

# THE FIGHTING *48th*



The Deployed Journal of the Volunteer Brigade

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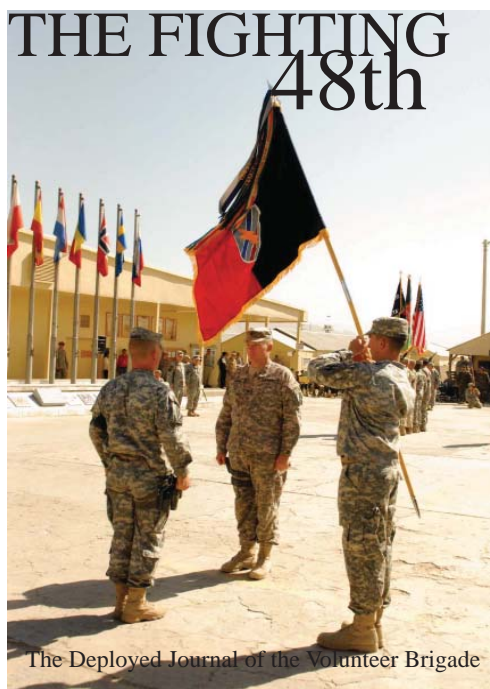
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# Commander's Column



Volunteers, the 48th IBCT assumed the responsibility for mentoring and training of ANSF in eastern Afghanistan during a time of transition both in mission and Afghanistan itself.

The mission rapidly changed from ad hoc ETTs and PMTs to the 2-BCT unit solution with our sister BCT, 4th of the 82nd – immediately the 48th was OPCON to Combined Joint Task Force 82 and we

began the transition from the ETT/PMT mission to Combined Action.

Combined action is defined in FM 3-24 as a form of mentorship where coalition forces live, sleep, eat, and fight as one with their mentor unit. The forces combine down to the squad level. This is quite a change from the way things were conducted these past years and represents a new vision for the Afghanistan mission.

This change, coupled with the Afghan people going to the polls on 20 August to vote in presidential and provincial elections for the second time since 2004, highlight the dramatic changes taking place. The success of the election depended on the coordinated effort of the Afghan National Security Forces, including the Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan National Police (ANP), and National Directorate of Security (NDS). Their mission was to provide security for the people of Afghanistan, displaying personal courage and vision in the face of threat and terror, and the opportunity to vote for a better future for Afghanistan. The mentors from the 48th IBCT as well as all support personnel worked with the ANSF to provide the security necessary for the elections.

Securing the elections was no small

## THE FIGHTING 48th

"The Fighting 48th" is the command newsletter of 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. It is produced by the Public Affairs Office on behalf of the 48th IBCT commander and is intended to inform the members of the 48th IBCT of the activities of the brigade and the command messages of the leadership team.

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task and highlighted how far Afghanistan has come, while making it clear how far it still has to go. While the election was the focus of effort for some three months at every level from the Ministries to the Kandaks and police districts, it was only business as usual for the Soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces. With the requirements for the election security and the daily demands of counterinsurgency operations, the ANSF are spread thin.

The elections are not the only driving force impacting the ANSF. With the arrival of a new command team, business as usual is changing for all involved in the mentor mission. This is no different for the 48th IBCT. As Task Force Phoenix transitions to the Afghan Development Advisory Bureau, the 48th assumes a focused role in the mentorship of the ANSF for the East under combined action. At the same time, the command structure changed and the 48th was moved under Combined Joint Task Force 82nd and the 82d Airborne Division. This change impacts where and how we will do the mentor mission for the remainder of our tour.

Under the doctrine of combined action, our units will reform and partner with ANSF units. This will require two battalions to move from their present locations and collocate with their ANSF

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partners. While this seems complicated, it will ensure greater chain of command unity and allow commanders to mass their combat power where needed. The lowest we will be asked to partner is at the platoon level, thereby ensuring more forces at every location.

The responsibilities of security can be portrayed in the form of concentric rings. The ANP are the inner ring. They live with, and are part of, the community. They conduct checkpoints, presence patrols and secure critical facilities. The combined action partners work with the ANP on maintaining the community police presence in the cities, towns and villages of Afghanistan.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) are the second ring of security and are the muscle of the counterinsurgency fight. They conduct combat patrols and operations against Anti-Coalition Forces. Our combined action partners live with, and fight alongside; their ANA partners. They conduct joint planning and learn from; as much as mentor, their partner unit.

In the third ring, Coalition forces provide enablers to the ANSF that they do not have readily available, including, aerial support, logistics support, transportation, MEDEVAC, and surveillance assets that can rapidly respond to trouble spots and reinforce the ANA and the ANP. Under combined action there will be fewer coalition forces patrolling alone and more joint patrols with the ANSF taking the lead in planning and conducting those patrols.

Command and control of the security forces and good coordination among ANA, ANP, and NDS are key components of the mentor mission and vital to success. Operational coordination centers (OCCs) are established in each of the three regions in the East and in the 24 districts to facilitate this coordination and to provide links to the national level command authority. To succeed in our mission of building a competent and self-sustaining ANSF, we must improve their ability to command and control, as well as pass information between the several agencies in order to get the proper force at the proper spot on the battlefield.

Great progress has been made in a few short months since our arrival; but, there are many who make it their daily mission to see Afghanistan fail. While they have their own reasons, they all revolve around personal gain, influence, and ultimately power. It is clear we cannot win this war for the Afghan people, but we can help set the conditions for their success.

There are simply not enough forces to meet all of the required tasks. While the ANP are growing in capacity to meet the demands of security, it will ultimately take the will and determination of the people to achieve final victory.

Both the ANA and the ANP are committed to their responsibility to secure the people of Afghanistan, but it will take time and commitment on the part of all involved to allow the tree of liberty to grow strong enough to withstand the external influencers that want failure. The ANSF are securing the future of Afghanistan and we in the 48th IBCT, along with all of our Coalition partners are committed to helping them. God Bless and thanks for all you do.

“Volunteers, send me.”

# Bakdashan Orphans

Story and Photo by Maj Neil W. Wallerstrom,  
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

The Georgia Army National Guard, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) assisted the Afghan 209th Corps in providing much needed supplies to the people of the Feyzabad region in Afghanistan. Elements of the 48th IBCT working with one of their coalition partners, German-led Feyzabad Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), delivered critical food and supplies.

The humanitarian assistance drop on August 26, 2009 was executed at three sites in the Feyzabad region. The intent of the assistance was to relieve pressure on the supplies of two orphanages and a women's outreach center.

Lt. Col Allutullah and the Soldiers of the Afghan 209th Kandak [equivalent of a U.S. Army battalion] gave the project their personal attention, accompanying the supplies and meeting the orphanage directors and children.

Allutullah's Soldiers loaded supplies on their trucks at the Feyzabad PRT site, then delivered the food, tents and first aid supplies to the orphanages.

Through the use of interpreters, the Afghan Soldiers involved expressed enthusiasm for the mission. They told the Soldiers of the 48th IBCT, “this is one of the first times we have felt that we are directly helping the people of Afghanistan.”

Mrs. Rabanni of the Rabanni Orphan-



Children at the Rabanni Orphanage stop for a picture while American and Afghan soldiers unload supplies in the background.

age said “I am very grateful for the food because the orphanage has a newly renovated kitchen, but little food for the approximately 90 children the orphanage cares for.” The Rabanni Orphanage is a Non-Governmental Organization that relies on private donations to supply its operations.

“The children were extremely excited,” said Maj Jeffrey Davis, an American Civil Affairs officer who participated in the operation. “They even helped unload the supplies.”

The Afghan, American and German Soldiers delivered 4 tons of supplies in-

cluding: flour, rice, cooking oil, sugar, tea, first aid & hygiene kits, and two tents to be used for emergency living space.

Both the Rabanni Orphanage and the Kinderburg International Maternity Ward and Midwife School, also provide help to mothers and infants.

As Muslims were celebrating Ramadan, the aid brought to the Afghan people came with even more meaning. Ramadan is considered a season of giving and celebration in the Muslim faith. Both the Afghan Soldiers and orphanages noted the special significance of the supplies at this time.

# French Soldiers learning combat life-saving skills

Story and photos by Spc. Jennifer Eddy  
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

On Aug. 21, French service members of the French Army Detachment Unit Epidote 24 graduated from a four-day Combat Lifesaver (CLS) training course conducted by U.S. Army Medics of the Surgeon Cell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Georgia Army National Guard.

CLS training teaches Soldiers who are not medics how to save the lives of their comrades in a combat situation. A combat lifesaver is trained in various techniques to stabilize combat wounds which include, but are not limited to, blast injury, severe bleeding and penetrating chest injuries.

"As a teacher of the Combat Lifesaver course I teach my students that there are three types of people," said Sgt. Stephanie N. Wammock, of Macon, Georgia. "There are people that will die no matter what we do," said Wammock. "There are people that will live, treated or not, and there are the people we train for, the ones that with our help we can save." Wammock is one of two CLS instructors assigned to teach the class and has also worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the fields of trauma, women's surgery and obstetrics and gynecology (OB-GYN) at the Medical Center of Central Georgia.

Epidote service members do not normally have the opportunity to learn these skills – they are usually only taught basic first aid by the French military. "Unless you are a French doctor or medic, it is forbidden to insert [intravenous needles], nasal tubes, or needles in the chest," said Premier Maitre (Master Sgt.) Laurent Lecrivain of the French Navy, currently attached to the French Military's Epidote 24. "For me it's very important to have this training, it's necessary."

Epidote 24 service members learned in class how to secure an open airway, how to insert a nasopharyngeal airway (nasal tube), how many breaths-per-minute is considered a normal rate of respiration and how to insert an intravenous needle (IV) into the body to boost blood volume by replenishing fluids.

"This training is what saves people's lives," said Wammock. "These basic simple steps are what sends a father home to his



Capt. Antoine Naulet of French Army detachment Epidote 24 proudly shows off his work of administering an intravenous needle to Sgt. Stephanie N. Wammock of Surgeon Cell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team on Aug. 20, 2009.

wife and children."

For an American CLS instructor educating foreign service members in U.S. Army techniques can be exceptionally rewarding. "[the French] were so motivated and attentive during the training because it was so new to them," said Wammock.

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Southerland, a CLS instructor and biomedical electronics manager at Piedmont Fayette Hospital who has previously been deployed to Bosnia and Iraq, also learned from his French students that, "[i]t's important for us to know what skills they have before we go out in the field with them."

"Teaching them gave me the opportunity to gain insight into their country's military medical culture," said Southerland. "I learned what kinds of medical treatments and systems their doctors and medics receive."

"I would like to see more coalition training, it opens up your perspective to the different cultures you're fighting with," said Southerland. "It's like [Army Basic Combat Training]; it breaks down the stereotypes you once had."

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## Medical Support provides critical need

Story and Photo by Major Matthew Way  
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Soldiers from Company C (Medical), 148th Brigade Support Battalion, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Forsyth, Georgia recently accompanied members of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix's Police Mentor Team 3 (PMT 3) to the village of Mosahi in the southern portion of Kabul Province, Afghanistan

to conduct a Civilian Medical Assistance (CMA) mission.

This mission marked the culmination of several days of planning and coordination by the Police Mentor Team led by 1st LT Jonathan Reabe and medical personnel led by Capt. Anna Talerico. The mission was part of a larger plan to counter Taliban influence in the village where, on nearby roads, coalition forces had discovered Improvised Explosive Devices

(IEDs) earlier.

The CMA missions create training opportunities for the mentor teams while also providing critically needed medical care to hundreds of Afghans. As part of new efforts to maximize Afghan-to-Afghan interaction, medical personnel work behind the scenes when advising local Afghan doctors on providing care. "These

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# Crystal Beale honored by Atlanta Motor Speedway

Story by Valerie Baldowski

Atlanta Motor Speedway and its corporate partner Degree V12 are committed to honoring America's armed forces and have selected an Army National Guard widow to serve as Grand Marshal for the Degree V12 300 Nationwide Series race at AMS.

Crystal Beale of McDonough has been selected as Grand Marshal for the Degree V12 300. Beale's husband, SFC John C. Beale, died June 4 in Kapisa, Afghanistan at age 39 from wounds suffered from an IED and small arms fire.

"My husband would be very happy with our community if he knew the level of outpouring and support," said Beale. "Being selected is very humbling and it was a very big surprise. My children are ecstatic and we're honored to be able to participate."

Crystal was selected to serve as Grand Marshal for the Degree V12 300 after the Degree Brand team heard her husband's courageous story.

Beale will not only represent her late husband on race day, but also the families of many other wounded and departed American soldiers.

"We're honored to host Crystal Beale as our Grand Marshal for the Degree V12 300," said Ed Clark, Atlanta Motor Speedway president and general manager. "Crystal's presence will not only



serve as a memorial to her husband John, but also to all of America's heroes who have been lost serving to protect our freedoms."

A native of Riverdale, John C. Beale served in the United States Army from 1989 through 1994 and was deployed in Operation Desert Storm. He returned to service in 2005 by joining the Army National Guard. In a civilian role, John served the Clayton County Water Authority and was active in the Authority's youth programs. He also enjoyed assisting with career days at local schools.

Married since 1990, John moved with Crystal to McDonough in 1997 where they resided with their two children, Christopher and Calye.

"We had the forbidden conversation about what would happen," said Beale, describing a pre-deployment conversation with John. "He told me, 'You guys will be taken care of through the military and even our community.' I never could have imagined all the support – it's been amazing. My husband would be very proud."

Medical Support continued



Afghan Man and child await their opportunity to see providers during the Civilian Medical Assistance visit at the Village of Musahi. (Photo provided by Company C, 148th BSB)

are all key elements in helping Afghan forces mature to a level where they can assume complete control of civil assistance missions," said 1st Lt. Reabe.

The CMA missions start early as final vehicle and equipment inspections are conducted before beginning the ninety-minute convoy to the village of Mosahi. Upon arrival, the team sets up the treatment area and pharmacy as an Afghan Army delegation informs the village elders of the medical clinic.

As people seeking treatment arrive, they are searched by Afghan police and assigned to a medical professional. Afghan doctors take the lead in treating patients and providing prognoses. The entire process is designed to maximize Afghan governmental participation and interaction with local leadership.

During the mission, medical professionals treated over 300 Afghans of all ages in less than five hours. The missions often leave the medical team exhausted from the constant flow of patients, but, as 1st Lt. Reabe notes, "it is always rewarding because at each CMA we are always able to assist several people in critical need of care."



# Bartender Soldier

## A skill set becomes useful in Afghanistan

Story and Photo by Spc. Jennifer Eddy  
48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Understanding how to interact with people and how to pick up on subtle social cues and mannerisms can not only distinguish great non-commissioned officers, but also good bartenders, from mediocre ones.

Before Staff Sgt. Lucas J. Hynes from Springfield, Georgia deployed to Afghanistan with the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Regional Police Advisory Command (RPAC) Police Mentor Team (PMT) 8, he worked as a bartender for two years at Retrievers, a sports bar that caters to the Georgia Southern University community in Statesborough, Georgia.

Working at Retrievers helped Hynes to further develop his leadership style and how to understand people when training American Soldiers and Afghan National Police (ANP).

“Soldiers respond to him, he’s very outgoing, personable and funny and all of these things help him in being a leader,” said Cpt. Robert J. Martin 48th IBCT, RPAC as part of PMT 8. “It’s those personality traits he developed while he was a bartender that contribute to his leadership style and aid him and the team greatly.”

Another benefit that Hynes’ bartending experience gives him is the ability to read other people and to recognize when there is conflict or a lack of trust.

“I can tell when someone is angry or getting rowdy I know how I can react to people and act towards them, who I can joke around with and who I can’t,” said Hynes. “You don’t want to joke around with someone who doesn’t appreciate it or like you that much, you should act serious and frank while still expressing common courtesies.”

Hynes’ experience bartending has taught him that in order to win people over, you have to show an interest in them so they can provide you with the information you need to better understand them.

“In bartending even if you’re not interested in someone, you have to show interest; I make my money in tips,” said Hynes. “You have to see what the people you’re serving like, what they’re into, so you can carry on a conversation and make them feel like they’re the coolest person in the world.”

By showing an interest in the Afghan culture he has learned how he can understand and win the trust of the local



people.

“I can tell, even when I don’t understand what someone is saying, when someone is talking about me through physical mannerisms and eye contact,” said Hynes. “I’ll throw out a phrase in Pashto or Dari so one of the interpreters will think I speak the language; they love it when you show an interest in their culture.”

Hynes’ ability to win the hearts and minds of his troops and the local ANPs that he trains comes from a genuine interest in making people happy.

“The same reasons why I enjoyed bartending are a lot of the same reasons why I enjoy working with the local people here in Afghanistan,” said Hynes. “I loved bartending not because its good money, but I love interacting with people; joking around with them and making them smile. The only difference is here I need

a translator and while bartending 99% of the people I talked to were drinking.”

Ultimately, the joy Hynes used to get from bartending in Georgia, he now gets from working with the ANPs in Afghanistan.

“When somebody is having a bad day at the bar, most likely from problems that made them want to go to the bar in the first place, as the bartender you can talk to them about their problems and make them feel better,” said Hynes. “At the same time, here in Afghanistan, I gave an ANP some equipment today that he really needed to complete his mission and he was really grateful for it.”

“I can see the instant gratification out of both circumstances—because I’m helping people with their problems,” said Hynes.



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mark Alberici

*"...You are not your own. You were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." 1Cor.6:19-20*

## INSPIRATIONS

Weekly Worship Services at Phoenix Chapel

"...But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things (i.e. clothes, food, drink etc.) will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matt.6:33-34 Wow! If these words of Jesus don't speak to our situation here at Camp Phoenix, I doubt anything else will. One very intelligent and experienced officer said to me the first full night we were here in Afghanistan, "Chaplain, one of the keys to a successful OCONUS deployment is to take one day at a time." Those words have stuck with me even up to the present as we are approaching the midpoint of the deployment.

This "one day at a time" philosophy takes on even more meaning as our task force is morphing and changing into something other than what it was when we first came here. We are not really sure

what "tomorrow" will bring. At that point we have a couple of choices: Either we could fret and worry about it, dwelling on all the worst case scenarios which will drive us crazy and not accomplish anything. Or, we could heed and trust the words and wisdom of Jesus which I would highly recommend.

Jesus is asking us and telling us (250-300 times over for each day we are here in country), "Are you trusting me for THIS day? How are you serving me THIS day? If you concern yourself with that, I will promise to take care of you because I know what you need and I will provide it for you. I love you and I have a plan for you THIS day." Do you believe that?!! If you do, you don't need worry about "tomorrow" especially when what happens "tomorrow" is out of your control anyway. Serve your Lord THIS day and do what is right for THIS day and truly "tomorrow" will take care of itself.

Love and Blessings in Our Lord: CH (LTC) Mark Alberici, TF Phoenix IX Chaplain

### Sundays:

0800-Catholic Mass  
0900-Traditional Protestant  
1030-Gospel Fellowship Service  
1400-Southern Baptist Service  
1600-Latter Day Saints Service  
1800- Catholic Mass  
2000-Contemporary Worship Service

### Mondays:

1800-Catholic Mass  
1830-Gospel Choir Practice

### Tuesday:

1800-Catholic Mass  
2000-Speak, Listen and Pray

### Wednesdays:

1800-Catholic Mass  
1900-Bible Study

### Thursdays:

1800-Catholic Mass  
1830-Gospel Choir Practice  
2000-Bible Study

### Fridays:

1800-Jewish Services  
1900- Contemporary Band Practice

### Saturdays:

2000-Gospel Fellowship Services

By SPC Chiquita L. Chavis  
Milpay, 374th FMC Det 2

## PDM...R WHAT?!

So, you've deployed twice in three years? Would you like time off? Chances are you are earning it without even realizing it. Previous Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence or PDMRA is a Department of Defense program intended to compensate Soldiers with days of non-chargeable leave when required to mobilize or deploy with a frequency beyond established DoD rotation policy thresholds. For Active Component that would mean more than once within a three year period and for Army Reserve and National Guard members more than once within a five year period. Government Civilian employees who are mobilized have the option to receive Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP) at a rate of \$200.00 for each day of PDMRA that would have been authorized, not to exceed \$3000 monthly. This policy applies to all creditable deployments and mobilizations underway or beginning on January 19, 2007.

Minus the "AR" jargon, Uncle Sam is going to allow you to earn leave days in addition to the two and a half days of tax free leave that you are already earning each month. PDMRA is accrued at rates of 1, 2 or 4 days per month depending on previous deployment time. PDMRA can be used in combination with, or in lieu of chargeable annual leave for R&R. This comes highly recommended

considering PDMRA has no tax benefits regardless of where it was earned and is deducted from your PDMRA balance rather than your chargeable leave balance; consequently you could save your earned tax-free leave for your return home. If you haven't earned enough to use by the time you take R&R, a memorandum signed by the first Colonel or GS equivalent in your chain-of-command can extend your orders to allow use. The calculation of this leave is a bit delicate and is the responsibility of the commander. Your responsibility as a Soldier is to make sure that you obtain copies of all orders and DD 214's to help establish your eligibility.

"PDMRA not used within twelve months of returning from deployment or during PCS travel are lost, and can not be retained or carried to the new PDS for later use." **DON'T LOSE YOUR PDMRA!**

If you have additional questions or comments about PDMRA eligibility, accrual and usage please contact the Camp Phoenix Milpay Office at B-Hut H9 or mail inquiries to Chiquita.l.chavis@afghan.swa.army.mil.



# Operation Outreach

Afghanistan 2009-2010

## Medical Aid:

Monetary Donations may be made at [babyheart.org](http://babyheart.org)

Choose "Make a financial donation"

Specify Operation Outreach under comments on donation form

We currently have several children on the waiting list that need life saving interventions.

**Help us help them!!**



Medina is a young girl that was provided with a wheelchair after years of depending on her parents to physically carry her to school and back each day.

Other children have received live saving surgeries and medical treatment such as heart surgery, removal of brain tumors and skin grafts.

## Humanitarian Aid Projects

### 2009 Winter Drive

**\*Goal: 5,000 Blankets in 5 Months (Aug-Dec 09)\***

Other suggested items to give: Winter Clothing, Coats, Shoes and other cold weather clothes



Donations may be sent to:  
Operation Outreach  
Camp Phoenix  
APO AE 09320



Afghan Village distribution of your donations