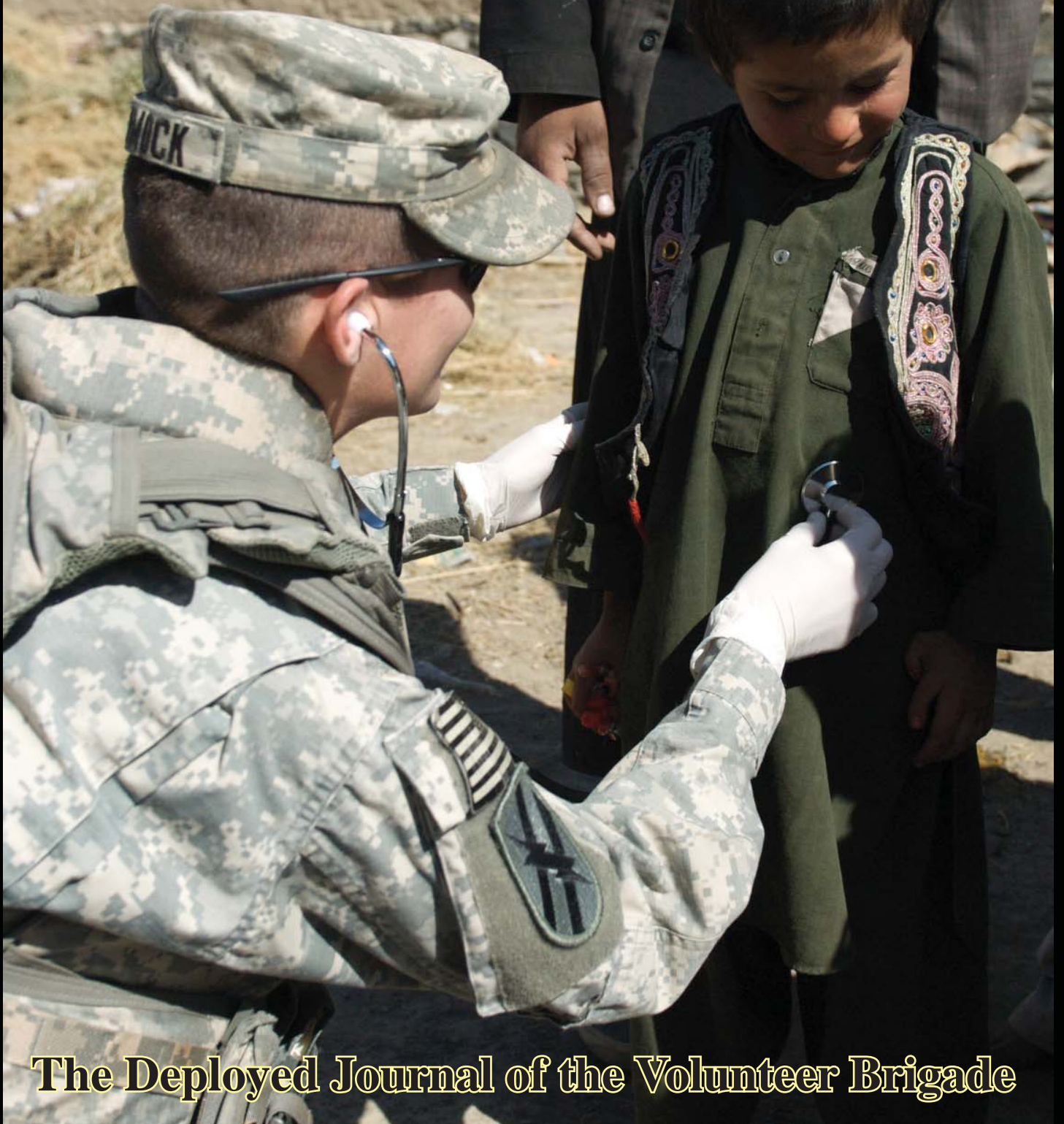


THE FIGHTING *48th*



The Deployed Journal of the Volunteer Brigade

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Sgt. Stephaine Wammock, of HHC, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Surgeon's Cell, listens to the bowel sounds (stomach) of a young Afghan girl during a medical assistance program in Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo by Spc. Jennifer C. Eddy, 48th IBCT Public Affairs)

Commander's Column



Hello Volunteers! Some of our battalions are nearing the half way point of the deployment and some battalions are more than half way through the deployment. Our Soldiers continue to do great things all across the battlefield from mentoring ANA and ANP to providing sustainment support for our Soldiers. The 108th RSTA Battalion and 1/121st Infantry Battalion are currently moving to their new loca-

tions in support of CJTF 82. The winter months are fast approaching. During this time it is extremely important that our leadership remains vigilant in focusing on safety, property accountability and pre-combat checks on all missions. First-Line Leaders must continue to ensure our warriors are focused on the daily tasks at hand.

There are two new initiatives coming up in the next couple of months, which are, the H1N1 flu shots and the new M-ATV fielding. The flu shots are important for your Soldiers and this preventive measure will ensure Commanders keep their Soldiers in the fight. The M-ATV fielding will ensure your Soldiers have the best and newest technology the Army has to offer, and will provide the best protection available on the battlefield.

As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, it is important to pause and give thanks for all we are blessed with. We are blessed with the greatest Army ever to be employed on the face of the earth, and we are blessed to be a part of the greatest nation ever founded. Take time to reflect on this past year and to remember how much the 48th Brigade has accomplished. The Volunteer team has ac-

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.

48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander

Col. Lee K. Durham

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael B. Hurndon

THE FIGHTING 48th STAFF

Public Affairs Officer

Capt. David Suttles

Deputy Public Affairs Officer/Editor

MCCS Donald Elliott

Public Affairs NCOIC/Assistant Editor

MCC Rodney Furry

Media Relations/JVB NCO

Staff Sgt. David Bill

Journalists

Sgt. Tracy Smith

MC2 Donisha Burns

Sgt. Danny Durham

Spc. Jennifer Eddy

MC3 Jeffrey Richardson

Graphics/Newsletters/Web Design

Spc. Alexandria Patterson

Administrator

Spc. Shawanna King

complished a great deal, and are part of a major transition period in Afghanistan. The Volunteer team has overcome every obstacle we have faced. The new year will be upon us soon and bring with it our planning for redeployment and a joyful reunion with our families.

Let us all remain focused on the mission at hand while planning on getting our great Volunteer warriors home safely.

*It's always a great day to be a Volunteer!
Send me!*

Wishmaster 6

Lt. Col. Perry Carter
Commander, 148th BSB



48th IBCT Soldiers Help Nomad Children

Story and photos by Spc. Jennifer C. Eddy
48th IBCT Public Affairs

Soldiers of Police Mentor Team (PMT) 1, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment of Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), with the assistance of combat medics from Headquarters 48th IBCT and Charlie Company, 148th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) participated in a medical drop at Kabul District 7, Kabul Province, Afghanistan Oct. 24.

The purpose of the medical drop was to provide medical assistance to children of the Kuchi nomadic tribe who were staying in the area and needed medical care.

"The neighborhood is made up of displaced people who will move for work and a warm place to stay. They are nomads," said PMT 1 leader 1st Lt. Salvatore J. Buzzurro. "The nomad community is made up of approximately 40 families and PMT 1 was able to treat over 20 children during their medical drop."

PMT 1 first discovered the nomads when they were sent to patrol the area for the first time about a month ago.

"We were sent to check out the area and we found these people and all their

children had some type of illness," said PMT 1 Combat Lifesaver Brad J. Jones, an infantryman who's civilian profession is nursing. "We were able to treat children for skin rashes, and one little boy had an



Spc. Brad Jones, a nurse in his civilian career, discusses medical treatment for a young Afghan boy during a medical assistance event in Kabul, Afghanistan.

extremely bad bacterial infection on his head."

"Because the little boy didn't receive any attention for his cut initially, the bacterial infection festered and the small bump progressively got worse," said Jones. "I cleaned up the head injury and the adults became more open to advice when they saw how much better it looked. They saw that we were genuinely trying to help. When we went back two days later to change his bandage he looked a lot better. He was even starting to grow hair in the affected area."

In addition to providing medical assistance to the Kuchis, members of PMT 1 are organizing additional humanitarian assistance by informing people back home.

"My wife in the States is organizing a club at the school where she teaches. Her club is going to collect clothing and shoes. As a parent, it is very rewarding to help take care of these children. They are the next generation, and the future of Afghanistan," said Buzzurro.

"We were so moved the first time we helped them, our team has decided to adopt the community and check up on them on a regular basis," said Buzzurro. "We're here to help them."

Humanitarian Assistance Struck by Taliban IED

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeffrey M. Richardson
48th IBCT Public Affairs

A convoy of Soldiers from the Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was hit by an improvised explosive device October 15 while delivering a humanitarian assistance shipment to the village of Terrana.

There were no casualties, but the trailer carrying winter clothing for women and children, and fresh food and water was destroyed in the attack.

The Soldiers continued the mission despite the danger of traveling through a known IED hot spot to deliver ammunition and fresh water to the Afghan Army.

Spc. Darrell K. Hubbard Jr., the truck commander said "The Afghan National

Army and Afghan National Police were going to be the ones handing the supplies out, our mission was to just deliver it." He added, "Going down the route, we counted at least 34 different blast sites."

Spc. Jason K. Enckler, the driver of the truck towing the trailer full of supplies said, "Moving along a dirt road, I noticed we came up on a graveyard on both sides and in the blink of an eye there was just a big red and white flash and instant chaos."

Despite the temporary confusion of the blast, Enckler remained levelheaded to ensure his team's safety.

"Shockingly enough," said Enckler, "I was kind of calm. Everything seemed like it was going in slow motion and the first thing I did was make sure the truck was still mobile, pushed out of the kill

zone and looked at my truck commander. He gave me the thumbs up and we began to check on everyone else in the truck."

Once Enckler ensured everyone was alright, his thoughts turned to how lucky he was.

"The first thing I thought about was being fortunate," said Enckler. "I think everybody in the truck thought we were all pretty lucky because the trailer was just gone. The trailer was just obliterated."

"It was a big blast," said Spc. Billy J. Espinoza, who was the turret gunner in the truck. "I looked down to see if everybody was ok- if anyone was hurt, and then I immediately let them know I had a gun down because the blast knocked it out of the mount."

Once the situation was sorted out, it

Continued on page 5

Huedkheyl Village Shura at Camp Phoenix

Story and Photos by SPC Jennifer C. Eddy
48th IBCT Public Affairs

On Oct. 8, coalition officials of Camp Phoenix, Kabul and Afghan village elders of Huedkheyl Village in eastern Kabul district, Kabul province held a Shura to discuss problems faced by the Huedkheyl village, tribe and the Ahmadpopal High School in the village.

The problems faced by Huedkheyl village, tribe and high school include lack of employment, poor irrigation and educational resources.

Town elder Ajabgul said, "With the lack of jobs, schools and opportunities, our young men, our breadwinners are unable to keep busy and support themselves and their families."

"The young men are walking around jobless and this is why the war is getting harder and stronger" said town elder Haji Rafiq. "The young men are left with only three options; they can go to the Taliban, go to theft, or stay idle and unproductive."

"Our solution is for the Coalition Forces to hire and support locals instead of contracting out to other countries," said Ajabgul. "This serves two purposes; it gives locals jobs to keep them off the streets and it also increases the security around because less people have hostile intent."

"We hope to find solutions to the community's irrigation problems and need for construction by hiring members of the local community to fix the wells and build walls," said Commanders Emergency Relief Program (CERP) manager for Task Force, Kabul Master Sgt. George W. McVay who is planning to research solutions with Huedkheyl Representative to Kabul Shura, Maruf Hatak.

"We also plan on immediately providing 1,500 students with school supplies and are anticipating more in the next month," said McVay.

"The tribe and the people have suffered a lot, the tribe is now united and we don't want to suffer the way we did with the Russians," said Rafiq. "If Phoenix is safe we are safe, if Kabul is safe, Phoenix is safe."



Huedkheyl Village elder Haji Rafiq expresses his concerns for the youth in his community during a Shura meeting held at Camp Phoenix, Kabul Oct. 8.



Schoolgirls of Part of Gozargha School in District 7, Kabul Province, Afghanistan take a break from their studies Oct. 11. Police Mentor Team 1, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team routinely visits the school providing medical aid and housing for its students.

Photo by Spc. Jennifer C. Eddy
48th IBCT Public Affairs



A 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldier provides Afghan women with humanitarian assistance supplies during an HA drop held in Kabul, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by Spc. Jennifer Eddy
48th IBCT Public Affairs

was clear there wasn't going to be a complex attack so the crew doubled back to see if there was anything left to deliver to the people.

"The trailer was pretty much gone," explained Espinoza, "and the HA supply that we had was all over the place. It was destroyed to the point where you couldn't really use it."

Upon realizing there wasn't anything left to give to the people, Espinoza became very concerned for the children it was intended for.

"It makes me really angry because children are more susceptible to getting sick and not having the proper clothing or proper supplies to keep warm," he said. "It makes me very angry that they (Taliban insurgents) would take away from their own people."

Despite the setback in the mission, Hubbard believes the people know coalition forces have their best interests in mind.

"The people in the village and Afghanistan understand that we're here for them, and we're not just here to corrupt or take away from the country," said Hubbard.

The team's determination to continue the mission despite the loss sent a positive message to the citizens.

"Showing them good faith and kindness by supplying them with something that will help them makes me feel good," said Espinoza.

Despite the fact the humanitarian assistance was destroyed, the team members are already packing up new supplies to deliver to the people.



Service members and civilians gathered Oct. 4 to get a brief from 1st Lt. Bethany McDonough before starting the Army Ten-Miler at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Story and Photos by
Spc. Alexandria Patterson
48th IBCT Public Affairs

Service members and civilians gathered Oct. 4 to race in a local Army Ten-Miler at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan. The Army hosts the National Ten-Miler Road Race every October in Washington D.C. This year's shadow run at Camp Phoenix was hosted by 1st Lt. Bethany McDonough of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

"I really wanted to run a distance race in Afghanistan because it would be a once in a lifetime experience", said 1st Lt. McDonough.

The race started around sunrise, with people lining up as early as 5:00 a.m. to register. Around 100 participants ran throughout Camp Phoenix. The fastest male and female were each presented with

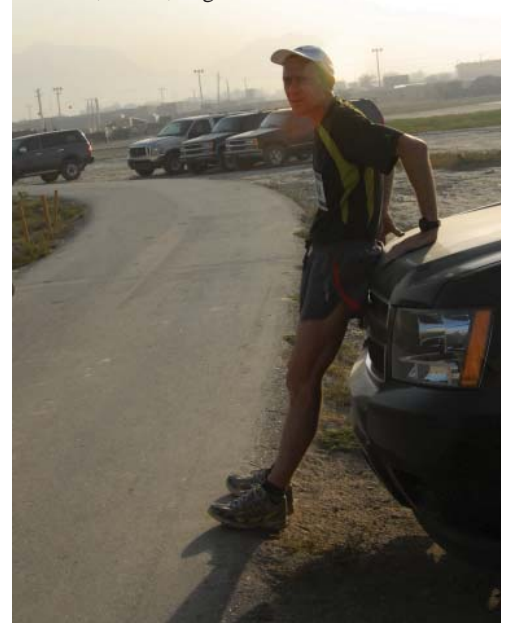
a plaque. Master Sgt. Michel Dubreuil, of the French Army Epidote Detachment was the first place winner with a time of one hour, five minutes and ten seconds. The second place winner was 1st Sgt. Oliver Frangeul, also of the French Army Epidote Detachment. Col. Felicia French of the 48th IBCT was the fastest female and the second fastest female was Staff Sgt. Piedad Holmes of the 48th IBCT.

The race lasted about two hours and all finishers received free t-shirts. Each runner expressed their own reasons for running.

"I'm just going to go out there to run and have fun", said Staff Sgt. Daniel Larson of the 48th IBCT.

The Army's first Ten-Miler Race in 1985 attracted just 1,600 registered runners, and grew to over 17,000 by 2007.

Master Sgt. Michel Dubreuil rests after taking first place in the Army Ten-Miler Oct. 4 at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.



Sen. John Kerry dines with Mass. Soldiers

Story and Photos by Spc. Jennifer C. Eddy
48th IBCT Public Affiars

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts visited five Mass. soldiers attached to the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during a casual dinner of steak and lobster held in the dining facility at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan Oct. 16.

“Even though the dinner was short, the senator made a point to shake hands with everyone and show support,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Lawson of Weymouth, Mass., a police mentor and the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Team 3, Alpha Co., 2 Battalion, 121 Infantry Regiment, “He asked very pointed questions and seemed interested in what we had to say.”



Senator John Kerry D-MA (right), listens to Sgt. Stephanie K. Thibodeau, Marblehead, Mass., during the senator's visit to Camp Phoenix.

The Soldiers Kerry had dinner with serve in the community around Camp Phoenix as combat medics and police

mentors in the Kabul province. The dinner was an opportunity for Kerry to develop an understanding of Afghanistan from the ground up.

Lawson said, “It’s good to know someone from your home state knows what’s going on because he’s communicating with the troops on the ground. It’s important for the President to get input from people on the ground.”

“It’s always a good thing when VIPs come and visit us. It gives them a clearer understanding of what’s going on, and it improves their ability to communicate with the Department of Defense,” said Sgt. Stephanie K. Thibodeau of Marblehead, Mass., a Combat Medic attached to Charlie Co. 148th Brigade Support Battalion.

Safety 1st

Top 10 Ways to Keep Electricity Safe

- If you feel a tingle of electricity or mild shock – REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY.
- Leave the technical work to the experts. Check for and report any potential electrical issues such as: loose connections, exposed wiring, and any burned or charred marks on the wall. If this exists, Report It.
- Check your power strips and adapters to ensure they are certified. Look for the European CE or US UL mark embedded in the device.
- Never overload the circuit. Do not daisy chain power strips and do not stack adapters.
- Make sure you keep at least 6” clearance in front of and around the wall outlets. Keep items or debris from making contact with the power strips.
- Know where the fire extinguishers are in your living and working areas and know how to use them.
- Unplug all non-essential items when not in use.
- Plug refrigerators and microwaves directly into an outlet, not into a power strip.
- No cooking or open flames in your living and work areas.
- Check CHU’s days (On Tuesday, Check your smoke detector and fire extinguisher in your living quarters.)

Heating Appliances:

- a. Space heaters of any kind are prohibited in all living areas (B-huts, CONNEX housing, RLBs, barracks, tents or any other area where personnel are billeted).
- b. Space heaters may be utilized in non-living areas when approved by the Base Fire Department or Safety Office in writing. If authorized, space heaters may only be used as a temporary heat source when the primary source is not available and shall be UL rated with a tip over switch. During operation, heaters will be placed a minimum of 18 inches from all combustible materials on all sides. They must be on a non-combustible surface and must be attended.



Daisy-chaining!

Fire Prevention Safety

- Only use NEC (National Electric Code) or UL (Underwriters Laboratory approved electrical cords/adapters inside CHU’s
- Avoid daisy-chaining power strips. This is a serious fire hazard.
- Avoid being messy. Keep clothing items, paper, cardboard, etc. away from electrical sources.
- No smoking inside tents, CHU’s, buildings, or vehicles. Only smoke in designated areas and dispose of cigarette butts in proper containers.
- Gas or charcoal barbecue grills, when used, will be kept at least 50 feet from structures and outside of T-walls.
- Paper or cardboard will NOT be used to cover windows or opening in walls in any living or working area.
- Cooking inside tents and CHU’s is prohibited.
- Get to know your egress routes for living and working areas. Understand where your unit designated emergency evacuation area is.
- Familiarize yourself and your battle buddies on the location and proper use of fire extinguishers in your respective areas.
- Coordinate with your Camp Safety or Fire Warden for a fire inspection of your living and work areas.

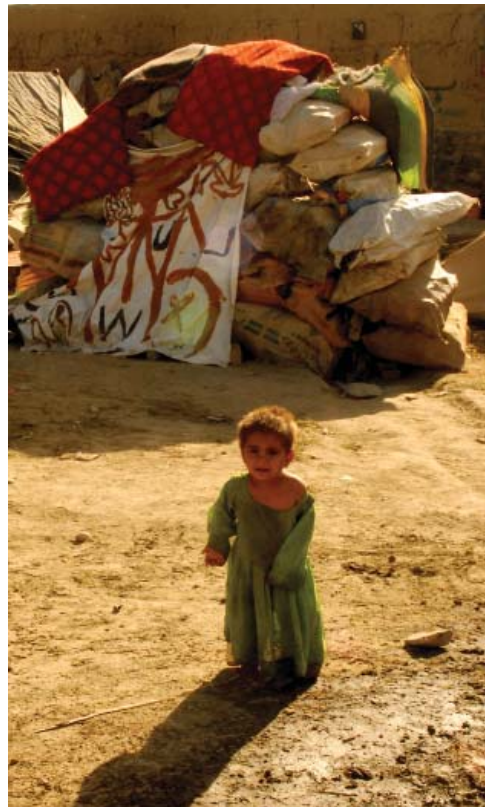


Spc. William B. McCaslin of Police Mentor Team 1, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team brings smiles to the faces of Kuchi nomad children during a routine visit Oct 11. Team 1 routinely visits the village providing medical aid for the Kuchi nomads currently living in District 7, Kabul Province, Afghanistan.

Photo by Spc. Jennifer C. Eddy
48th IBCT Public Affairs

A Kuchi nomad child reaches out a hand for help during a routine visit by Police Mentor Team 1, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team on Oct. 11. Team 1 routinely visits the village providing medical aid for the Kuchi nomads currently living in District 7, Kabul Province, Afghanistan.

Photo by Spc. Jennifer C. Eddy
48th IBCT Public Affairs



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Maj.) Eduardo DoCampo

You Can Be an Instrument of Peace

You can be an instrument of peace. Peace starts in each individual's heart and will result in positive relationships with one another. Consider being instruments of peace by planting seeds of love and justice that will grow into blessings for everyone. You will be blessed and will be a blessing to others by getting your heart right, repairing broken relationships, building new relationships with those around you, and sharing with those for whom you can be a positive influence. You don't have to do it alone. The Creator desires for his creation to be at peace and will guide you when you join him in committing yourself to be an instrument of peace.

Chaplain Docampo



Prayer for Peace

"O Lord, even when we are at war, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us plant the seeds of your love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Lord, even when we are at war, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is injustice, let us plant seeds of justice;
Where there is pride, humility;
Where there is anger, restraint;
Where there is brutality, kindness;
Where there is fear, courage;
Where there is blindness, wisdom.
O Lord, even when we are at war, make us instruments of your peace,
Take the good seeds that we plant, and grow them into good blessings for the sake of your name and your kingdom."
Amen

Adapted from prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi