.

As such, they consider themselves to be the advance party for all future rotations of ADTs within these provinces. Serving in this role, their primary mission will be to set the stage for the success of all ADTs yet to come.

The TN ADT is comprised of Soldiers from across the state, all of which volunteered to serve the state of Tennessee, their country, and the people of Afghanistan. The team is broken down into security force members, a headquarters element and approximately 15 technical experts with a vast knowledge and experience in agriculture and livestock.

Staff Sgt. Roger B. Broach is one of these agricultural experts. An alumnus of the University of Tennessee where he obtained a B.S. in Agriculture, he has numerous years of experience in vegetable production, having grown up on a small farm.

Broach is currently employed with the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, where he serves in the financial department. His civilian experience of initiating contracts and working with various types of computer software has proven beneficial to the team's work. Contract origination and negotiations with Afghanistan businessmen and contractors are a critical part of each project's implementation.

"If we can show the people the potential of their own capabilities to pro-

vide food and income for themselves, they will accomplish it. ADTs have the potential of assisting the Afghan people to improve their overall quality of life through more modern agricultural technology and time proven techniques of successful farming," he said. "Another key aspect will be to merge the minds of the Afghan people with western water management such as irrigation, flood control and water retention."

One of the TN ADT's responsibilities is to include the various levels of the Afghan government in every activity. This starts at the national level, and goes down through the provincial, district and village levels. The ADT primarily deals with the provincial Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. The DAIL provides the ADT with the province's

priority list and coordinates with other provincial directors. He incorporates the use of his extension workers and a training facility recently built by a provincial reconstruction team.

As the TN ADT commander, Col. Jim D. Moore is responsible for everything that the unit does and does not accomplish, as well as the health and welfare of the Tennessee Guardsmen.

"I believe that the overall mission of the Tennessee Agribusiness Development Team is to assist in renovating the agricultural economy by providing U.S. agricultural and engineer specialists to work with their Afghan counterparts in Paktia Province," Moore said.

Moore is also an alumnus of the University of Tennessee where he graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in agriculture, majoring in agriculture education. As a civilian, he works for a privately-owned community bank in central Georgia as the senior commercial lender and member of its executive team. On agricultural projects, Moore contributes guidance and direction on livestock projects and serves as the lead on all agricultural finance projects, using his knowledge of banking in building the financial aspects of every project.

"Successful business owners, and agriculture as a business, spend as much time on marketing and gross sales opportunities as maximizing production yields," he explained. "Also, a growing business must have access to loans and or banking institutions."

The farmers in eastern Afghanistan are located near more than three million potential customers of their agricultural products. Understanding and production of the central Asian buyers' desires, needs and wants, is required to make the Afghan farmers successful.

The ADT has been on the ground for approximately 90 days, but has already accomplished a great deal. The team has made at least two visits to the 14 districts within its province and conducted assessments of the current agricultural situation in conjunction with the local leaders. As a result, nearly a dozen projects for funding through the military's Commander's Emergency Response Program, or CERP, have been created and submitted.

Several of these projects are in conjunction with the Paktia University's School of Agriculture. At one time, Afghan universities were competitive with institutions across the globe. Unfortu-

nately, they were almost completely destroyed during the Soviet occupation and the subsequent Taliban regime.

The local university is dependent on national funding, but lacks the necessary resources to teach the current influx of students. The TN ADT has agreed to assist the School of Agriculture in meeting its critical needs.

The team intends to implement up to 50 projects before the duty tour ends and they are relieved by another ADT from Oklahoma. The OK ADT will be assuming the responsibilities with the same focus and resolve.

Some of the projects will be completed, some will be underway, and some will be waiting for the OK ADT to begin as soon as they hit the ground. Since the focus is on education and agriculture infrastructure development, most of the projects have a training focus or component.

Some examples of the projects they have developed or implemented include:

- A furniture manufacturing training course for local military-aged males – They will learn a new trade, be given the tools to start a business, and donate the furniture produced in the training to



An Afghan Department of Agriculture advisor demonstrates the techniques necessary to managing bee colonies.

Photo by Lt.j.g. James Dietle

the University.

- A livestock association training course – The farmers will be given training on basic animal husbandry techniques, and then instructed on how to create and sustain an association. This will allow for future projects to be approved for the group and increase their marketing strength.

- A bee hive construction training course—Bees are critical to the province’s fruit tree heritage and economy. The students will learn proper methods of hive construction, to include the pressing of wax inserts. They will also be allowed to keep their tools in order to start a new business, and the hives they produce will be initially donated to district bee-keeping associations. The associations will use the new hives to encourage new members which will directly assist the numerous apple and apricot producers across the province, as well as provide increased revenue for honey sales.

- Para-Veterinary training program with the Afghan Veterinary Association – Afghanistan does not have enough adequately trained veterinarians and must depend heavily on less formal-

ly trained para-vets or vet technicians. This program will provide basic technical training in laboratory procedures and artificial insemination procedures as the local veterinarian is also the local A.I. technician. The program will also provide updated equipment for clinics, better quality dairy cattle semen and two semi-annual de-worming clinics throughout the province.

- Local training courses on poultry, sheep, and goat husbandry for disadvantaged women and youth – These various courses are offered at the village level. They provide both the knowledge and resources for the students to take home their own livestock or chickens. The training will include health, feeding, breeding, and marketing components. Each of these projects can be easily replicated in virtually every district within the province.

Many agricultural projects can take a minimum of three to five years to begin producing quantitative results, as evidenced by America’s forefathers as they painstakingly improved their plant and animal genetics. The common factor is to be a steward of the land and enhance

it through training and technology. As part of the training, it is vital to educate the Afghans on the conservation value of their natural resources.

“Living at 7,600 feet elevation with average annual rainfall of 12 inches isn’t like anything in the southeast. But, the farmers in Afghanistan are similar to U.S. farmers, interested in production quality and quantities, producing enough to feed, clothe and educate their family,” said Moore. “They also respond to smiles and firm handshakes.”

Thirty years ago Afghanistan was known as a leading agricultural exporter. Agriculture accounted for nearly 80 percent of their economy, but the Russian invasion and the Taliban’s fight for control have taken their toll on the country’s farming capabilities.

Although much technology and knowledge has been lost, through the efforts of the these various agribusiness development teams in coordination with other dedicated national and international officials, these losses can be overcome and allow the Afghanistan economy to once again thrive.

The Tennessee National Guard ADT, which recently deployed to Forward Operating Base Gardez in Afghanistan, is the first unit of its kind in the Paktia and Paktika provinces.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class George Winters, Tennessee National Guard Agribusiness Development Team, PAO

MPs police-up polls

Story and Photos by Pfc. Elizabeth K. Raney
4th BCT, 4th Infantry Div., PAO



Sgt. 1st Class John Moyle, the platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, 554th Military Police Company, out of Stuttgart, Germany, gives a child a high-five while pulling security during polling site assessments in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, July 1. Soldiers with the 554th MP Co., currently serving under Task Force Mountain Warrior, have been assessing polling sites in the province over the past month, ensuring they are safe for the people of Afghanistan.

Soldiers from the 554th Military Police Company, out of Stuttgart, Germany, currently serving under Task Force Mountain Warrior, have been conducting polling site assessments in the Nangarhar province for the upcoming Afghan elections in August.

Army Sgt. 1st Class John Moyle, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, 554th MP Co., and Sunbury, Penn., native, said the purpose of these missions is to assess local security posture.

“If there are any concerns that locals have, we send them up to the PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team),” Moyle said. “We let the PRT take a look at them.”

Moyle, referring to a specific mission on June 1, said he thinks they accomplished the mission and then some.

“Our mission was just to go out and assess the security of the polling stations,” he said. “We did that, along with some relationship building and also identifying where humanitarian assistance is needed.”

According to Moyle, the 554th MPs have been assessing polling sites every day.

“It was a short suspense, we had about 30 days to do them all,” he said. “There are over 500 in Nangarhar province alone.”

Moyle said, while most villages are friendly, his platoon has encountered only one village, in all of their assessments, that was suspected to be unfriendly to Coalition forces.

“The thing that has to be determined is why it’s not friendly,” Moyle pondered. “Is it by choice? Is it the village themselves that are anti-Coalition forces? Or is it because somebody pushed their way into the village and the village people are scared?”

Moyle said they have three areas that they are responsible for: the Dari Knorr region, Kuz Kordar, and Jalalabad main.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Haskell, from Lewiston, Maine, a squadleader with the 1st Plt., 554th MP Co., conducted the actual

assessment of the villages July 1.

He explained what they must ask the village leader during their assessments.

“We need to know what they have around already for currently existing security measures,” Haskell said.

“For instance, if they have a wall around their compound or if they have any kind of wire, if they have guards or watchmen or anything to keep an eye on the place,” he explained. “We’re just trying to determine what they actually have.”

“We’re also looking for any specific threat that may be there,” Haskell said. “Usually, everyone seems to think they’re really safe where they’re at, but I try to find out if they think there’s any specific threat against their facility.”

Haskell said, that an improvised explosive device was found in a polling place the day after their assessment was done.

“Nonetheless, assessing the polling sites for the upcoming election lets the enemy know that we are around, and lets the locals know that we are here for them, to help,” Haskell said.

HOOSIER GUARDSMEN FINISH COP PENICH

Story and Photos by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Spc. Moses Naas, of LaPorte, Ind., hammers down roofing insulation at Combat Outpost Penich in Afghanistan's Kunar province, July 3. Naas and fellow members of the Indiana National Guard's 1613th Engineer Support Company, based in LaPorte, Ind., have been working around the clock to finish construction on the tiny six-month-old outpost.

Indiana National Guardsmen from 2nd Platoon, 1613th Engineer Support Company are nearing completion of construction on Combat Outpost Penich, in Kunar province, Afghanistan, July 3.

The LaPorte, Ind., based National Guard unit replaced the 65th Eng. Co., from Fort Hood, Texas, who began construction in January.

"We're going through and putting the finishing touches on everything," said 2nd Lt. Darric Appel, a Hebron, Ind., native. "We hope to have everything finished up in about a week or so."

After completing the outpost's tactical operations center, winterizing the living quarters, and repairing several roofs that suffered heavy wind damage, all that remains for the unit is completion of COP

Penich's latrines and shower facilities. Soldiers have been using outhouses and bottled water for personal hygiene since construction began six months ago.

"We pretty much look like a bunch of ants just running around everywhere," said Sgt. 1st Class Robin Siems, platoon sergeant for 2nd Plt., while speaking of his unit's rapid pace of construction.

The engineers' hard work has not gone unnoticed by the outpost's residents, Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division.

"Once they started seeing the quality

of our work, and how fast we were doing it, they were like, 'are you sure you can't stay,'" said Appel, grinning.

Company A Commander, Capt. Michael Harrison agrees, "they are very meticulous, very detail oriented," he said. "We're very impressed with the engineers overall."

In addition to normal base construction, the Indiana Guardsmen have taken on several projects, aimed at raising the COP's quality of life, such as constructing a deck and picnic tables around the dining facility.

"I just hope that somehow we made

"Once they started seeing the quality of our work, and how fast we were doing it, they were like, 'are you sure you can't stay.'"

-2nd Lt. Darric Appel, 2nd Platoon, 1613th Engineer Support Company

their lives better, or at least their living conditions better," said Appel. "We're out here, and were staying until the job's done."

When finished at COP Penich, the Guardsmen will provide construction support to another military installation in eastern Afghanistan.

The six month old outpost is one of many being constructed throughout Afghanistan as additional troops pour into the country, providing increased security, training and humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.



Spc. Jacob Morris, of Tipton, Ind., constructs a covering for Combat Outpost Penich's new water pump, July 3, as construction at the six-month-old base nears completion. Morris and fellow members of the Indiana National Guard's 1613th Engineer Support Company, based in LaPorte, Ind., arrived in Kunar province, Afghanistan, eight weeks ago, assuming responsibilities from the 65th Eng. Co., based in Fort Hood, Texas.

SECURING THE SLOPES

Story and Photos by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD



A U.S. Soldier calls for an airstrike on the hills surrounding Barge Matal, during an operation in Afghanistan's eastern Nuristan province, July 12. Afghan National Security Forces and International Security Assistance Forces battled with insurgent forces in the late afternoon, after quickly securing the village's key areas early in the morning.

A combined military operation between Afghan National Security Forces and International Security Assistance Forces, launched July 12, secured Barge Matal, in eastern Nuristan province.

Insurgents overwhelmed the isolated mountain village several days prior to the operation, but fled as ANSF and ISAF service members quickly secured key areas of the village.

While securing the area, service members discovered several weapons caches, including one in a local hotel, known for housing anti-Afghan forces in the area.

ANSF and ISAF also found a bag containing more than 80 voter registration cards taken from local women. The cards are believed to be evidence of insurgents desire to disrupt the national elections, scheduled for late August, by denying women the right to vote.

A gun battle erupted in the late afternoon and lasted into the early evening, until ANSF and ISAF personnel successfully repelled the insurgent attack.

Coalition representatives plan to meet with village elders in the near future to discuss the town's continuing development, and to return the voter registration cards.



A member of the ANA calls for help as a member of the ABP fires at insurgents near Barge Matal in Nuristan province. ANSF and ISAF fought side by side during the battle, which started in late afternoon and lasted until the insurgents fled in the early evening.



A U.S. Soldier calls for an airstrike on the hills surrounding Barge Matal, during an operation in Afghanistan's eastern Nuristan province, July 12. Afghan National Security Forces and International Security Assistance Forces battled with insurgent forces in the late afternoon, after quickly securing the village's key areas early in the morning.

Military Rations Experts

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD



Pfc. Robert Oddy and Sgt. James Gandy pour boiling water into their cajun rice during preparation for the night's meal at COP Penich in Kunar province. "Everyone says that we cooks are a dying breed, and we're going to be phased out soon," said Gandy "But as long we're in places like this, I don't see that happening." Oddy is a South Glens Falls, N.Y., native. Gandy is native of Pittsburgh, Pa. Both Soldiers are members of Company E., 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt., 10th Mtn. Div., based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

In Afghanistan, it's pretty hard to find a person serving your food who wears combat fatigues.

Most military bases in Afghanistan use civilian contractors in their dining facilities. Military cooks usually fill other roles outside their occupational specialty of cooking, such as guard duty. 'Combat cooks' are rare among Soldiers, and are usually found only on the smallest and most remote bases, such as Combat Outpost Penich in Afghanistan's Kunar province.

"Everyone says that we cooks are a dying breed, and we're going to be phased out soon," said COP Penich's Head

Cook, Sgt. James Gandy, as he poured cajun seasoning on his turkey cuts. "But as long we're in places like this, I don't see that happening."

Working out of a mobile kitchen trailer the size of large pickup truck, the outpost's three military cooks from Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, tear into bags of ingredients, offering three warm meals a day, from what they affectionately call "the Olde Penich Eatery."

"We don't have a lot of everything, but what we have is always good," said Gandy.

Making it "always good" is the cooks' motto. When one of the Soldiers overcooks the peas for that night's dinner, Gandy makes him start over from the beginning. "If I

wouldn't eat it, why should I expect them to," the Pittsburgh, Pa., native explains. It's pride in their work that makes the Soldiers at the six-month-old outpost appreciate these cooks.

The cooks keep their fellow service members happy by enhancing the Army's official recipe cards with personal touches. For example the night's main dish is cajun turkey and dirty rice, with the option of Salisbury steak and peas, prepared by COP Penich's newest cook, Pfc. Robert Oddy.

"We try to mix it up as much as possible," said Oddy, a South Glens Falls, N.Y., native. "We don't like to cook them the same thing over and over again."

Arriving from a different base less than three weeks ago, Oddy is enjoying working in the Olde Penich Eatery. "Back at 'my old base' I did everything but cook, here I get to do my job," said Oddy. "It feels great."

As dinner ends, preparation for the next meal begins. Breakfast is less than 12 hours away, and there is much work to do before then.

"I wouldn't say that these guys are spoiled now," says Gandy, smiling. "But I think they're getting what they deserve. Everyone deserves a warm cooked meal, and that's our job out here."

Pfc. Robert Oddy sprinkles seasoning on cajun turkey in preparation for that night's meal at Combat Outpost Penich, in Afghanistan's Kunar province July 2. The tiny outpost is one of only a handful of American military installations in eastern Afghanistan that uses military cooks to prepare and serve meals. Oddy, a South Glens Falls, N.Y., native, is a military cook with Company E., 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt., 10th Mtn. Div., based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Progress heats up with new greenhouses

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Lory Stevens, TF Warrior PAO



Members of the Nebraska Agricultural Development Team and Task Force Warrior Deputy Commander, Col. Stephen Jeselink met with a group of local landowners and contractors for the well and greenhouses in Janqadam Village, Bagram District, Parwan province, June 30.

The Nebraska Agri-Business Development Team and Task Force Warrior Deputy Commander, Col. Stephen Jeselink visited and assessed greenhouses and a grape vineyard in nearby Janqadam Village, located just outside Bagram Air Field, June 30.

“These two Commander’s Emergency Response Program projects are nearing completion and will benefit many farmers and people in this area,” said ADT Agronomist, Sgt. 1st Class Eldon Kuntzelman.

A local contractor recently installed trellising posts and wires at the grape vineyard. Trellising systems are used in vineyard agriculture to separate grapevines.

Jeselink visited with the blind owner of the vineyard, describing the appear-

ance of the trellising and grapes, as well as what work remains for the landowner’s son to complete in order to produce a successful crop.

“There are a lot of weeds and grass in this field, competing with the grapes for water and nutrients,” said Jeselink, explaining how the landowner’s son needs to clear the weeds and grass out of the vineyard.

Kuntzelman inspected the trellising posts with the landowner’s son, discussing how to implement an irrigation plan



Locals from Janqadam Village come out to check out their new grain bin and meet with the Nebraska Agribusiness Development Team, June 30.

to water the plants.

A short distance away at the site of the 18 greenhouses, a group of landowners and contractors for the well and greenhouses met with members of the ADT

and Jeselink to inspect progress and discuss maintenance issues for the well and generator.

“The landowners are eager for the locals to come work and learn in the greenhouses,”

said Kuntzelman, explaining how tent panels to retain heat throughout the winter as well as drip irrigation systems inside the greenhouses will allow a longer growing season and increased food production for consumption and market.

Within a week, seeds and peat moss starters will be delivered to the greenhouses.

“In the years ahead, the grape vineyard and greenhouses should benefit all local farmers and people in the surrounding areas,” Kuntzelman said.

“In the years ahead, the grape vineyard and greenhouses should benefit all local farmers and people in the surrounding areas.”

--Sgt. 1st Class Eldon Kuntzelman,
ADT Agronomist



One of the new grain bins supplied by the Nebraska Agribusiness Development Team. The team also supplied trellising posts and wires at the grape vineyard.

FLYING TIGERS STILL HUNTING

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Jung, 455th Expeditionary Public Affairs

They trace their heritage back to the famous Flying Tigers of WWII's war-torn China. In homage to the storied Airmen of the past, the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., still has the iconic sharks face painted on the front of their A-10 Thunderbolt II's, lovingly nicknamed the "Warhog."

The Warhog's mission is to provide close-air-support and precision engagement missions throughout Afghanistan on a daily basis in support of Coalition ground forces.

But, before the pilots ever get in the Warhog, it's the 74th Aircraft Maintenance Unit that gets the aircraft airborne. There has not been a single day in the deployment of the 74th EFS that the squadron didn't have at least two aircraft airborne providing support to their warrior counterparts on the ground.

"Just like the Airmen that defended China in World War II, the 74th AMU is often short on resources, maintain aging aircraft and must make do with what they can," said Capt. James Schieser, Officer-in-Charge, 74th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit. "The strong leadership, dedication and perseverance of our non-commissioned officers, senior non-commissioned officers and officer corps,

are what ensure every aircraft is fully mission-capable. The maintainers of the 74th AMU understand, with the Flying Tiger legacy they inherited, failure is not an option."

To date, the Flying Tigers have broken records by flying upwards of 12,000 mission hours and expending more

than 100 tons of ordnance in the CAS mission since arriving in Feb. 2009. However, many times all it took was a show of force to end an engagement.

"We seek to avoid civilian casualties in all our operations - period," said Senior Master Sgt. Victor Castillo, 74th AMU Weapons Section Superintendent. "We have a variety of methods we use including loading of precision guided munitions, monthly updates of aircraft digital maps, and daily maintenance of our targeting systems to ensure the safety of innocent civilians on the ground."

But when enemy combatants don't flee, the Warhog can deliver a precise strike to protect coalition ground forces.

Spc. Jason Dorsey, Company C, 178th Infantry, saw firsthand the precision and power of the Warhog.

"The A-10s were a valuable asset to us on ground missions here in Afghanistan," said Dorsey. "Their speed and precise targeting provided great support for us and kept the bad guys' heads down during firefights."

"We have so many soldiers coming in from the field to thank us - it's their stories of desperately needing 'air' and seeing an A-10 flying overhead providing cover for them that kept us energized and motivated," said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas E. Moore, 74th AMU Lead Production Superintendent. "It kept us working hard even when it seemed all we were doing was launching and recovering jets 24/7."



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE SENIOR AIRMAN FELICIA JUENKE
AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. JAMES IRVIN, FROM THE 74TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE UNIT, PERFORMS AN AIR CYCLE MACHINE INSPECTION TO ENSURE THE A-10 THUNDERBOLT FUNCTIONS PROPERLY, JULY 20.

Courtesy Photo

P-40 Warhawks, the original 'Flying Tiger' aircraft, fly in formation during World War II.

Biggest thing next to a troop surge... building the infrastructure to support it

Story and Photos by Air Force Major Frank Hughes, AFCENT CMO Chief, Bagram Airfield



A paving machine places a fresh concrete lane while workers ensure it is level.

A significant surge in construction is occurring here in 2009 at a cost of more than \$220M in military airfield projects.

The effort is a result of a long-term commitment by the United States to ensure security and stability for the democratically-elected Government of Afghanistan. The basic strategy is to increase the number of U.S. ground forces in Afghanistan enabling International Security Assistance Forces to maintain security and peace in areas currently occupied by the enemy.

As the security balance moves in favor of ISAF, GoA forces are gaining strength and consolidating power throughout Afghanistan in order to provide a stable economic foundation for the Afghan people.

Since this strategy will take time to fully evolve, the primary focus is on security, which depends upon having sufficient airpower, both fixed and rotary wing, to support the movement of forces into the Area of Responsibility and to provide combat firepower to forces in the field.

To accomplish this, U.S. Air Forces

Central planned a range of airfield construction projects that increases airpower capabilities for both fixed and rotary-wing operations throughout the AOR. This effort has expanded capabilities here since it serves as the primary air hub enabling both combat airpower and air mobility operations throughout Afghanistan.

Bagram Air Field's capabilities are scheduled to be improved by the fall of 2010 and will significantly enhance the security capabilities of ISAF and GoA forces.

Many organizations are involved in the completion of a MILCON project – from government planners and contracted designers, to contracting officers and end users – but an important instrument AFCENT uses to successfully link these players together is by deploying Air Force Civil Engineers into Construction Management Offices located throughout the AOR.

The CMO here serves as a coordinating agency between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction agent, MILCON contractors, and the final users or customers such as the Air Force's 455th Air Expeditionary Wing and the Army's rotary-wing task force, currently Task Force Thunder.

In addition, CMO engineers provide quality oversight of design submittals, expedite responses to contractor requests for information, track construction progress, forecast restricted area escort requirements with engineers from the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, and oversee AFCENT MILCON projects throughout Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

In particular, CMO engineers provide expert advice and informed feedback on all major design and construction decisions encountered during the life of each project. The intention of CMO's role in the decision mak-

ing process is to ensure the Air Force and Army customers receive a quality project in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, there are many hard decisions and issues that government engineers are faced with during construction that don't allow even the best laid plans to be fulfilled as intended.

These challenges range in complexity and duration, but are dealt with using a scientific approach to problem solving that engineers are accustomed to doing.

However, not everyone involved in the decision making process is an engineer, so other important factors do tend to be ignored if there isn't someone to champion them. This is where CMO engineers put on their Air Force or Joint hats, as appropriate, to ensure that their military customers find the final products useful and beneficial to accomplishing their missions.

This goal becomes paramount when

analyzing changes to construction that are either required for life, safety, and health reasons or due to changes to the original mission, which occurs frequently throughout the AOR.

In summary, BAF has received the largest increase to its physical infrastructure to date in support of ISAF and GoA ground operations.

Although these forces are the obvious benefactors of this growth, so are the people of Afghanistan who work hard as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and construction laborers learning skills they will eventually use to benefit their neighborhoods, cities, and provinces. It is hoped this endeavor will outlast the current turmoil and remind future generations of what was accomplished under duress and calamity, but which spawned hope and peace in a tumultuous region of Asia.



Workers make sure to build drainage for the new road. The drainage will allow water to drain more readily and cause less flooding.

Chosin troops improve

Story and Photos by Spc. Jaime' D. DeLeon, TF Spartan Journalist



Cpl. Jason Huft (left), a cook with Company E, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, attached to Battle Company, 1-32, serves a break-fast of T-rations to Sgt. William Martinez (center), an infantryman with Battle Company, and Spc. Dylan Heinz, also an infantryman with Battle Company in Logar province.

Task Force Chosin Soldiers from Battle Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment now have a place to spend their limited down-time at Combat Outpost Baugess with the opening of their Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center, June 28.

The new MWR boasts 10 computers, five phones, and a television.

The company started out with little more than a few trailers and a perimeter of dirt filled barriers. Since then, they have built bunkers, showers, and obser-

vation towers and made the entrance point to the COP more secure, all the while running near constant missions into the surrounding area of Afghanistan's Logar province, said Capt. Jason Wingart, Company B com-



1st Sgt. John Roome, Company B. 1st Sgt. (Foreground), Spc. Xavier De Leon, a Fire Support Specialist with Battle Company (Left) and Sgt. William Martinez, an infantryman with Battle Company, work to install the lighting for Combat Outpost Baugess' new MWR in Logar province, June 24.

morale in Logar province

mander.

"Even with all we've accomplished out here, it's been a real challenge," Wingart said. "It's important to be able to communicate with friends and family, and for the last two months we've only had one phone for the entire company." The one phone Wingart refers to was not even exclusively for morale purposes; it was also used for the company's daily business.

"Soldiers will always adapt to what they have and they've done extremely well," he added.

"We built the morale center because we really needed to get some phones out here," said Sgt. William Martinez, an infantryman with Headquarters Platoon, Company B, and one of the Soldiers entrusted with building the facility.

"It'll be nice to have the ability to call home, so the guys can call their wives; call their mothers. We also have several computers. With the MWR computers you can access [social networking sites] and that is the only way a lot of these guys talk to their families."

The MWR isn't the only way troops get an emotionally rewarding morale boost. COP Baugess is also expecting a new generator soon. The generator will power refrigerators for the kitchen, allowing the cooks to store more perishable foods to feed their troops.

"All the food we have here is T-rations and UGREs (unified ground rations express meals), which are just like T-rations but they come with their own heaters," said Cpl. Jason Huft, a cook with Company E, 1-32 Inf., who is currently attached to Battle Company.

T-rations are a prepared meal that comes in a sealed container and are heated up before serving, similar to a giant TV dinner.

"You can see whenever we serve just T-rations, without fresh food, the look of disappointment on the Soldiers' faces," said Huft. "But when we get to add in



Sgt. William Martinez, an infantryman with Headquarters Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt., removes old nails from a board to be used as part of a desk in the new MWR at Combat Outpost Baugess in Logar province, June 24.

the real food, it's a whole different attitude. Meals are one of the main things most of the guys out here look forward to."

"We are really starting to settle in out here," said Wingart. "We're really looking forward to the food when the generator gets here, and with the new MWR, Soldiers are able to work on those important

connections back home."

Co. B is at its halfway point for the deployment, but still has a lot get done.

"We're going to keep working on improving the COP," said Wingart. "We are working to provide a presence and let the people know we are here to stay and provide support, so we are settling in for just that."

Five U.S. governors tour Afghanistan, note progress

Story and Photos by Pfc. Derek L. Kuhn, 40th PAD



Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks with Texas Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Ghazni, July 21. Perry toured Afghanistan with four other governors checking up on Soldiers and the progress being made.

Agriculture in Afghanistan is progressing due to the efforts of many Agribusiness Development Teams, their security forces and the donation of agricultural equipment from U.S. communities. Programs initiated by ADTs have been so successful that five U.S. governors came to see first-hand the progress being made.

The governors of Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota and Nevada made stops at Bagram Air Field, Forward Operating Base Fenty-Shields and FOB Ghazni where they not only saw the progress, but greeted Soldiers from their respective states.

“We came out here to thank our Soldiers and to show them that America cares,” said Texas Gov. Rick Perry. “The (PRTs) and Agri Development Teams are making a huge impact.” Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon readily agreed with his peers.

“We are making a lot of progress,” Nixon said. “The agricultural missions are reaching out and they are what everyone is talking about [back in the U.S.]”

The buzz created by such agricultural projects has led communities to donate supplies for agricultural projects like the grain bins recently donated from a Nebraska community to Janqadam village near BAF.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty believes Americans are bridging the gap between the U.S. and Afghanistan, which will ensure a safe and stable democracy.

“We [U.S. citizens] have to continue reaching out to the people of Afghanistan and ensure they feel our presence here is adding value [to their lives],” said Pawlenty.

Nixon said Afghans are beginning to turn their situation around by generating revenue and being able to feed their families through the improvements in agriculture.

Perry agreed and believes agri-development programs will lead to improvements in the standard of living for all Afghans.

“[When] you give people a livelihood, they have a reason to get up everyday,” said Perry. “That is how you win the people’s hearts, minds and souls. The agriculture is very important for the future development of this country and our success here,” he said.

The effects of the agriculture programs are already being felt according to Nixon.

“They [U.S. Soldiers] are going into areas people thought they couldn’t get into,” Nixon said. “But, we are and we are being successful in those places.”

The governors also wanted to personally thank the Soldiers for their service.

“We [the U.S.] are really proud of you,” said Perry, as the governors departed FOB Ghazni. “Thanks for serving [the U.S.], be safe and come home soon.”



Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon signs the hat of a Missouri native at Forward Operating Base Ghazni, July 21. Nixon toured Afghanistan with four other governors checking up on Soldiers and the progress being made.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, talks with a Texas national guardsman, July 20, at BAF. Perry thanked the National Guard Soldiers from the 6th Battalion, 36th Military Intelligence Brigade, out of Camp Mabry, Texas, for their service and said “everyone back home is proud of what y’all are doing.”



Texas, the special project officer with the 6-36 MI. “He was very charismatic and really accommodating to all the Soldiers.”

Many believe Perry’s visit raised the Soldiers’ spirits.

“He [Perry] really cared about how we were doing,” said Sgt. Manuel Gomez III, a communications specialist with the 6-36 MI. “It is great when important people visit Soldiers; it really boosts morale.”

Perry then sampled the Texas-style barbecue with generous portions of steak, chicken, baked potatoes and ranch-style beans.

Gomez who is known throughout his company for his picanté salsa made Perry his specialty dish.

“Governor Perry told me that he liked my salsa,” said a smiling Gomez. “He said it was hot, but good.”

As the evening drew to a close, Perry addressed the Soldiers.

“We are very proud of you all,” said Perry. “We can’t wait until you come home. Be safe and know that the beer will still be cold when you come back.”

The festivities began with a ceremony where Perry was presented with a Texas flag, which had flown over BAF for over a year. Perry then gave the national guardsmen a new flag to fly. As the flag was hoisted, the live band began playing the “Yellow Rose of Texas.”

After the flag raising ceremony, Perry met with the Soldiers—taking pictures and talking about many topics of interest from events back home to who will win the Big 12 football conference championship.

The Soldiers were very excited to meet their governor and extend their hospitality.

“Governor Perry was like a rock star,” said Capt. Steve Lin of Austin,

LONE STAR GOVERNOR GETS THE HOME STATE TREATMENT

Story and Photos by Pfc. Derek L. Kuhn, 40th PAD

National Guardsmen from the 6th Battalion, 36th Military Intelligence Brigade, stand at parade rest during a flag raising ceremony at BAF. Texas Gov. Rick Perry, was on hand to see his national guardsmen raise their new Texas flag.



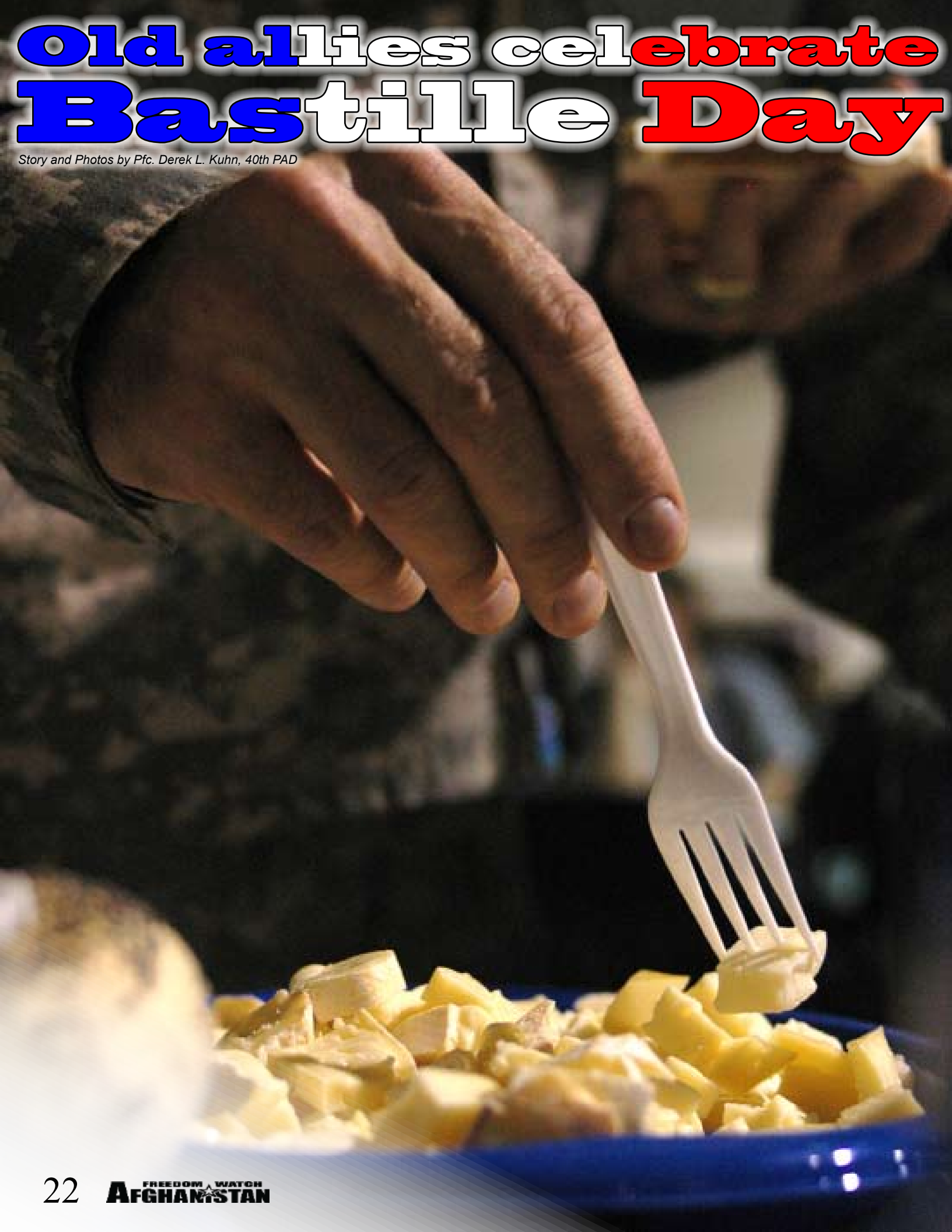
Texas Gov. Rick Perry does not have to travel too far from home to eat good barbecue, hear live music or see the state flag.

Recently, however, Perry traveled half-way around the world to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, where he enjoyed all three Lone-Star staples with National Guard Soldiers from the 6th Battalion, 36th Military Intelligence Brigade, out of Camp Mabry, Texas.

The guardsmen at the base in eastern Afghanistan, gave their governor the home-state treatment with a Texas style barbecue, live music and a state flag, July 20.

Perry was humbled by his reception as he toured Afghanistan with four other state governors, visiting Soldiers and observing the progress being made by the Agribusiness Development Teams.

“Wow, this is great!” Perry said to the crowd of Texans. “You can’t expect any better.”



Old allies celebrate Bastille Day

Story and Photos by Pfc. Derek L. Kuhn, 40th PAD

Freedom is a bond that unites the U.S., Afghanistan and the coalition of partner nations. As service members of each nation sacrifice to secure Afghanistan, it is important to remember those who have walked the path of freedom before us. Lessons learned from the past may allow future generations to enjoy the freedoms many hold dear today.

It is in that spirit of brotherhood that Combined Joint Task Force-82 celebrated Bastille Day at Bagram Air Field with a morning ceremony led by members of the French military and a celebration later in the evening on July 14.

Bastille Day is the equivalent of America's 4th of July and marks the day in 1789 when the French Revolution was triggered by citizens storming the prison-fortress known as the Bastille.

Comparisons can be made between the French struggle for independence and the American Revolution. In fact, France has been a U.S. ally since the Revolutionary War and that long-term partnership was remembered by many in attendance.

"I am absolutely proud to be here for the French National Day, especially with the 82nd Airborne Division," said French Army Lt. Col. Pierre Verborg, Regional Command Capital French Liaison Officer. "The history of the 82nd Airborne Division is clearly linked with France since the drop over Normandy in 1944."

Bastille Day presents an opportunity to reflect on the past.

French Marine Lt. Col. Jen Christophe Berry, Liaison Officer for Task Force Kurragan, said that Bastille Day is a great day for freedom and the lesson of never standing for oppression is applicable today in Afghanistan.

Others believe the ceremony and celebration is a good way to strengthen bonds and thank French service members for the contributions being made by their soldiers.

"It is important to commemorate France," said Maj. Mike Hubbard, operations planner for CJTF-82 Headquarters. "[France] is one of our key allies and contributing nations in Afghanistan. [They] have one of the premiere armies in the world."

The sacrifices made by those serving in Afghanistan are great, but some believe Bastille Day is an occasion to reaffirm their commit-

A Soldier samples some French cheese during a celebration remembering Bastille Day at Bagram Air Field, July 14. Bastille Day marks the anniversary of the beginning of the French Revolution.



Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti salutes a French service member during a ceremony marking Bastille Day at Bagram Air Field, July 14. The 82nd Airborne Division's history is intertwined with France since the D-Day parachute drops over Normandy in 1944.

ment to making Afghanistan better for all of its citizens.

"The conflict is very hard," said Verborg. "Our Soldiers' blood is spilled every day, but it is very important to remember that we are bringing peace and stability to this country."

Still the day took on a lighter note, bringing old allies closer together.

"I feel like part of the world village [by serving in Afghanistan]," said Verborg. France, like the U.S., is a country that has a history of enduring many wars which teaches the values of peace and freedom, he said.

In Paris a large military parade takes place during the day, and while some might have preferred to be there, the reasons for being here are appreciated.

Hubbard said he would rather be there watching the parade, but he is proud to serve here with his French counterparts.

Verborg echoed Hubbard's sentiments.

"I am proud to be here," said Verborg. "I am a Soldier; it is my duty."



French service members stand at attention during a ceremony commemorating Bastille Day at Bagram Air Field, July 14. Bastille Day is the French equivalent to America's Fourth of July.

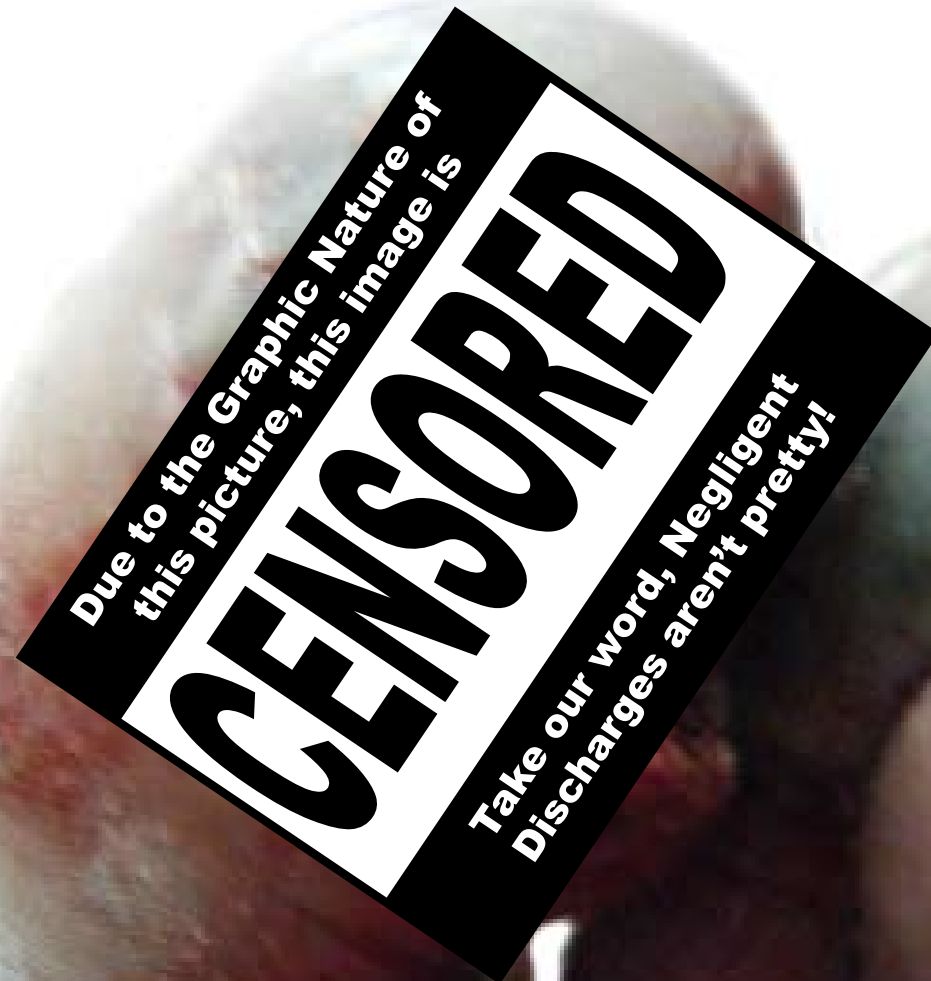
THINK TWICE, BECAUSE NEGLIGENT DISCHARGES ARE NOT NICE!!!

Story by Abdo Zacheus, CJTF-82 Safety Office

In many instances of negligent discharges, it is clear the basic fundamentals of safe weapons handling were ignored. Based on information reported to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Safety Center (CRSC), the most common mistakes noted leading to negligent discharges are horseplay, improper clearing procedures, incorrect weapon status, failure to keep the weapon on safe, trigger discipline and lack of muzzle awareness. These mistakes are a result of soldiers being undisciplined, overconfident and complacent.

According to the CRSC, there were 117 negligent discharge incidents resulting in 12 fatalities Army wide for FY08. For FY 09, the incidents totaled 35 resulting in two fatalities. Every time a leader fails to enforce a weapon procedure to standard, he or she missed an opportunity to prevent a future negligent discharge.

In FY08, the CJTF area of operations had 100 negligent discharge reports resulting in two fatalities. Thus far in FY09, there have been 30 recorded incidents, resulting in two permanent disabling injuries.



- On May 10, 2009, two Soldiers were horse-playing with an M9 pistol. The weapon was removed from the holster and soon after a single round was discharged, wounding a Soldier in the abdomen. The Soldier survived the incident, but suffered permanent paralysis from the waist down.

- On May 15, 2009, a Soldier playing with a M203 Grenade Launcher discharged an M203 illumination round to his face. The Soldier underwent numerous operations and has lost vision in one eye.

All of these incidents were preventable. Weapons handling is one of the most basic Soldiering tasks. Though

they are a part of everyday life in theater, Soldiers cannot become complacent. Leaders must enforce the standards for weapons safety so we can keep our Soldiers in the fight. Disciplined Soldiers do not carelessly injure themselves or their battle buddies.

The prevention of future negligent discharges starts with proper clearing procedures and treating every weapon — regardless of its status — as if it is loaded.

Both leaders and individual Soldiers have a responsibility to set the example for others and make on-the-spot corrections. Emphasize that your Soldiers must THINK weapons safety!

Treat every weapon as if it's loaded. Handle every weapon with care. Identify the target before you fire. Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot. Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

Remember you can "BE SAFE" if, "Standards Are Fully Enforced"

In accordance with the CJTF-82 Policy Letter 21, all negligent discharges will be reported by Serious Incident Report (SIR) to the Chief of Operations (CHOPS), CJTF-82; the Office of the Provost Marshal (PMO), CJTF-82; and the CJTF-82 Safety Office, within 24 hours of the incident.

Photos *from the Field*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith, 55th Signal Company

2nd Lt. Nicolas Massie leads his platoon on a patrol near the village of Kowtay, Khost province, July 22. Massie is deployed with 2nd Platoon, Company A, 425th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, fire mortar rounds at suspected Taliban fighting positions during Operation Mountain Fire, in the village of Barge Matal in eastern Nuristan province, July 12. During the Operation, U.S. and ANSF personnel secured the remote mountain village, which was overwhelmed by insurgents several days prior.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

Sgt. Michael White, Embedded Training Team 2-7, observes members of the Afghan National Army's 1st Company, 2nd Kandak, during a routine patrol of the country's Khas Kunar District in Kunar province, July 4. White, a Livermore, Calif., native, and fellow ETT members work daily with their ANA counterparts, in order to train the emerging force toward a level of self sustainment. White is a member of Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, headquartered at Okinawa, Japan.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith, 55th Signal Company

Spc. Ricky Olivo, left, and Spc. Vincent Cutler assume a protective posture as a 120mm mortar round is launched from the tube during a fire mission on Combat Outpost Zurok in Paktika province, July 13. The Soldiers are deployed with the 3rd battalion, 509th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Photos *from the Field*



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

ANSF and Soldiers medically evacuate an insurgent, who was wounded after attacking coalition forces, to an American base to receive further medical treatment, during Operation Mountain Fire, July 12. U.S. Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, working alongside ANSF members, quickly secured key objectives inside the isolated village of Barge Matal, in Nuristan province, which was overwhelmed by insurgents several days prior.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith, 55th Signal Company
Sgt. Lorenzo Estrada, left, and Spc. Cory Whitmore rest during a foot patrol to the village of Kowtay, Khost province, July 22. The Soldiers are deployed with 2nd Platoon, Company A, 425th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

Spc. William Blackmon, an infantryman with 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, watches for suspicious activity, while an Afghan Border Police member speaks with a village elder in the Kunar province, Khas Kunar District, July 1. 10th Mountain Division Soldiers have worked closely with their ABP counterparts in order to help stop smuggling and insurgent activities along the border with Pakistan.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

Sgt. Arturo Islas treats an Afghan boy's injured finger during a patrol in the Khas Kunar district of Kunar province. Islas, a Los Angeles native, is a combat medic attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt., 10th Mtn. Div.

A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt., 10th Mtn. Div., calls out the location of insurgents during a battle with insurgents inside the village of Barge Matal. ISAF and ANSF repelled the insurgent attack, after securing the isolated mountain village.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD



Photo by Pfc. Derek Kuhn, 40th PAD

A Soldier looks at the terrain of Afghanistan as he rides in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, July 20. Helicopters provide a crucial means of transit over Afghanistan's rugged terrain.

Photos *from the Field*



Photo by Pfc. Derek Kuhn, 40th PAD

Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, answers questions at a 'town hall meeting' with service members at Bagram Air Field July 14. Adm. Mullen discussed many points of interest from taking care of service members to issues with uniforms.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, watches for enemy activity in the area around the village Barge Matal in Nuristan province, following a mission into the remote mountain area during Operation Mountain Fire, July 12. The Fort Drum, N.Y., based unit, along with ANSF, secured the remote village.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, patrol outside Forward Operating Base Joyce, in Kunar Province. During the patrol, the Soldiers met with Afghan Border Police officers to discuss continued security along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

1st Platoon, Company Alpha, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment Soldiers along with Afghan National Army and Afghan Border Police members leave a remote village in the Khas Kunar district, July 1. The 10th Mountain Division Soldiers deployed to Kunar province, have worked side by side with their ANA and ABP counterparts in order to help stop smuggling and insurgent activities along the border with Pakistan.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller, 5th MPAD

A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, fires at insurgents attacking from the hills surrounding the remote village of Barge Matal during Operation Mountain Fire, in Nuristan province, July 12. During the operation, U.S. and ANSF quickly secured the tiny mountain village, which was overwhelmed by insurgents several days prior.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lory Stevens, TF Warrior PAO

Group Capt. Greg Elliot, right, the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, and Staff Sgt. Kerry Anderson, left, a personal protective officer with the NZPRT, walk away from a helicopter after arriving in Shebar district, Bamyan province, to celebrate the opening of a new road in the area, July 23. The New Zealand Defense Force Task Group Crib 14 work closely with government officials to tailor development programs, focusing primarily on improving roads, agriculture and security.

BAMYAN ON ROAD TO PROGRESS

TF WARRIOR HELPS OPEN HIGHWAYS

Story and Photo by 1st Lt. Lory Stevens TF Warrior PAO



Bamyan Governor Habbiba Sarobi and Col. Scott A. Spellmon, TF Warrior commander, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony in Kahmard district, July 23, celebrating the completion of the Madr Gravel road, which was funded by the Commander's Emergency Response Program

Bamyan Governor Habbiba Sarobi celebrated two major road projects by hosting two ribbon cutting ceremonies in Shibar and Kahmard districts with Task Force Warrior and New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team representatives, July 23.

The projects were funded by Col. Scott A. Spellmon's TF Warrior Commander Emergency Response Program.

The first ribbon cutting ceremony held in Shibar District celebrated the start of construction on the multi-million dollar, 33-kilometer asphalt road.

"This road project is part of a larger plan to connect Charikar, Parwan, to the "Red City" of Bamyan," said Maj. Clifton Cribb, TF Warrior civil military affairs officer for Bamyan, explaining how the deputy minister of public works from Kabul and the director of public works in Bamyan both requested construction

of the road.

During her speech, Sarobi noted that her development priorities over the past year had been roads.

"Today, my development priorities are roads, roads, and electricity," she said, acknowledging strides in development and vast progress on a road network in the province.

The second ribbon cutting ceremony was held after a U.S. aircraft transported local officials and U.S. and New Zealand military officials from Shibar to Kahmard district.

The Madr Gravel road consists of 7.4 kilometers of improved gravel surface with a nine meter width, recently completed two months ahead of schedule.

"This segment of road completes the loop of Ghandak Highway in north eastern Bamyan," said New Zealand

Army Maj. Grant Arrowsmith, TF Warrior New Zealand PRT Liaison Officer, New Zealand Defense Force.

It was an emotional day for the governor of Bamyan.

"Today is the reality of a dream for me," said Sarobi, recalling a story of personal inspiration where she promised herself to do more for the people of Bamyan.

Travelling across Afghanistan five years ago, she stepped off a plane and was greeted by a small group of children.

"As I hugged two Hazaran children, I noticed the very rough, dry skin on their hands and faces and it hurt me," said Sarobi. She added that historically, the Hazaran ethnic group is treated as lower class citizens in their own country.

"I feel good today because roads are a start towards connecting Hazarans with their central government in Kabul, and accessing better economic opportunities," she said.

Romanian Army

Maj. Adrian Istina

Current Assignment: Coalition Transport Officer

Title: Joint Transportation Officer

Job Description: Interface between CJTF-82 and ISAF

Best Part of Deployment: Accumulating more professional experience

Deployed Goals: Meet new people and gain experience working with other cultures

How He Spends his Free Time: Sports and physical exercise

Plans Upon Return: Take family on a tour of Europe



WARRIOR PROFILE

U.S. Marine Corps

1st Lt. Alex Dondarev

Hometown: Lafayette, Ind.

Current Assignment: Border Communication

Title: Border Communication Officer

Best Part of Deployment: Gets out of New England for a Summer

Deployed Goals: Get the job done

How He Spends his Free Time: Reading and conducting PT

Plans Upon Return: Join the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit





Unit Spotlight

Name of Unit: Escadron d'Expérimentation Drones 01.330 "Adour"

Branch of Service: French Air Force

Previous Duty Location: Cognac Air Force Base, France

Unit History : The unit was activated at Mont de Marsan Air Force Base, France, on July 1, 2001 and it has revived traditions of the VR291 (Voisin-Renault) flight, a recce unit activated at the end of the First World War.

About the Unit's Missions: The unit took part in the Trident Operation in Kosovo from September to December 2001 and from April to July 2002, and it ensured security during important events in France such as the G8 summit in June 2003 at Evian, the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 2004, and the visit of Pope Benedict XVI at Lourdes in September 2008

Commanded by: Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Canet

Would you like to have your unit in the spotlight? If so, email the 40th PAD at freedomwatch@swa.army.mil. Please include your unit's name, mission, history and any interesting facts.