



Victory Sustained

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

Vol. 1, Issue 8

December 2009

143d ESC says farewell to Kandahar



Left: Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz, 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command commanding general, views construction at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak April 15. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Sheldon Smith) **Right:** Command Sgt. Maj. Schultz and Brig. Gen. Schultz uncasing the colors of the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command March 4. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Elisebet Freeburg)

The Year in Review Issue

Photo Illustration by Maj. Sheldon Smith | JSC-A PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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The Commander's Corner



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

As we enter the month of December, there are still many important tasks ahead of us. Members of the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the 82nd Sustainment Brigade are

beginning to arrive, and the operational tempo of transferring responsibilities and knowledge to those Soldiers will increase. The recent announcement by the President of the United States on the increase in troops will present similar challenges to the incoming sustainers as we experienced during our watch. The members of the of the 143d ESC and 45th SB have done a tremendous job of providing sustainment, supporting the CJOA-A expansion, and setting the logistics posture for the future. However, for your work to have an enduring impact, you must ensure that the torch is properly passed to our successors so they can build on our success.

Some Soldiers will depart in

early December, while most will remain to execute a relief in place and transfer of authority. During these last few weeks, I want you to remain focused on the mission and tasks at hand, including organizational and personal preparations for departure. During those preparations, I want no one to forget we must continue observing operational security and safety. Our mission is not truly over until we arrive at our homes.

As we start the process of redeployment, we find ourselves undergoing another shift that takes us from the daily rigors of life in the war zone to the lives we left behind almost a year ago. I can assure you things have changed in your absence, and in

some ways you too may not be the same person that left home in January. This is a critical time when we begin to anticipate our homecoming, developing expectations that may or may not be realistic. In that light, I want to remind you to remain patient with your family members and take each day as it comes. It took time to adjust to your absence, and it will take time to readjust once you return.

Finally, I want to express to you that it's been a sincere honor and pleasure to serve as your Commanding General. All of you have represented the Sustainment community well, earning the respect of leadership at the highest levels.

Sustaining Victory!

The CSM Message to the Troops

"I will never leave a fallen comrade." This is the final part of our Warrior Ethos that each one of us lives by every day while we serve our great Army. Never leave a fallen comrade is more than just taking care of those wounded on the battlefield; it extends to never allowing harm to come to our fellow brothers and sisters in arms, on or off duty.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are crimes that eat away at the very core of our Army Values and our Warrior Ethos.

We must create a positive environment where everyone knows that they can count on their

fellow Soldiers to do the right thing...every Soldier is his brother's or sister's keeper.

As Soldiers we are bound together by our values, which help us distinguish ourselves from the rest of society. That bond to the outside eye is something some will never comprehend--such as the sacrifice of one Soldier giving his life for a total stranger simply because they share the same uniform.

Stopping sexual assault begins with every Soldier doing the right thing at all times.

Leaders must inform their Soldiers of the importance of

a good sexual harassment and assault prevention program and enforce the standards to prevent these heinous acts from occurring.

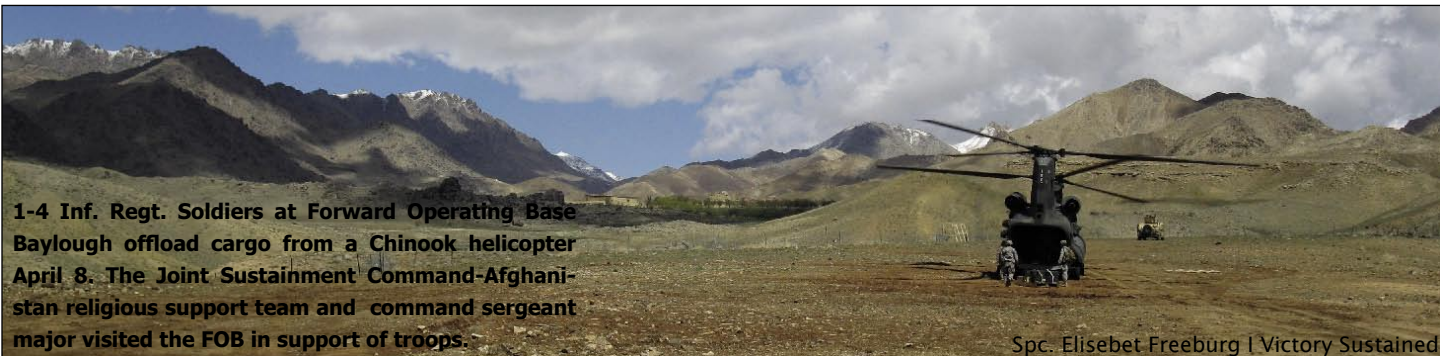
The Army has an online system called "I AM" that allows individuals to report incidents of sexual harassment and assault.

This is a very serious problem in our Army and something this command takes very seriously.

For more information about the I. A.M. STRONG campaign, go to the following website: <http://www.preventsexualassault>.



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



1-4 Inf. Regt. Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Baylough offload cargo from a Chinook helicopter April 8. The Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan religious support team and command sergeant major visited the FOB in support of troops.

Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan

Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz

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

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Sheldon S. Smith

Editor
Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices

Staff Writer
Spc. Elisebet Freeburg

Layout/Design
Spc. Elisebet Freeburg

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143d ESC accomplishes immense mission

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG
Victory Sustained Staff Writer

Until December 2008, most Soldiers in the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command believed they would deploy to Kuwait. Reassigned to establish the first ESC in Afghanistan and prepare for the 2009 troop build-up, the 143d ESC arrived here in February, merging with a sustainment brigade and battalions to create the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan. The JSC-A controls the movement of all supplies and equipment into and throughout the country.

Because of the short notice, Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz, 143d ESC commanding general, found it difficult to establish expectations before arriving. For example, normally a unit would send servicemembers to scout the area of operations and facilities before deployment.

"Considering all we didn't know and didn't have, I'm extremely pleased in what we accomplished," said Schultz.

Knowing they would be the first ESC in Afghanistan and in a Combined Joint Operation Area, Schultz did recognize that the mission had extensive requirements. It required a great deal of coordination both within and outside the Afghan theater.

"We have a good staff," said Schultz. "Sometimes you don't always know what you have, and it takes an extraordinary requirement to bring out what people are made of."

Before the 143d ESC arrived, the 45th Sustainment Brigade controlled logistics. While



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained
Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general, reviews Kandahar Airfield construction plans with U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates May 7.

sustainment brigades function more on a tactical level, an ESC functions on an operational level, said Schultz. Because of the growing mission, an operational level was needed.

"Folks were forced to make it happen, forced to work as a team," said Schultz.

Afghanistan has specific logistic difficulties, like the constant change to travel plans for

varying reasons. For instance, the JSC-A sometimes has trouble contracting enough Afghan trucks and drivers to move U.S. supplies and equipment to forward operating bases.

The 135th ESC arrives in December to replace the 143d.

"Fortunately for the 135th ESC, they aren't the first," said Schultz.

Since the 143d ESC already established sustainment relationships and processes as well as constructing facilities, its replacements will have an easier start.

"However, they're going to face an awful lot of challenges," said Schultz.

Soon after the 143d ESC arrived here, the first troop build-up began. Because of President Obama's recent decision to send 30,000 more troops here within six months, the 135th ESC also faces an immense task to support expansion.

As the Reserve Soldiers of the 143d ESC return to their respective careers in the U.S., they can be proud of the mission accomplished here.

"We're leaving with a much stronger team than we came in with," said Schultz. "It's good for the 143d; it's good for the Army; and it's good for us as Soldiers. I'm proud to have been part of it."

143d Soldiers achieve CSM's goals, prepare to transfer mission

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG
Victory Sustained Staff Writer

The first expeditionary sustainment command in Afghanistan, the 143d ESC deployed here to establish command-level sustainment operations. As the command sergeant major for the 143d ESC, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz had specific goals for 143d ESC Soldiers as they arrived in Afghanistan.

Schultz's main goal was to expose as many of the 143d ESC's forces as possible to a joint-environment involving coalition forces and other U.S. service branches as much as possible. Troops accomplished this through joint training, like a firing-range exercise with Australian forces; ceremonies; and social events.

Ramp ceremonies was another area noted by Schultz where 143d ESC Soldiers stood alongside other service branches and coalition forces.

"I wanted to get as many Soldiers as possible out there regularly to pay respect to our fallen comrades," said Schultz.

He believes in the importance of servicemembers seeing the opposite side of sustainment to understand and oversee logis-

tics.

"Also a goal was to get as many of our Soldiers out to [forward operating bases] and [combat outposts] to see how the Soldiers we are supporting are living," said Schultz.

As reservists, many Soldiers of the 143d ESC lack the opportunity while in the States to work daily in their military occupational specialty, as active duty troops do. Schultz sought to ensure that Soldiers, where possible, would be working within their MOS, learning their MOS and becoming proficient in that MOS.

"The biggest challenge obviously was getting here and standing up," said Schultz.

When the 143d ESC merged with other logistic elements to lead the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, its servicemembers accomplished many tasks from building the headquarters, office space and furniture to implementing new logistics systems to support military locations throughout the Afghan theatre.

"We had no one to fall in on," said Schultz. "I think we did an excellent job. The 135th [ESC] will never totally appreciate what



Maj. Sheldon Smith | JSC-A PAO
Sergeant 1st Class Stephen Carney, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment platoon leader from Norwood, Mass., shows Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz, the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command command sergeant major, the troop facilities at austere Forward Operating Base Baylough.

we did from the beginning to the end."

Schultz also ensured multiple noncommissioned officer-driven events took place, such as a Dining-In, a traditional, formal dinner held by a military unit; NCO inductions, ceremonies symbolizing the transition of a Soldier to an NCO; and an NCO Development Program, a leader development program for NCOs established by the unit's CSM.

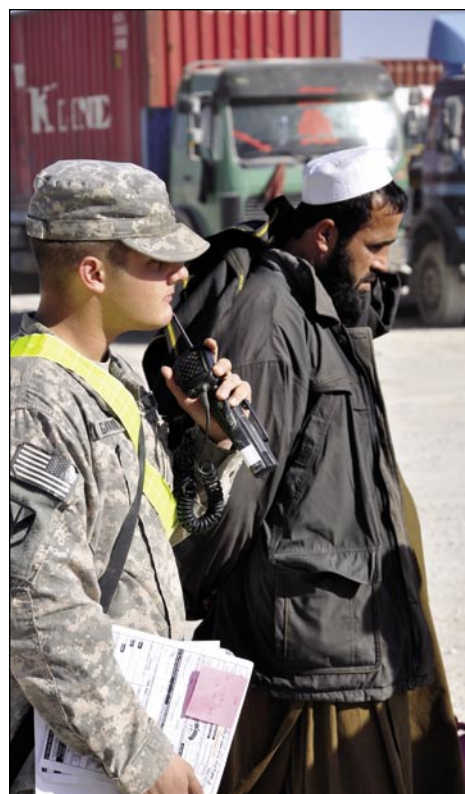
"We did a lot of things in a de-

ployed environment, and we got Soldiers involved," said Schultz.

Schultz said that as the sustainment mission is transferred to the 135th ESC, an Alabama National Guard unit, his goal is for 143d ESC troops to share as much information and knowledge as possible, so the 135th ESC can continue the success of the JSC-A.

"Overall, I'm very excited about what we did here," said Schultz. "We had a great team."

US troops process 25,000 trucks through KAF



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained
Sgt. Robert Gazaway, 386th Movement Control Team movements noncommissioned officer from Reno, Nev., escorts an Afghan driver to his cargo truck Nov. 13 at the Entry Control Point Three holding yard. Because of the sheer numbers of trucks coming through KAF, customers normally have two hours to pick up arriving trucks before the 386th MCT sends the driver and trucks away.

■ **BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG**
Victory Sustained Staff Writer

Located in Southern Afghanistan, Kandahar Airfield is one of the busiest military airfields in the world. Supplies and equipment arrive daily to sustain the more than 20,000 servicemembers and civilians from 40 different nations. Not all supplies arrive by air. The 386th Movement Control Team has processed more than 25,000 cargo trucks through KAF since May.

The 386th MCT, an active duty U.S. Army unit from Vincenza, Italy, deployed here to assist in the 2009 build-up of troops. Responsible for Entry Control Point Three, the 386th MCT's roughly 20 Soldiers fill a multi-faceted role that includes processing trucks entering and leaving KAF, as well as facilitating logistic units in contracting local trucks for convoys.

"We are the main supply here," said Sergeant 1st Class Anthony Williams, the detachment noncommissioned officer in charge from Savannah, Ga. "If trucks don't get in the gate, and we don't deliver, nothing's happening."

Arriving cargo ranges from lumber to disabled vehicles to food. When a truck reaches KAF, it is inspected and x-rayed by ECP guards before entering a holding yard. The 386th MCT then processes paperwork, called transportation movement requests.

With the aid of Slovakian troops, movement control specialists escort drivers to a designated holding area and call the customer to come receive the shipment and driver.

"A lot of people tend to not take notice of movement control teams," said Sgt. Robert Gazaway, a 386th MCT movements NCO from Livingston, Calif. "But we're the guys on the ground, making sure stuff happens."

The ECP 3 truck holding yard is approximately the size of a football field, said Williams. Depending on how troops line up and park vehicles, usually 150 to 200 trucks fit inside the holding yard.

"It's a good feeling knowing you're part of an important picture," said Gazaway. "Our part is to make sure the units get what they need."

Because of the sheer numbers of trucks coming through KAF, customers normally have two hours to pick up their truck before the 386th MCT sends the truck and driver away. Drivers turned away must return the next day. When returning, it can take several hours for them to get searched and scanned again and back on KAF.

Williams dislikes turning away drivers and their trucks, but needs to keep a cycle of trucks coming through to deliver goods.

"If you ordered this stuff, come and get it," said Williams. "[The drivers] have families too."

Certain timely or high-importance supplies that servicemembers may need—like personal items for the Post Exchange shelves—Williams does not send from KAF.

See ECP 3, page 19

JSC-A officer helps provide needed supplies

■ **BY STAFF SGT. MARCOS ALICES**
Victory Sustained Staff Editor

More than 40 nations work together at one of the largest NATO bases in the world, Kandahar Airfield, to protect the Afghan population and focus on the transition of security responsibility to the Afghans.

Coalition forces remain committed to the people of Afghanistan. They continue to consolidate resources and equipment to achieve the mission to increase Afghan security. Romanian forces recognized U.S. Army Lt. Col. Abraham Garcia's efforts in ensuring more than 10 countries have all they need to achieve this mission.

"It is pretty hard for a logistician to do his or her job without resources. Because of [Garcia's] assistance, we receive the equipment we need to do our job," said Romanian Land Force Maj. Laurentiu Nemes, the Joint Logistic Command deputy commander from Prahova Valley, Romania.

NATO continues to urge all coalition forces to contribute to the success of Afghanistan. Garcia,

the Regional Command-South acquisition cross service agreement and coalition loan support officer from Orlando, Fla., helps provide forces from the United Kingdom, Estonia, Denmark, Australia, Netherlands, Canada, France, Slovakia, Jordan, The Czech Republic and Bulgaria, spread throughout Southern Afghanistan, with everything from food to vehicles. Romanian forces who serve in Zabul and Kandahar province also look to Garcia for assistance recognized him for his support by awarding him the Emblem of Honor.

"The award is for his assistance in our efforts to fulfill our mission," said Romanian Land Force Lt. Col. Alexandru Alexandroaia, the JLC commander from Bucharest, Romania. "If we have the tools, we can achieve anything."

The Emblem of Honor, the highest honor given by the Romanian Minister of Defense, is awarded to Romanian Armed Forces personnel, reservists, war veterans and foreign military personnel for raising the prestige



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alice | Victory Sustained
Lt. Col. Abraham Garcia displays Nov. 3 the Emblem of Honor awarded him by the Romanian Minister of Defense for Garcia's role in supporting Romanian forces here.

of the Romanian Armed Forces. The Romanian JLC's main focus here in Afghanistan is to provide logistical support for all its forces. Garcia, with the help of his Soldiers, assists coalition forces with preparing the necessary documents to acquire the equipment they need to fulfill their mission.

Equipment acquired by the Romanian ground forces includes the U.S. Humvee. Garcia works in conjunction with U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Central Command to provide coalition forces

with the right equipment for the region.

"All these nations are supporting our efforts in the war on terrorism," said Garcia. "All contributing nations are great assets."

As the war in Afghanistan enters its ninth year, coalition forces continue to work together to fight against insurgents. Soldiers like Garcia play an important role in consolidating the efforts and equipment of coalition forces to focus on one mission, the improvement of Afghanistan.



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alice | Victory Sustained
U.S. Marines raise the United States Marine Corps flag during a joint-service 9/11 memorial ceremony held at Kandahar Airfield 2009.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained
Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general, addresses his Soldiers Nov. 11 during a Veterans Day ceremony here.

2009

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan servicemembers organized and attended numerous ceremonies. Ceremonies held at Kandahar Airfield included a joint-service Veterans Day ceremony to honor fellow military veterans; a joint-service 9/11 ceremony to remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and U.S. and coalition ramp ceremonies to honor fallen comrades.

JSC-A SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT:

Name: Francisco N. Aponte

Rank: Sgt.

Unit: 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Job Title: supply noncommissioned officer in charge

Hometown: Orlando, Fla.

Originally trained as a transportation management coordinator, when Aponte arrived in Kandahar, his leadership potential was quickly recognized.

Aponte was reassigned to serve as the supply noncommissioned officer in charge for the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"Supply supports every aspect

of our entire mission here in Afghanistan," said Aponte.

"Knowing that Soldiers depend on you and your team to accomplish their mission pushes my team and I to fulfill all requisitions.

"Without the proper equipment, you can only hope the job gets done. It works on knowledge and effectiveness.

"Supply sergeants and supply clerks will always be an essential part of every mission, no matter the time or place."

Aponte is a second generation Soldier, and both his parents participated in the University of Puerto Rico's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. Aponte's father accepted

a commission and became a first lieutenant with the Cavalry.

Aponte plans to return home to Orlando at the end of the year,

where he will resume his studies at the University of Central Florida studying hospitality management.



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alice | Victory Sustained

A brighter future for Afghanistan



An Afghan boy watches Soldiers from the 1-4 Inf. Regt. patrol through his village in the Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.



A young Afghan boy stares down the camera as his classmates peek out a door at the Sayad Pasha School near Kandahar Airfield.



Girls listen to a lecture at the Sayad Pasha School near Kandahar Airfield.

On her way to class, an Afghan school girl pauses on the steps at the Sayad Pasha School near Kandahar Airfield.

2009

Photos by Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

During their regime, the Taliban curtailed education and healthcare for most females. Due to international support, the fledgling Afghan government has made health care and educational improvements for many girls and boys across Afghanistan.

Troops from the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan have helped Afghan youth through several ways, such as providing medical care at the Kandahar Regional Hospital and collecting school supplies for distribution through the "Back-packs for Afghanistan" program and to the Taya H A Haskan orphanage.

2009

Numerous Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan servicemembers were awarded for meritorious service, courageous actions under fire, and for being wounded in action.

Medals received include the NATO-ISAF medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star.



Maj. Sheldon Smith | JSC-A PAO
Spc. Dana Osbourne of the 286th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion was awarded the Purple Heart Aug. 3 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, for injuries sustained when her convoy experienced a complex attack by militants in Southern Afghanistan. Col. Clay Hatcher, 45th Sustainment Brigade commander, presented the award.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained
Capt. Sharif Faruque, 143d ESC Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, presents Spc. Joshua Ruckman Sept. 25 with the Afghanistan Campaign medal, NATO ISAF medal, Armed Forces Reserve medal with "m" device and the Army Achievement medal.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

WHY I SERVE:

Name: Donald R. Belvin

Rank: Sgt.

Unit: 826th Ordnance Company

Job Title: supply sergeant

Hometown: DeKalb, Ill.

My dad was in the military for 27 years, so I grew up around it. I came into the military in 1990, but lost a child in 1993, so I got out.

Right before my dad died, I promised him I'd make him proud, so I reenlisted in 2008.

Serving my country makes me

feel on top of the world. I love the military, and I think everyone should serve three to four years and understand what our country is based on.

People may not agree with this war, but they need to understand it's not about us killing people; it's about restoring faith in the communities here.

We're not trying to Americanize them, just help them understand there are other ways of living.



M-ATV driver's training conducted at KAF

Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Soldiers drive the new Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicle Nov. 27 during M-ATV driver's training here. Engineered specifically for the mountainous Afghan terrain, the first M-ATVs designated for Southern Afghanistan arrived on KAF Oct. 22

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG
Victory Sustained Staff Writer

As U.S. focus shifts to Afghanistan, the Department of Defense awarded a contract to Oshkosh Corporation to supply the military with a new vehicle better suited to the Afghan environment, the Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicle. As M-ATVs arrive in Afghanistan, instructors here are preparing troops for the eventual fielding of the vehicles by conducting driver's training.

With an independent suspension system designed for off-road

mobility, the M-ATV was built specifically to navigate Afghanistan's rugged landscape while providing protection against roadside bombs.

"This vehicle is just a well-rounded vehicle," said Keith Warren, an Oshkosh Corporation field service representative and instructor here. "It protects troops and goes over all kinds of terrain."

The M-ATV driver's training, a 14-hour course, is being held at five locations in Afghanistan: Forward Operating Base Leath-erneck, FOB Sharana, Kandahar

Airfield, Bagram Airfield, and Jalalabad. The training focuses on several areas including emergency egress, preventive maintenance checks and services, day-driving operations, and night-driving operations.

"The M-ATV driver's training is important because the center of gravity is different than an MRAP," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffery Rhoades, the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan safety officer who attended the training. "How it handles on the road is completely different. It's not as top-heavy as the

MRAP."

During the emergency-egress portion, servicemembers simulate exiting the M-ATV during both a roll-over and imminent water entry. Troops also review what to do after an egress, like rendering first aid and accounting for weapons.

The preventive maintenance checks and services instruction teaches procedures crews should follow before, during and after operating the vehicle. These procedures help Soldiers locate any equipment needing repair.

See M-ATV, page 15

45th SB Soldiers train, mentor ANA troops

■ BY STAFF SGT. COREY BALTOS
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

GAMBERI, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan – One of the most important missions the U.S. military is undertaking in Afghanistan is the partnership with the Afghan National Army. This partnership allows the U.S. to provide training to the ANA, so they can better serve the Afghan nation.

"We provide this training, so at the end of the day, when we [the United States] leave, the ANA will be able to support their people," said Col. Clay B. Hatcher, commander 45th Sustainment Brigade.

Since its arrival in January, the 45th SB has been involved in ANA training. The unit's ANA partnership team has been instrumental in training the ANA logistics command and Ministry of Defense soldiers in Kabul. This month they added two more ANA groups to their training plate: a combat support battalion and the garrison support unit out of Gamberi, which is located near the city of Jalalabad.

One of the missions in Gamberi is to help

the ANA learn a better way to requisition supplies.

"We are working with the GSU and CSB to help them organize a more effective and proficient supply requisition system," said Sgt. Kadiann Banton, 5th Maintenance Company, 526th Combat Service Support Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade.



Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos | 45th SB PAO
Col. Clay B. Hatcher, commander 45th Sustainment Brigade, poses with members of the Afghan National Army's Garrison Support Unit at Camp Gamberi. The 45th SB is partnered with the GSU and other ANA units to help build a stronger ANA.

Unlike in Kabul where the 45th SB Soldiers convoy to the ANA compounds, the Soldiers who are working with their ANA counterparts in Gamberi live and work with them.

"Camp Gamberi is a combined operations base," said Maj. Gbenga Kaffo, 45th SB ANA partnership officer. "U.S. and Afghan Soldiers work and live together to better foster partnership."

Even though the 45th SB is scheduled to rotate back home early 2010, their replacements, the 82nd Sustainment Brigade will continue the work that the 45th has started.

"My goal is to get the partnership and training plan started before handing the reigns over to the 82nd SB," said Hatcher.

During the remaining few months the 45th is in country, the Gamberi ANA partnership team will work with the ANA to establish a training program that fits the ANA's needs.

"Gamberi is well on its way to being very successful," said Hatcher. "We will do everything we can do to help it be even more successful."

45th SB troops participate in mass-casualty exercise

■ **BY STAFF SGT. COREY BALTOS**
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – On the early morning hours of Friday Nov. 13 the darkness was pierced by the sound of the base's "giant voice" announcing an indirect fire attack had hit Bagram. Shortly afterward, a "code purple" was announced stating there had been casualties.

Fortunately, this was just a drill. The 45th Sustainment Brigade, along with other units stationed at Bagram Airfield, took part in a mass casualty exercise (MASCAL). The exercise, which simulated multiple indirect

fire attacks, was designed to train first responders on how to evaluate and treat large numbers of casualties.

Capt. Michael Goldberg, 45th Joint Logistics Command Brigade surgeon said that the training was especially important for the unit's combat lifesaver (CLS) qualified Soldiers.

"On any given day all we have is maybe one doc, and one or two medics," said Goldberg. "If this happened for real, we would be relying on Soldiers with CLS training to treat their fellow Soldiers."

While a team of Soldiers rushed out to

find the wounded, another group readied the Black Jack Morale, Welfare and Recreation center to receive the casualties. They cleared away the furniture to make room for the gurneys and medical kits.

As part of the 45th SB's emergency medical plan, the Soldiers were triaged into four categories based on the severity of their injury. The categories were minimal – victims with minor injuries such as flesh wounds; delay – injuries that could wait for treatment; immediate – a life threatening injury such as a sucking chest wound which necessitates immediate surgery; and expectant – beyond medical help and expected to die shortly.

Initially the Soldiers were just supposed to be triaged at Black Jack and then taken to the base hospital to be treated. However, Soldiers were told they would have to treat the injured as well as triage them.

The Soldiers had a wide variety of injuries, ranging from minor shrapnel wounds to amputations to combat stress, which gave the CLS responders an opportunity to work on all types of wounds.

"I feel we did an outstanding job, [in the case of a real incident] we are ready to save lives," said Master Sgt. Michael Pierce, the senior medic with the 45th Sustainment Brigade.

Realistic training like MASCAL exercises offer valuable insight into the complicated response plan needed in order to successfully manage a critical situation affecting a large number of casualties at one time. Bagram Airfield conducts MASCAL training quarterly.



Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos | 45th SB PAO

The Black Jack Morale, Welfare and Recreation center became a makeshift hospital Nov. 13 during the Bagram Airfield mass-casualty exercise. In the event of a real attack, the Black Jack MWR would be used as a casualty collection point to triage and care for injured Soldiers.

JSC-A SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT:

Name: Jared M. Taylor

Rank: Spc.

Unit: 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command

Job Title: unit armorer

Hometown: Seminole, Fla.

Born 1984 in Indianapolis, Ind., I lived there until I joined the military in 2006. I have three children: Anastasia Marie-6, Layton Robert Francis-4, and Lily Elizabeth-2.

I currently hold two military occupational specialties, signal support specialist and ammunition specialist. I'm cross-leveled from the 641st Regional Support Group out of St. Petersburg, Fla., where I've been for almost two years.

This is my first deployment, but I have also been to Honduras on a mission. I hope to go home and spend some much needed time with my family- my kids and my wife, Crystal Lynn. My hobbies are my kids and my cars, which I love to fix up.

I can remember when I was a

kid working in the garage with my father on many different cars. My father is one of the most inspiring people in my life. I look to my dad for everything. My father was a Ranger at Fort Campbell, Ky., and has worked every day that I can remember to support us and to make sure we had everything we needed.

When I was about 13 yrs. old, my mother had surgery and some things went wrong, and she slipped into a coma. It was very hard for us. Three months later, she awoke, and she just wasn't the same, but my father adjusted, and so did we. My mother is doing much better today but still not as it was. I love my father and mother for all the sacrifices that they had to make for me.

Family is the most important thing in my life. That's one of the reasons why I joined the military, for the brotherly bond that we form together. All the males in my family have been in some service to the military.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

WHY I SERVE:

Name: Troy M. Cronk

Rank: Spc.

Unit: 286th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion

Job Title: mechanic and wrecker operator

Hometown: Old Town, Maine

I serve mainly for a sense of honor. My grandfather served in Vietnam, so I always looked up to him. I felt like it was my duty to serve and pay my respects back to our country. My grandfather is proud of me. My entire family is proud and supportive. I'm glad to be here. It's a great experience, and I'm looking forward to deploying again.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

2009

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan servicemembers have assisted the Afghan people through many ways.

Troops have aided village leaders and provincial governors in building community centers, schools and roads. They have provided occupational training for Afghans to be mechanics, welders and nurses.

Programs to improve the lives of the Afghan people have been developed like Strong Food, a program that provides inexpensive food to starving children, and Clean Water, a process to provide Afghans a means to clean their local water.

Servicemembers have mentored Afghan National Army soldiers through various training, like radio communications, rifle training, and combat life support.



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices | Victory Sustained

Zabul Gov. Mohammad Ashraf Naseri meets and greets locals during his trip to Sha Joy to discuss issues and concerns with village elders Aug. 24. Provincial Reconstruction Team-Zabul provided transportation and security.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Capt. Jeff Whitten, 286th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, shows an Afghan National Army soldier how to reassemble an M-16 rifle during rifle training. Whitten, along with Staff Sgt. Kyle Roy, a 286th CSSB HHC operations noncommissioned officer, trained ANA Soldiers Sept. 5 and 6 at ANA Camp Hero near the base here.



JSC-A delivers

A U.S. military cargo truck, called a Palletized Load System, loaded down with cargo passes through Kandahar City Nov. 24 on a 286th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion convoy mission to Forward Operating Base Leatherneck.



Spc. Oscar N. Ruiz, a 647th Quartermaster Rigger Detachment parachute rigger prepares fuel barrels Oct. 28 for aerial delivery to remote forward operating bases in Afghanistan.

JSC-A SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT:

Name: Eugene D. Shiner Jr.

Rank: Master Sgt.

Unit: 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

Job Title: support operations (SPO), mobility section surface/container management noncommissioned officer in charge

Hometown: Orlando, Fla.

I'm the proud father of four beautiful children.

I've been with the Walt Disney Company for 24 years, and I'm currently an Operations Manager at Epcot.

I have worked in every field cov-

ered by my military occupational specialty (MOS) and then some, including Rail, Highway, Airfield, and Port/Vessel Operations.

I have instructed the transportation management coordinator (88N MOS) school three times.

This is my fifth mobilization: Desert Storm in 1990, Bosnia in 1995, Kuwait in 2003 and 2005, and Afghanistan in 2009.

The best thing about the deployments has been the many unique experiences and people I have met. I enjoy sharing my experience and positive attitude to positively impact those around me.



Sgt. Diego Andrade, a joint sustainment operations center administrator for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, and a U.S. Army reservist from Orlando, Fla., explains Nov. 17 how he restores old helmets he finds in the KAF bazaar.

2009

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan servicemembers have delivered millions of supplies and equipment to forward operating bases and combat outposts for war fighters throughout Afghanistan.

Although many supplies are moved across country by convoys, terrain like the Hindu Kush mountains makes aerial deliveries a necessity.

Soldier finds, restores history from bazaar

■ **BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG**
Victory Sustained Staff Writer

At Kandahar Airfield's weekly bazaar, local vendors display in their colorful booths everything from jewelry to DVDs to wood carvings. For Sgt. Diego Andrade, visiting the bazaar is a chance to find pieces of history. Andrade, a joint sustainment operations

center administrator for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, and a U.S. Army reservist from Orlando, Fla., has spent years acquiring various collectibles.

"Everywhere I go, I try to pick up some type of antique," said Andrade.

Although Andrade collects such items as old phonographs, cigarette lighters, pen quills and Louis XVI style furniture, he especially enjoys obtaining military gear from World War I and World War II.

At the bazaar, Andrade noticed two rusted helmets.

"It caught my attention, because I recognized the form as an old German helmet," said Andrade.

After searching the Internet, Andrade believes the two helmets are both German steel helmets, called Stahlhelm, introduced in 1916 and used by German forces during WWI. Helmet manufacturers produced a new style in 1935, but many troops used 1916 models throughout WWII, said Andrade.

Andrade returned to the bazaar and bought one of the rusted helmets, full of holes and lacking both chinstrap and headband.

"And then the thing was what do I do with this now?" said Andrade.

Andrade found a large, international community of German helmet collectors on the Net. He followed the accepted guidelines to restore his helmet to the original regulations. Helmet color and details vary depending on the military branch.

"It was very hard for me to get the materials like paint and sandpaper," said Andrade.

With encouragement from his family back home and friends here, Andrade worked a month to restore the helmet, working one to

two hours a day by hand without suitable materials. Presently, it takes Andrade about two weeks to restore a helmet, since he orders supplies like paint and rust remover from the Net or has family ship materials here.

"I try to have myself busy with something I like to do," said Andrade. "I love history, and I love military history."

Andrade said that cleaning takes the most time since each helmet shell has a one-eighth to one-quarter inches rust build-up. Filling any holes with liquid metal fillers, he adds rivets and hardware for headbands and chinstraps.

Good-condition original items can be expensive, but excellent copies are available, said Andrade. He buys helmet liners made on an original machine from the time period.

Andrade pays \$40 to \$100 apiece for a helmet from the bazaar, and then spends up to \$300 restoring each helmet. Between his personal collection and those he has done for fellow troops, Andrade has restored 15 German helmets and one WWII era American helmet.

Andrade assures he does not prefer collecting German military items more than any other country's items.

"If I had found 15 French helmets, I would have restored 15 French helmets," said Andrade. "The same with American. But I found 15 German helmets."

The bazaar vendor has started bringing in helmets specifically for Andrade, but Andrade is not sure where he finds them. Andrade notes that other countries like Austria-Hungary used a variation of the Stahlhelm, and troops from the Axis powers may have crossed through Afghanistan during WWII.



Sgt. Diego Andrade, a joint sustainment operations center administrator for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, and a U.S. Army reservist from Orlando, Fla., explains Nov. 17 how he restores old helmets he finds in the KAF bazaar.

US Soldiers complete Iraq, Afghanistan deployment

■ **BY SGT. AARON ROOKS**
Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Helmand province, Afghanistan —The U.S. Army's 100th Brigade

Support Battalion stepped foot into a combat zone for the first time Dec. 3, 2008. Those Soldiers made history once again March 28, when they became

one of the first Army units to redeploy from Iraq to Afghanistan.

"When you think things have settled, we were out to Helmand province," said Army Lt. Col. Brent D. Bush, commanding officer, 100th BSB.

The Soldiers of the battalion provided logistical support to coalition forces in central and western Iraq until they redeployed to join Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, where they provided combat sustainment to coalition forces serving in Regional Commands South and West of the International Security Assistance Force.

The unit, an active component from Fort Sill, Okla., marked the conclusion to their historic deployment when they transferred control of battle space in Helmand province, Nov. 18, to the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Fort Carson, Colo.

"They were able to accomplish very much with very little," said Lt. Col. Thomas Rivard, commanding officer, 68th CSSB. "They built something out of nothing."

Camp Leatherneck, which was 100th BSB's home for more than eight months, was little more than berms and dirt when they first arrived.

"It all happened so fast," said Master Sgt. Francisco Brizuela, 100th BSB's operations noncommissioned officer. "It's amazing how much this place has changed. Camp Leatherneck was very underdeveloped when we first arrived. But everyone stepped up to the plate to get the job done."

Rivard said the 68th CSSB will continue to build on the successes of the 100th BSB.

"What we are doing is not easy," Rivard said. "What we are doing is dangerous and what we are doing is important."



Sgt. Aaron Rooks | USMC CAMP LEATHERNECK, Helmand province, Afghanistan-Soldiers with the 100th Brigade Support Battalion stand in formation during a transfer of authority ceremony here Nov. 18. The unit made history March 28, when it became one of the first Army units to redeploy from Iraq to Afghanistan.

Different military services work, work out together

■ BY MAJ. SHELDON SMITH

JSC-A Public Affairs Officer

Lt. j.g. Monica Rojas also contributed to this article

Three women from different services have come together to make a difference in the expansion and sustainment of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Naval supply officer Lt. j. g. Monica Rojas with the 30th Naval Construction Regiment, Air Force civil engineer 1st Lt. Rebecca Bucher with the 777th Expeditionary "Prime BEEF" Squadron, and Army logistics Capt. Sarah Comeau with the 45th Sustainment Brigade met each other while deployed here. The three servicemembers have formed a bond, and now work closely in all matters regarding procurement, logistics and construction projects.

"It's rare for all the services to work together to accomplish what we are accomplishing: expansion and growth of [Regional Command - South] in a deployed environment," said Comeau of St. Paul, Minn. "Between the three of us, we are creating, building, and supplying both existing and new [forward operating bases in Southern Afghanistan]."

Comeau supplies FOBs with all classes of supply, orders what they need for sustainment, and ensures supplies and materiel get to the FOB in a timely manner. Shortages of supplies and equipment can hamper FOB construction during a time when U.S. operations in Afghanistan are intensifying.

The 45th Sustainment Brigade is an integral part of Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan, which provides command and control for units that provide a wide range of sustainment services to combat forces belonging to or sponsored by the U.S. The Prime BEEF Squadron executes projects planned by the 30th NCR at FOBs and combat outposts where subordinate units work.

"We work together in building up RC-South and sustaining our current units located in RC - South," said Rojas of Arlington, Texas. "I am the logistics side for the regiment, Sarah is the transportation and supply side for our Army Contacts, and Becky is the Air Force



Maj. Sheldon Smith | JSC-A PAO

Air Force 1st Lt. Rebecca Bucher, 777th Expeditionary "Prime BEEF" Squadron; Army Capt. Sarah Comeau, 45th Sustainment Brigade; and Navy Lt. j.g. Monica Rojas, 30th Naval Construction Regiment, routinely pool their experience and skills to address expansion and sustainment-related challenges.

officer that plans projects for the 30th NCR."

The 30th NCR is the Seabee unit from Port Hueneme, Calif., that has overall responsibility for all forward operating base construction projects in RC-S.

"Each [of us] brings a separate set of experiences to the table," said Rojas. "The fact that we are all from different services, backgrounds, and [military occupational specialties] or designators gives a huge opportunity for growing from each other. We all have the same mission, and are in the same location, but need each other's varying education and backgrounds in order to accomplish that mission."

Although all three U.S. military members work in different services, they all help each other in some way on KAF, and also all know the importance of keeping fit especially while deployed.

"I've always loved to workout and, it's even more important to stay active while deployed," said Bucher of O'Fallon, Ill., following the strenuous workout. "The operational tempo can become quite stressful and staying

active keeps you not only fit, but alert and lets you clear your mind for at least a little while. It definitely recharges the batteries."

The United Kingdom's indoor soccer field at KAF is home to circuit-type exercises five days a week. This particular training consists of several games ranging from tag to races and circuit training.

"It's like Elementary Physical Education except 100 times harder," said Comeau. "In the middle of the workout, I would've rather have run a marathon then finished the seemingly endless amount of sprinting and drills! But, in the end, it was definitely worth it!"

"The UK soccer gym is the perfect place to conduct circuit training," said Rojas. "They have a new routine every week and focus on every part of the body."

People attending the class are primarily from countries outside the United States, making it a good networking opportunity for the U.S. military on base to expand their scope of knowledge and contacts, said Rojas.

All three female officers ran the Nov. 7 Freedom Run half marathon on KAF.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

ern" way of life. I now have the opportunity to learn and appreciate the Polynesian/Asian culture being stationed in Hawaii. I have met so many people from different

walks of life, many who have become my best friends. I would have not had the opportunity to meet these people had I not joined the Army.

WHY I SERVE:

Name: Sarah E. Comeau

Rank: Capt.

Unit: 45th Sustainment Brigade

Job Title: logistics planner

Hometown: St. Paul, Minn.

I joined ROTC my junior year of college, because I wanted to travel and "see the world" outside of the Midwest. My first duty station was Fort Hood, and I immediately deployed to Iraq where I discovered I really enjoy leading Soldiers and providing support to the front lines.

I love knowing that at the end of the day, I helped provide food, fuel, etc. to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines when and where they need it. An added benefit is affecting Soldiers' lives in a positive way.

While I miss my family and friends in Minnesota, I enjoy the fact that I spent five years in Texas learning about the "South-

2009

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan servicemembers have provided medical care to both troops and the Afghan people throughout Afghanistan.



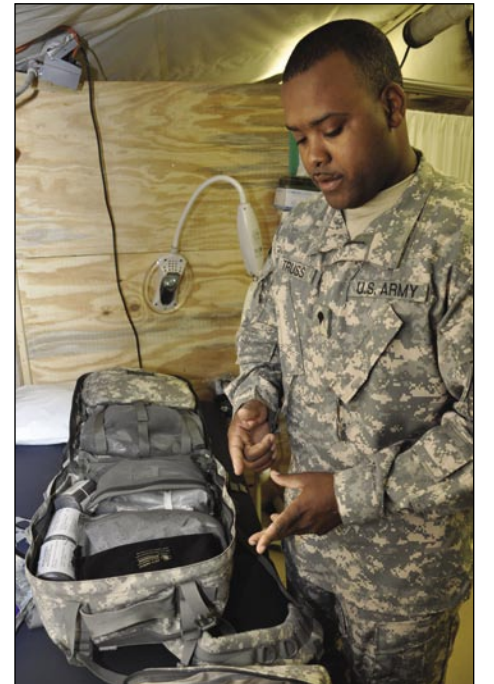
Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Spc. Dawnnoel Dunbar, JSC-A ammunition specialist, prepares the injectable H1N1 flu vaccine before Lt. Col. Dianne Jackson, the JSC-A surgeon, administers it to a Soldier Nov. 16.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

An Afghan man comforts his injured daughter as Spc. Chad E. Brown, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment combat medic treats the girl's burned leg at FOB Baylough, Zabul.



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices | Victory Sustained

Spc. Robert Truss, a 45th Sustainment Brigade combat medic, prepares his aid bag for a convoy. 45th SB medics also operate an aid station for JSC-A Soldiers at KAF.

M-ATV

Continued from page 9

In the day-driving segment, troops first learn rudimentary driving skills, like how to start the M-ATV, shift gears and brake. After the classroom instruction, Soldiers drive the M-ATV through a road course that incorporates off-road driving.

Finally, servicemembers return in the evening for night-driving and training and a road course.

"I love the M-ATV," said Pfc. Nicholas C. Marshall, a 282nd Aviation Brigade M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner from Palm Harbor, Fla., after driving the road course Nov. 27. "It handles really well. Some of those parts [in the road course] an MRAP would have gotten stuck in. They solved these problems with the M-ATV."

Featuring an armor system with a "V" shaped hull engineered to deflect blasts from improvised explosive devices away from its occupants, the M-ATV seats four passengers and one gunner. While some armored vehicles can weigh more than 60,000 lbs., the M-ATV weighs approximately 25,000 lbs. including standard equipment and fuel.

The first M-ATVs designated for South-



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Chris Adkins, an Oshkosh Corporation field service representative and instructor, supervises while Pfc. Nicholas C. Marshall, a 282nd Aviation Brigade M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner from Palm Harbor, Fla., and Sergeant 1st Class Sir T. Avington, an Army Test and Evaluation Command team noncommissioned officer in charge from Tulsa, Okla., conduct preventive maintenance checks and services Nov. 27 on a Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicle during driver's training.

ern Afghanistan arrived here Oct. 22 by air transport. Although not sure of the exact date, the initial vehicles fielded to Soldiers

will go to the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division--the first Stryker brigade to deploy here, said Warren.

Keeping the enemy at bay in the Hindu Kush



Capt. Jason V. Basilides, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment platoon leader, speaks to local leaders through interpreter Najeed Ghafoori during a foot patrol July 27 in Deh Chopan district, Zabol province.



Afghan National Army troops, Afghan National Police officers and U.S. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment patrol together July 27 in the Hindu Kush mountains.

Sgt. Edward E. Westfield, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment team leader, scans a valley below the Hindu Kush July 27 while on a dismounted patrol.

2009

Photos by Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Soldiers of Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Baylough had one mission, disrupt the enemy. Austere FOB Baylough lies 7,500 feet above sea level in a valley below the Hindu Kush mountains. Because of the rocky terrain, most patrols to the remote villages in the Deh Chopan district, Zabol province, are dismounted, or foot patrols.

The 1-4 Inf. Regt. has assisted the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan since 2004 and has worked with the Romanian Royal Army at FOBs Baylough, Mizan, Lane and Lagman. Each company completes a six-month rotation before returning home to Hohenfels, Germany, where troops train coalition forces in counterinsurgency operations.



JSC-A facilitates

Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Pfc. Michael McKay, a 4th Engineer Battalion combat engineer, assembles pieces of the Redpack, the mobile spare parts unit to the Mk3 Husky route-clearance vehicle, during a three-day assembly process May 4 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The Mk3 Husky, the premier vehicle in the U.S. Army Interim Vehicle Mounted Mine Detection Program in Iraq since 2003, drives in front of convoys using pulse induction to detect metallic content buried underground. The Husky carries a single occupant with a seat designed to place the driver's spine in optimal position to minimize back injuries during an explosion.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division's 5th Brigade, Stryker Brigade Combat Team review their Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station II with an M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun during their training. The CROWS II can be remotely operated within the safety of their armored vehicle. Soldiers received a five-day course on the weapons system, including training on day and night operations.

2009

Due to logistic support from Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, many war-fighting units received new equipment to increase effectiveness and safety, including the Husky Mk3 route-clearance vehicle; the Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicle; and the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station II.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Pvt. Kristin L. Rodriguez, a 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion human resources specialist, jumps out the gunner's hatch June 18 while exiting the Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected Egress Trainer during MRAP roll-over training.

Army Reserve focuses on balancing ranks, specialties

■ BY DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20- Satisfied that it's increased its ranks by about 20,000 soldiers and continues to meet its recruiting goals, the Army Reserve now is focused on recruiting more troops as they leave active duty to fill gaps at the mid-level ranks and in specific specialties.

Army Brig. Gen. Leslie A. Purser, the Army Reserve's deputy chief, praises recruiters and Army Reserve soldiers whose efforts enabled the Army Reserve to boost its numbers from about 185,00 to the current 206,000 in recent years.

The problem, she said, is that the force is bottom-heavy, particularly at the E-1 to E-4 ranks, but has shortages among mid-level commissioned and non-commissioned officers. The Army Reserve is short about 10,000 captains and majors, but has too many lieutenant colonels and colonels. Meanwhile, it's been able to fill only 54 percent of its sergeant first class billets.

Equally troubling, the Army Reserve has too many soldiers in some specialties and too few in others. It's currently at 170 percent strength for chaplain assistants, but has big gaps among wheeled-vehicle mechanics and, ironically, retention NCOs.

Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, the Army Reserve chief, summed up the problem during the As-

sociation of the U.S. Army's annual meeting in October.

"We have 208,000 [soldiers], but it's not the right 208,000," he said. "It's not in the right rank, in the right [specialties], in the right location."

Stultz has charged Purser to come up with a campaign plan to balance and man the force.

"We need to figure out ways to get more precise," Purser said. "We have to look more closely at the really significant shortfalls, and not just go for blanket numbers."

The reshaping effort is focusing on several fronts. The Army Reserve is seeking more prior-service recruits. It's targeting slightly older recruits who bring more experience than most 18-year-olds. And it plans to offer incentives so soldiers in over-strength occupational specialties will retrain into those experiencing shortfalls.

Purser said she's working closely with the Army's accessions and recruiting commands to ensure recruiters know what the Army Reserve is looking for – and what it's not.

"She must get very precise and tell them what the Army Reserve needs," Stultz explained, using Army shorthand for unit supply specialists as an example. "No more 92 Yankees in this location, only in that location," she said, "and no more chaplain assistants."

Then, she added, she has to figure out how to give chaplain assistants incentive to become military police.

A central front in the reshaping plan is the network of points at which active-duty soldiers begin the process of transitioning from active duty to civilian life. The Army Reserve plans to take a tip from the National Guard's playbook, assigning recruiters directly to transition points, where they can pitch the Army Reserve to troops still on active duty.

"We need to reach these guys as early out as we can, ... to make sure they understand the opportunities that we have," Purser said. "The idea is to get there and talk with them early enough to encourage them to come over to the Reserve side so they can continue to reap the benefits [of military service], ... rather than have them stop completely when they get off active duty."

One big selling point the Army Reserve hopes to benefit from is the Employer Partnership Initiative. The program links Army reservists with civilian job opportunities in their military career field, and with employers who recognize and support their Army Reserve obligations. So far, more than 700 companies have signed on, Purser said, eager to recruit workers who bring the skills, discipline and leadership they've developed in

the military.

Stultz said he sees the program as a way to help the Army Reserve achieve the balance it needs.

"We've got plenty of [employer] partners," he said. "So we must get scientific about finding companies with opportunities we can fill with our soldiers or future soldiers. We're satisfying corporate America, and we're satisfying our needs."

At the same time, recognizing that some soldiers leave active duty because they've grown deployment-weary, the Army Reserve is taking the novel step of guaranteeing more "dwell time" at home between deployments for some prior-service recruits.

"We have incentivized these active-component guys, saying we will guarantee a two-year dwell, at least, before they have to go again," Purser said. "Even if they go to a unit that is scheduled to deploy, the Army Reserve will honor that commitment."

That's a guarantee even the Individual Ready Reserve can't offer, she said.

Stultz calls these efforts part of a precise human capital strategy that will ensure the Army Reserve has the right people with the right skills in the right units at the right time.

"As we look ahead," he said, "we know that building the right force is crucial for success."

>>> ECP 3

Continued from page 4

The 386th MCT also works with units having difficulty sending someone to collect the freight.

The nine to ten Soldiers working the holding yard sometimes close it due to the high number of trucks filling the yard.

"For a unit so small," said Williams. "We have a big, big responsibility."

The 386th MCT also collects paperwork as trucks leave KAF. The team sends the gathered paperwork to their higher headquarters, the 484th Joint Movement Control Battalion, an element of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan.

As an American unit, the 386th MCT holds a unique position since in regards to the holding yard, they answer to the NATO commander of a multi-national airfield, said Capt. Torrance Conner, the detachment commander from Cherryvale, Kan.

"We show favoritism to no one here," said Williams. "That's the only way we can be."

With large commercial trucks moving through the yard's congested area sometimes at high speeds with unsecure loads,



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Spc. Jose Ramirez of Livingston, Calif., a movement control specialist from the 386th Movement Control Team, directs a cargo truck Nov. 14 to a parking space within the Entry Control Point Three holding yard here.

Williams stresses situational awareness and proper personal protection equipment to his troops.

Other dangers can come from the drivers themselves. 386th MCT Soldiers once recognized two drivers as wanted men from posters in the MCT office. They detained and transferred the drivers to the KAF international military police.

"It's a big job out here but an important job," said Gazaway. "I think everyone here is proud of what they do."

As U.S. and world focus turns to Operation Enduring Freedom, the 386th MCT's movement of supplies and equipment through the largest coalition base in Afghanistan remains vital to the sustainment and success of the war fighter.



Let there be hope in the heart of Christmas

■ BY MASTER SGT. WARD GROS
Chaplain Assistant NCOIC

"In the city of Bethlehem, Mary brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord". (Luke 2:7-11)

As we begin to look forward to celebrating Christmas Dec. 25th, we begin to take part in the Soldier's life of spending holidays away from home. Many Christmases from now we will be able to look back and reflect on exactly what this Christmas means to us, individually. This year Christmas stands as a milestone of our accomplishments throughout the year in Afghanistan; it also stands as a beacon of light on our journey back home, but most importantly it stands as a reminder of our salvation in Christ the Lord.

American Soldiers have spent Christmases past filled with hardship from our earliest history when a week before Christmas 1777 General George Washington's army spent the winter at Valley Forge on the west side of Schuylkill. Just as we field living quarters across Afghanistan before the coldest part of winter settles in, Washington's Soldiers

built huts to brace themselves against the cold. Many of their horses starved to death, and they themselves faced starvation as a real danger. Approximately 2,500 soldiers of the 11,000 in the Continental Army died before the spring thaw. It wasn't until Nathanael Greene assumed the duties of Quartermaster General on March 23rd that conditions improved. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be in the Army then?

During World War II, General George S. Patton and Monsignor James H. O'Neill, Chief Chaplain of the Third Army, wrote Patton's Prayer to troops on 8 Dec. 1944. The prayer was published on the back of a Christmas Card and delivered to the 250,000 troops who were preparing for the relief of Bastogne, Belgium, the key engagement of the Battle of the Bulge. Having faced days of endless rain, it begins addressing the weather.

"Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as Soldiers who call Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen."

Although the weather in Afghanistan is different, I am sure that many of us can share the same sentiment in establishing

"justice among men and nations". Throughout the Bible we find many examples of Jesus standing firm against oppression and wickedness, let us live by His example and pursue righteousness for all as He was born savior for all.

At Christmas we give thanks to God for giving us the greatest gift of all, salvation in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ. The gifts we give one another are a remembrance of this holiest of gifts. In recalling his duties during the Vietnam War, Army Chaplain Paul Mitchell shares his story about Christmas giving. He writes, "Christmas Eve 1966 was one of the best days many of us had in Vietnam." The Soldiers threw a Christmas party for the children at Vien Duc Anh Bae Ae orphanage, where they had been helping establish a school. The children there were "the poorest of the poor" getting their education from student teachers the Soldiers were helping train. The operations officer, who could speak Vietnamese, dressed up as Santa Claus and spoke to the kids in their own language. Soldiers and student teachers passed out toys and everyone had a good time. Chaplain Mitchell adds that one Soldier said, "I thought this was going to be the worst Christmas in my life, and it turned out to be the best!"

Clearly history shows just how our Soldiers made a lasting impression on the children of Vietnam. When we as Americans hold dear to our values and treat others with the dignity and



respect that our faith instills in us, we build future relationships. Today, the international relationship between America and Vietnam is strong; although our countries have their differences, there is much we share in common. Personally, I believe that the Afghan children have the most at stake with our presence here. When we reach out to future generations we build bridges they will not forget. When we treat their mothers and fathers with dignity and respect, we make impressions that convey our nation's truest values.

Some say Afghanistan is an Old Testament country. And it is easy to draw comparisons to the shepherds we read about in the Bible with those we see across the Afghan countryside. Let us not forget that for many of us, our Christian heritage begins with the simple beginnings found in a manger. Although there was no room in the inn, there was hope in the countryside, hope in the desert, and hope in the heart. Years from now, may we find that our work and sacrifice here has planted seeds of hope in the hearts of the people of Afghanistan.

2009

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan's religious support team played an integral role in establishing many programs and services for troops both on Kandahar Airfield and across Southern Afghanistan.

This included building new chapel facilities on forward operating bases, providing religious support and counseling on remote FOBs without an assigned chaplain, and delivering critical incident stress debriefs to troops who have experienced traumatic events.

The JSC-A RST also facilitated a visit Sept. 6 to Sept. 7 by Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, the Army chief of chaplains, and Sgt. Maj. Tommy L. Marrero, chief of chaplains regimental sergeant major.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

Col. Stanley Puckett, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan chaplain, prays with 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment Soldiers after an impromptu Easter message April 8 at Forward Operating Base Lagman, Zabul province, Afghanistan.