

FREEDOM WATCH

JUNE 2010



AFGHANISTAN



CJTF-82 SPECIAL EDITION

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FREEDOM WATCH

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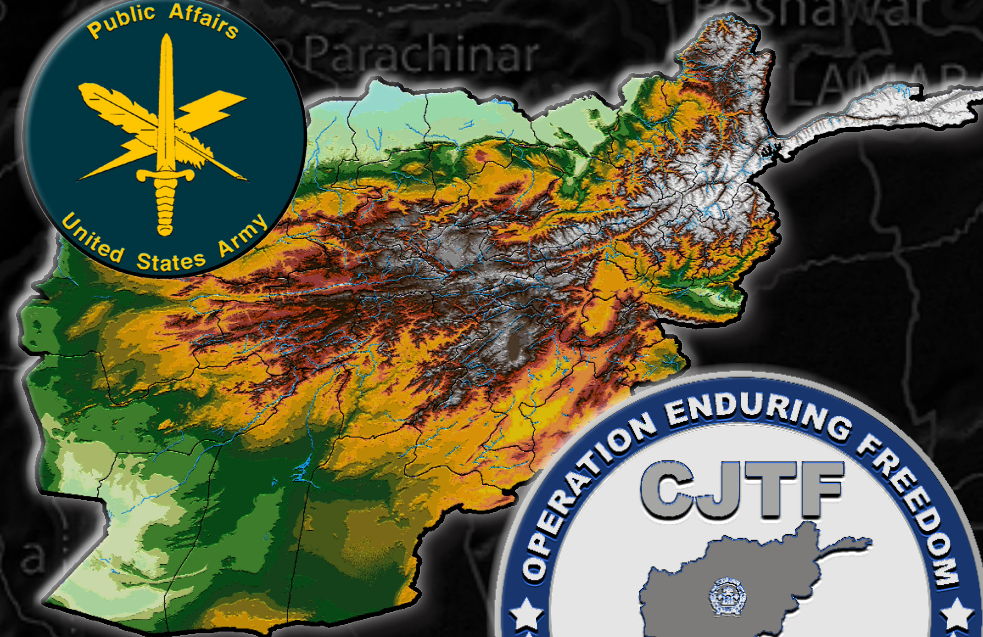
CJTF-82

Note from the Editor:

This issue of the *Freedom Watch* Afghanistan magazine focuses on the past year of operations in Regional Command-East, highlighting the achievements of servicemembers and civilians who constitute Combined Joint Task Force-82.

In addition, the staff of the *Freedom Watch* magazine hopes that this special edition will serve as a milestone and learning tool for those returning, continuing or just joining the fight in Afghanistan. While not all stories could be printed, we have done our best to represent the accomplishments and sacrifices made here since June 4, 2009.

Journalism has been quoted as being "the first rough draft of history." To see the rest of these drafts, please visit www.CJTF82.com.



Thank You from a Grateful Command



To our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Coalition, Civilian and Afghan partners of CJTF-82 and RC-E:

Twelve months ago, the 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters assumed the mission of Regional Command East. This past year has been incredibly challenging and you have done a remarkable job. You have all made sacrifices while supporting the mission here to provide security and a better way of life for the people of Afghanistan; some made the ultimate sacrifice. We always remember those who gave all for our mission.

But we're not the only ones who've sacrificed in the hopes of making the world a better place for our children. We stand shoulder to shoulder not only with our Coalition and Afghan partners, but with the people of Afghanistan as well. And we want all of our partners and friends here in Afghanistan to know that the men and women of Regional Command East remain dedicated to our mission and that dedication will not waiver, regardless of whether the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters is filled with members of the 82nd Airborne Division or the 101st Airborne Division.

Over the course of this year, we've been impressed by your commitment. Despite the challenges, you remained focused on the mission, understand the importance of protecting the people, and the will of a people. We know that we have an extraordinary group of patriots who have chosen to serve and sacrifice for our Nation in a time of war. We are honored to have had the opportunity to lead you and proud to have served beside each and every one of you.

Thank you for your service and for being part of the team that protects freedom. God bless you and your Families.

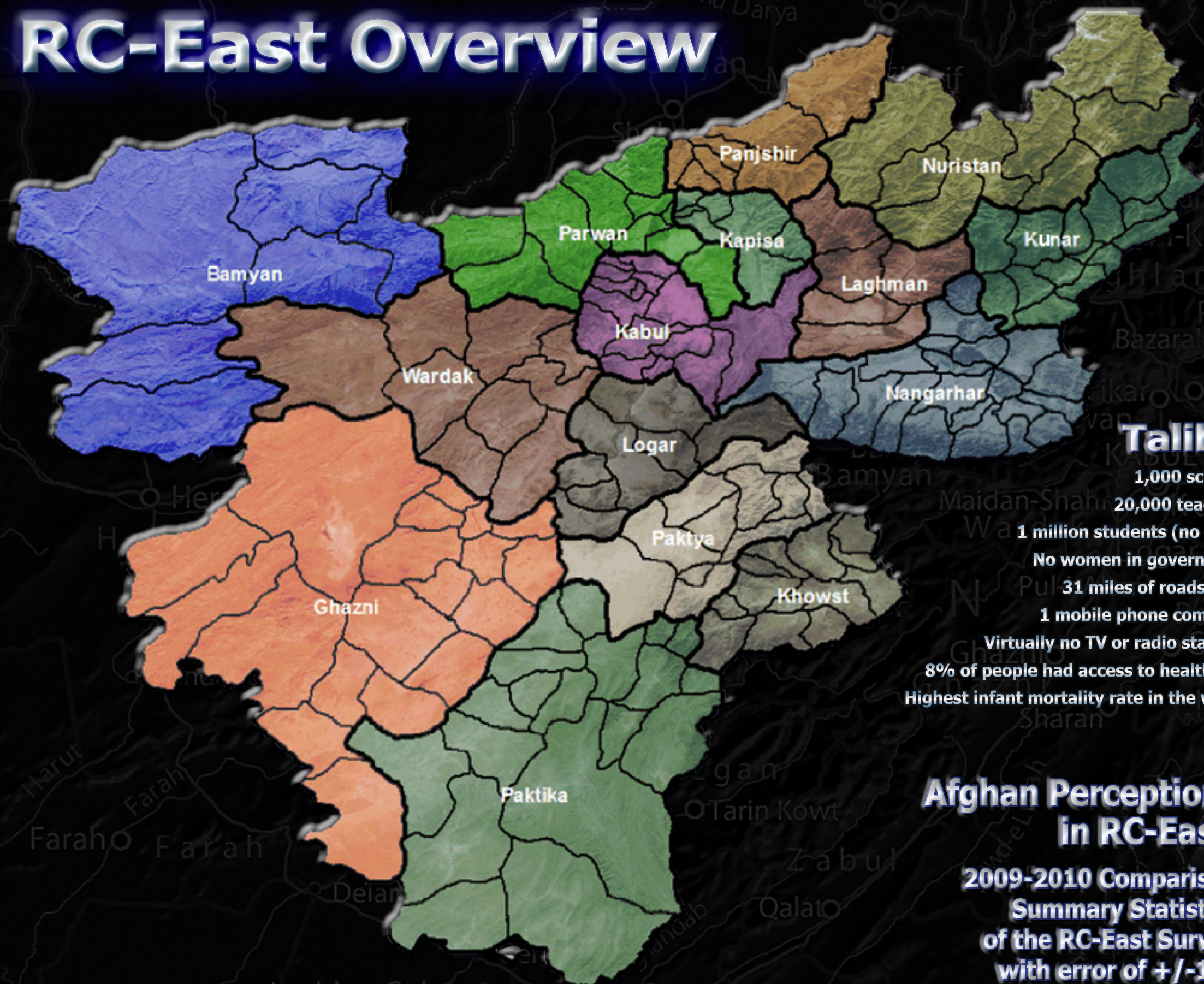
Airborne, All the Way!

Curtis M. Scaparrotti
Major General, US Army
Commanding General

Dawn M. Liberi
Senior Civilian Representative
Regional Command - East

Thomas R. Capel
Command Sergeant Major, US Army
Division Command Sergeant Major

RC-East Overview



RC-East Key Facts

One of five regional commands under ISAF

14 provinces

Contains Afghanistan's capital, Kabul

Local population of 9.9 million people

Area Size: 48,137 square miles

450 miles of shared border with Pakistan

Only U.S.-led region

Majority of U.S. forces are located in RC-East

ISAF partners include Australia, Czech Republic, Egypt,

France, New Zealand, Poland and Turkey

Taliban Era Versus Today

1,000 schools vs. 9,000 schools (800% increase)

20,000 teachers vs. 160,000 teachers (700% increase)

1 million students (no girls) vs. 6.2 million students (2.2 million are girls)

No women in government vs. 68 seats representing 27.3% of lower parliament

31 miles of roads built vs. more than 1,864 miles built (5,900% increase)

1 mobile phone company vs. 4 companies, 6.5 million subscribers

Virtually no TV or radio stations vs. 14 TV and 104 radio stations

8% of people had access to healthcare vs. 85% of people have access

Highest infant mortality rate in the world vs. 22% reduction (89,000 lives saved)

Afghan Perceptions in RC-East:

2009-2010 Comparison Summary Statistics of the RC-East Survey with error of +/-1%

66% said drinking water availability improved

71% said boy's education improved

56% said girl's education improved

58% said medical care improved

66% said roads improved

53% said job availability improved

70% said the roads are safe or somewhat safe

45% say economy is better

42% say security is better (20% improvement)

88% say ANSF are building a better Afghanistan

CJTF-82 Year in Review with Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti

Story by Army Staff Sgt. Corey L. Beal, 304th PAD

As the commanding task force of RC-East since June 3, 2009, CJTF-82 has built upon the foundations of progress laid by CJTF-101.

Commanded by Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, CJTF-82 has overseen operations in a region covering an area of eastern Afghanistan roughly the size of Mississippi (over 46,000 square miles), with three times the population (9.9 million).

Inside the region are 14 provinces surrounding the capital city of Kabul, and 450 miles of shared border with Pakistan. The terrain is dominated by steep mountains and channelized valleys that geographically isolate communities and create a multitude of operational impediments.

The mission of CJTF-82 in this culturally and geographically diverse area, has been to conduct full spectrum operations to disrupt insurgent forces, develop host nation security capability, and support the growth of governance and development in order to build a stable environment.

"The measurement for success in achieving that mission was gaining the initiative within RC-East: both against the enemy and in the progress of building the government in its total capacity," said Scaparrotti.

Gaining that initiative in RC-East has been accomplished by a conglomerate of military forces and civilian specialists.

Countries with troops operating under the command of CJTF-82

have included the United States, Australia, Egypt, Czech Republic, France, New Zealand, Poland, Turkey, Germany, Macedonia, Turkey and S. Korea. U.S. forces have included Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Special Operations.

This diverse force has been a key to success, said Scaparrotti.

"Our strength is in our diversity and the unique skills of the different cultures that have come together to form CJTF-82. We all have a role to play and in a complementary way we are stronger – we are better for it."

In addition, CJTF-82 has ushered in a new era of Unified Action, meaning the integration of civilian experts within the military organization to assist in development operations.

"Unified Action has been significant - there is no other way to say it," said Scaparrotti.

This has included specialists from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development and other U.S. government agencies.

"Throughout this conflict we have always felt that we needed more civilian experts in order to really do the development of governance and development in Afghanistan," said Scaparrotti. "We have gone from about 20 to 25 civilians when we got here to 175 now - all with great experience and the right background for the issues we have to deal with in terms of building Afghan capacity."

The legacy of CJTF-82 rests in its accomplishments made through a deliberate unified effort to build and reinforce the Government Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. This effort has focused on security, governance, and development. Security has been established through counterinsurgency operations, focusing on population centers and critical border areas in order to destroy enemy networks and disrupt enemy sanctuaries.

Protecting the people of Afghanistan has been the priority since day one, said Scaparrotti.

"It is all about the people. It has been reinforced again and again this year that it is about the security of the people and gaining the trust of the people and once you can do that - I think here in Afghanistan in a very large way - this fight will be over."

"Re-positioning of our forces to align with population centers was a critical move in providing security for the Afghan people," said Scaparrotti. "We made some significant moves in force posture, particularly in Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan and Laghman, which is beneficial to the mission now and will continue to be in the future."

A key component of establishing security has been CJTF-82's partnership and combined action with ANSF.

Combined Action is the integration of Coalition and Afghan forces into single organizations to conduct counterinsurgency operations and more rapidly expand the cred-

"Our strength is in our diversity and the unique skills of the different cultures that have come together to form CJTF-82."

Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, CJTF-82 Commander

ibility, capacity and capability of the ANSF.

"We are partnered much closer with the ANSF than ever before, and that works both ways," said Scaparrotti.

"We have learned a lot from our Afghan partners and we are working toward a common objective in a much closer way. You have to attribute the success we've had to the close working relationship of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Special Operations and Civil experts with their Afghan partners."

The focus on governance has included the support of local governments and the GIRoA, connecting them with their citizens, and supporting access to justice and rule of law.

Connecting Afghans to the government has been a longtime obstacle in the progress of Afghanistan. Many villages are isolated from their government by terrain and communication obstacles.

"Radio has been a key in connecting Afghans," said Scaparrotti. "It is how Afghans get their news. We have started a large number of radio stations and have trained a number of Afghan partner disc jockeys in order to increase the Afghans connection with and knowledge of their government."

"Most of this has been focused on programming the Afghans want, not our messaging. That's been powerful and it is what they want," said Scaparrotti.

An obstacle in the support of Afghan governance has been the cul-

tural uniqueness of Afghanistan.

Learning, respecting, and using these aspects in our approaches has proven vital to success, said Scaparrotti.

"What I learned here in terms of connecting people with their government was we had to have respect for and connect to the elders of their tribes and communities," he added. "It was through those elders that were respected by the people that we could then make advancement in connecting them with their government."

"That was just a basic principle that has been reinforced with me over and over again this year. That is the way their culture has evolved and it is the basis of what the people want and how they live."

CJTF-82's focus on development has centered on sustainable development through economic growth. This has included training and retention of critical Afghan skill sets, vocational training programs, enabling institutions and infrastructure, and incorporating local initiatives into development programs.

"We have focused greatly on development," Scaparrotti said. "I was not driven by the amount of money or number of projects. We first said it was Afghan solutions to Afghan problems, and then we focused on the projects that the people needed and that directly contributed to the effects on counterinsurgency."

Provincial Reconstruction Teams have been the nucleus of CJTF-82's efforts in development. PRTs

are composed of military and civilian members that partner with local governments in order to assist in their development.

"This partnership is a critical piece in the counterinsurgency," said Scaparrotti. "Establishing respective governments for these people and their security is far more important than even fighting the Taliban."

"There are a lot of things you can do that are good, but we wanted to make sure what we did was in fact good and effective in moving us forward in this counterinsurgency effort."

In looking back at a mission nearly completed, Scaparrotti describes what is being passed to CJTF-101 as the product of the people who made it happen.

"We're talking about that small amount of the population that raised their hand, took an oath and decided to protect our way of life and our values, and they have done it with great persistence, incredible compassion in a tough mission – and all of that for the good of our nation, the good of our children and also for the good of the Afghans. I think it's a noble cause and they have every right to be proud of what they have done here this year."

"I couldn't be more proud or appreciative of the professionalism, service and sacrifice of our servicemembers in CJTF-82 and their civilian counterparts. It's been an honor to lead them and be among their ranks," said Scaparrotti. 🌟

Saving the Force: Medical Missions in Afghanistan

Story by Air Force Capt. Chris Sukach, CJTF-82 PAO

Story contributors: Army Sgt. Spencer Case, 304th PAD, and Air Force Master Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing PAO

In the medical community, “point of injury” refers to both a place on a casualty’s body and the location where his journey to safety begins.

Thanks to advances in battlefield medicine and transportation, a casualty who reaches a Forward Surgical Team within one hour of receiving his or her injuries has a 99-percent chance of survival. This survival rate is

made possible

by troops of

all branches of the armed services working together.

The process begins when someone calls in a nine-line medical evacuation request on

tions Center) to get what information they have from the nine-line, and you run out to the aircraft going to expect the unexpected.”

While the MEDEVAC helicopter is en route, the FST prepares to receive the patient. Depending on the severity of the injuries, troops at the FST may coordinate helicopter transportation to Bagram

Airfield with

the MEDEVAC battle captain. There are 10 surgical treatment facilities in RC-East and all of them are prepped and ready to treat the wounded at a moment’s notice.

During the past year, the CJTF-82 Surgeon Cell Team

behalf of the injured party. Within minutes, a UH-60 Black Hawk or HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter at the nearest FST is en route to evacuate the wounded.

“Your heart starts beating,” said Spc. Wesley E. Morris, a medic for C. Co., 5th Bn., 159th Aviation Regt., Wyoming National Guard and a resident of Douglas, Wyo., describing what it is like to receive an urgent MEDEVAC request. “You run over to the (Tactical Opera-

has facilitated more than 3,000 MEDEVAC missions, coordinating transportation for more than 4,500 injured people to the FSTs. While some of the servicemembers coordinating the evacuation efforts may not be on the front lines treating the wounded, they are an essential part of ensuring the injured get to treatment centers.

Army Capt. John Ramsey, CJTF-82 MEDEVAC battle captain and medical logistics officer for the 82nd Airborne DSTB, doesn’t mind

that he’s not in the limelight.

“No one ever sees what we do, but it doesn’t matter as long as the guys who need it get to the hospital and get treated,” said Ramsey, a resident of Charleston, S.C. “I may not know those guys on the battlefield, but when the notification comes in we kick into high gear to do what needs to be done to get those guys the treatment they

need.”

Ramsey said the most gratifying part of his job is helping those who need it when they need it most.

“We’re getting guys off the battlefield as well as getting the medics out to treat the wounded as quickly as possible. We get these guys treated so they can get back to do the mission,” he said.

If a servicemember needs treatment beyond what can be provided at Craig Joint Theater Hospital on

“I may not know those guys on the battlefield, but when the notification comes in we kick into high gear to do what needs to be done to get those guys the treatment they need.”

-Army Capt. John Ramsey,

CJTF-82 MEDEVAC battle captain and medical logistics officer

Bagram, he must be moved to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany or to a treatment facility in the United States. At this point, the members of the CJTF-82 Surgeon Cell hand over the evacuation process to the Air Force Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility team at Bagram. The CASF, composed of more than 30 members, is the hub

the patient’s information into systems that facilitate movement to Germany or the United States. The information is then validated, and the injured servicemember is manifested on a flight, typically a C-17 Globemaster III, KC-135 Stratotanker, or C-130 Hercules.

“We help move the patients’ equipment and luggage

onto the aircraft,” Benjamin said.

“And whether it’s getting 52 or 10 patients to an aircraft, it’s pretty neat to be able to help.”

Like Ramsey, the majority of Benjamin’s work goes unseen by the patients she assists.

“I’m responsible for getting the patients out of theater that need to get out,” she said. “I’m a big part of that process and if I didn’t do my job correctly, patients wouldn’t get to where they need to go. Knowing I make this happen is rewarding to me.”

Depending on the severity of the injuries, medical professionals may accompany the patient out of theater. This is done by either a Critical Care Team, consisting of a flight doctor, flight nurse and respiratory therapist, or an Air Evacuation Crew, which is composed of two flight nurses and three medical technicians.

Air Force Maj. Carolyn Dale, CASF Air Evacuation assistant chief

nurse deployed from the 433rd Air Evacuation Sqdn. at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and a resident of Austin, Texas, says that caring for the wounded on an aircraft is a bit trickier than caring for them on the ground.

“You have limited resources, like medicine, in the air,” she explained.

“Plus, there are

lots of factors that affect the patient, like noise, dehydration and the vibrations of the flight. We do our best to provide the care and support the patients’ needs to alleviate these effects and to get them where they need to go while making their trip as painless as possible.”

Sometimes, the AE crews find that what their patients like most is conversation.

“We talk with patients on the plane and ask them about their families and where they’re from,” said Dale.

“We’re all deployed so we have that in common and can talk about it. It’s amazing but most of our patients don’t really talk about their injuries or what happened to them. They mostly talk to us and ask us about the things everyone talks about when they’re deployed—home and their families.”

Dale, who has more than 20 years of emergency room experience, said she loves her work.

“I have the best job in the world,” she said. “It’s never routine, and you never know what to expect, but you always have to be prepared for whatever comes your way.”

Army Sgt. Jason Graham (left side of Black Hawk) and Army Staff Sgt. Darcy Munoz (right side of Black Hawk) both members of C. Co. MEDEVAC, TF Brawler, conduct live hoist training with a Soldier of the 27th Engineer Bn., TF Tiger, Jan. 12, at FOB Shank.

Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Tant, TF Brawler UPAR, TF Falcon.

OPERATION JAEZA

DOD REWARDS PROGRAM

Story by Army Capt. Jennifer Bocanegra, CJTF-82 PAO

Since November, an advertising campaign known as Operation Jaeza has helped Afghan civilians in RC-East create a secure environment through the U.S. Department of Defense Rewards Program.

The Rewards Program began in 2003 and was used heavily in Iraq. The program pays host nation citizens for information leading to the capture of criminals, weapons storage facilities or IEDs. In RC-East, it allows Afghans to keep safe from insurgents while reaping financial rewards.

Rewards include humanitarian assistance, community development projects, and monetary rewards starting at \$50 and going higher depending on the value of information, weapon or individual turned in.

Community safety lines, phone num-

bers that allow Afghans to report information to ANSF at provincial and district coordination centers, were established to make it easier to take advantage of the Rewards Program.

The identities of program participants are kept anonymous and members may choose several options to report suspicious and criminal activity.

During this past year, IEDs accounted for 59 percent of the civilians killed in Afghanistan. In 2008, IEDs killed or injured 1,013 civilians. From August through October, 121 civilians were killed and 435 civilians were wounded.

"IEDs are not only a life-threatening risk to the local population; they also impeded the development efforts in the area," said

Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven Mehl, program manager for RC-East.

"It works. It gives the Afghans a way to reach out to their government. Most of them don't want Taliban in their village because they take their food, their houses and their mosques."

- Army 1st Lt. Justin Kokernak, platoon leader, B Troop, 1/172nd Cav. Det., Military Police Sqdn., Vermont National Guard.

Insurgent IED attacks on roadways caused several key road projects, such as the road from Naray to Kamdesh, to be delayed up to 545 days due to damage.

CJTF-82, who have been in command of RC-East since June 2009, established the community safety lines, then started Operation Jaeza to promote the Rewards Program.

This non-lethal operation incorporated active information operations from 318th Psychological Operations Co. Soldiers, as well as information operations, and public affairs sections from each of the battle space owners.

The troops disseminated messages encouraging Afghan citizens to use the community safety lines through leaflets, radio broadcasts, news releases and press conferences.

During this first iteration, which ran from October to February, CJTF-82 paid out more than \$360,000 in reward money to Afghans.

RC-East received more than 560 tips, of which 99 led to weapons caches and 18 led to the capture of key insurgent leaders from both Haqqani and Taliban networks.

From February to April, CJTF-82 ran a second iteration of Operation Jaeza, during which time they paid

out almost \$125,000 in reward money to helpful Afghan citizens.

This information led to the discovery of items routinely used to harm Afghan civilians, ANSF and ISAF troops, including 128 RPG rounds, 655 rounds of ammunition, and 1,682 mortar rounds and their components.

"We have collected what would be worth \$31,000 to the insurgents in IEDs, IED-making materials, and unexploded ordnance. In total, we have prevented up to 1,500 deaths or injuries to innocent civilians, Afghan National Security Forces and Coalition Forces," said Mehl.

"It works," said Army 1st Lt. Justin Kokernak, a platoon leader for B Troop, 1/172nd Cav. Regt., Military Police Sqdn., Vermont National Guard. "It gives the Afghans a way to reach out to their government. Most of them don't want Taliban in their village because they take their food, their houses and their mosques."

The Rewards Program and community safety lines will remain in place after CJTF-82 departs Afghanistan in June.

"We will continue to actively promote this program because it is saving lives and making the local communities safer for families," Mehl said.



An ANA Soldier at a press conference at FOB Thunder, Paktya province, March 10, displays weapons confiscated from insurgents. The ANA's 203rd Thunder Corps held the press conference to highlight the hand-off of more than 100 illegal weapons to the Afghan government. The capture of the weapons was a direct result of the Rewards Program, advertised in RC-East through Operation Jaeza.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio, CJTF-82 PA Advisory Team

Afghan National Army

Securing Afghanistan's Future

Story by Army Sgt. Andrew Reagan, 304th PAD

The mission of the Afghan National Army is to defeat the enemies of Afghanistan and provide a better future for the Afghan people.

Servicemembers of CJTF-82, who share this mission, have helped enable the ANA to achieve this goal through Combined Action.

Combined Action means having elements of Coalition and Afghan forces function together in a single organization, with the goal of leaving the ANA fully responsible for the security of Afghanistan.

"Combined Action, while it is a more complex mission, accelerates the ANSF's ability to achieve their goals," said Army Col. Kenneth E. Ring of the Indiana National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, senior partner to the ANA's 203rd Thunder Corps and chief of staff of the FOB Thunder Tactical Operation Center, Paktya province. "It's a harder mission; but it is the right way to do things, because when it's done correctly you fully embed with the Afghan force and you become one unit, not two units working together, but one unit working for one purpose."

With the ANA assuming a lead role in operations comes a significant responsibility for the safety and security of the Afghan people, said ANA Brig. Gen. Mohammed Akbar, deputy commander for the 203rd Corps. The ANA is ready to shoulder that responsibility.

"Our hope is for the Soldiers of the ANA to stand on our own and be responsible for our country," said Akbar, through the aid of an interpreter. "As an officer of this Army and a citizen of this country, I want peace for our people. They have had a very hard time and I want them to enjoy a life of peace."

The effort to help the ANA to stand on its own has included extensive training on everything from basic military

skills such as rifle marksmanship and HMMWV driver's training to tactical leadership techniques for senior NCOs.

The training goes beyond military skills and tactics to include the development of literacy skills that will lead to a more educated fighting force and a brighter future for both the ANA and the Afghan people.

"It's the most valuable thing we do here," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Brown, the command sergeant major for the Indiana National Guard's Regional Corps Training Team 2.

"With literacy comes people (being) able to read things for themselves and not be influenced by others' ideas," he said. "When you can read, that's the most powerful tool there is."

While illiterate Soldiers can learn basic skills, they need to read and write to progress in their military and civilian lives, said Mark Hubbard, site manager for the 203rd Corps literacy program.

Hubbard said almost 19,000 ANA Soldiers have enrolled in the program since its inception in March 2009, and added that increased literacy in the ANA has positive effects on all of Afghan society.

"We see this (program) as a way of developing the country as a whole," said Hubbard. "We're hoping that the Soldiers can learn to read and write, then they can go back home and teach their brothers and sisters and their own children. Then over the course of time literacy will expand in the country."

Another essential element in building the ANA for the future is

"Our hope is for the Soldiers of the ANA to stand on our own and be responsible for our country,"

—ANA Brig. Gen. Mohammed Akbar, deputy commander for the 203rd Corps

training the ANA's NCO Corps to be proficient, responsible leaders, said Brown.

"The NCOs take guidance and orders from the commander, and with the Soldiers they carry it out," said Brown. "They are responsible for the training (of soldiers), the way the army looks, conducts its business, makes its time hacks and carries out its mission."

Brown works with a team of British Soldiers to oversee the ANA NCO Academy on FOB Thunder, which features ANA instructors teaching the everyday courses to their own Soldiers. NCO Academies at Thunder and other installations have produced a total of 6,000 graduates since June 2009.

The focus on NCO training has resulted in an NCO Corps that is taking an increased responsibility for the welfare of its Soldiers, as well as a greater leadership role, said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hannibal, the NCOIC of the ISAF Joint Command's Afghan Development and Assistance Bureau.

"It's rewarding on our side, and it's impressive to see NCOs stepping forward who believe in doing that," Hannibal added.

One mark of progress has been the improvement of ANA facilities.

The facilities at the NCO Academy once had such a poor reputation that ANA Soldiers did not want to train there, said British Army Sgt. Maj. William R. Cooper, of the 6th Scottish Regt., and the team leader for the British advisors to the NCO Academy.

Over the last several months, a new dining facility, new latrines,

and renovations to the barracks and classrooms have resulted in an influx of motivated, focused ANA Soldiers.

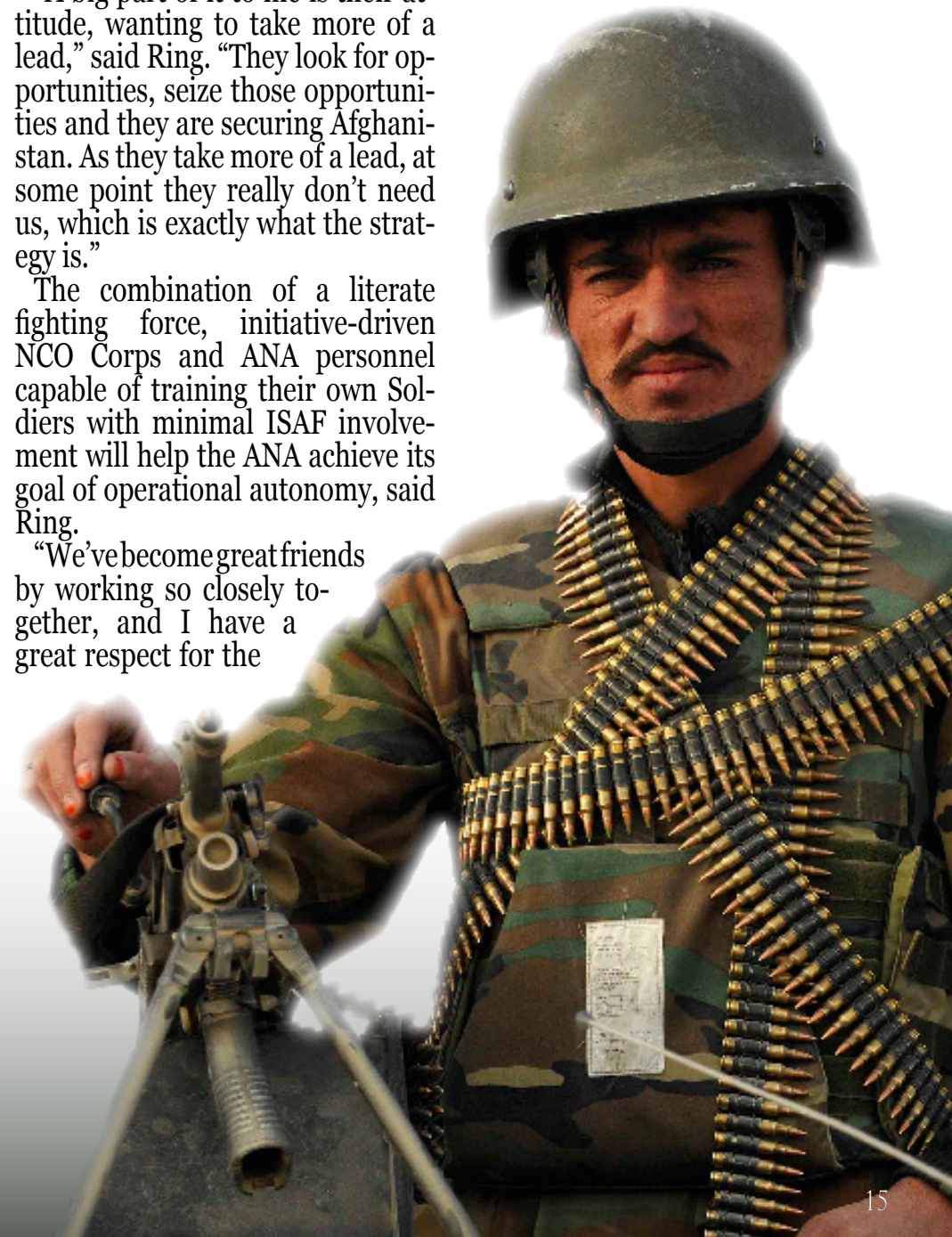
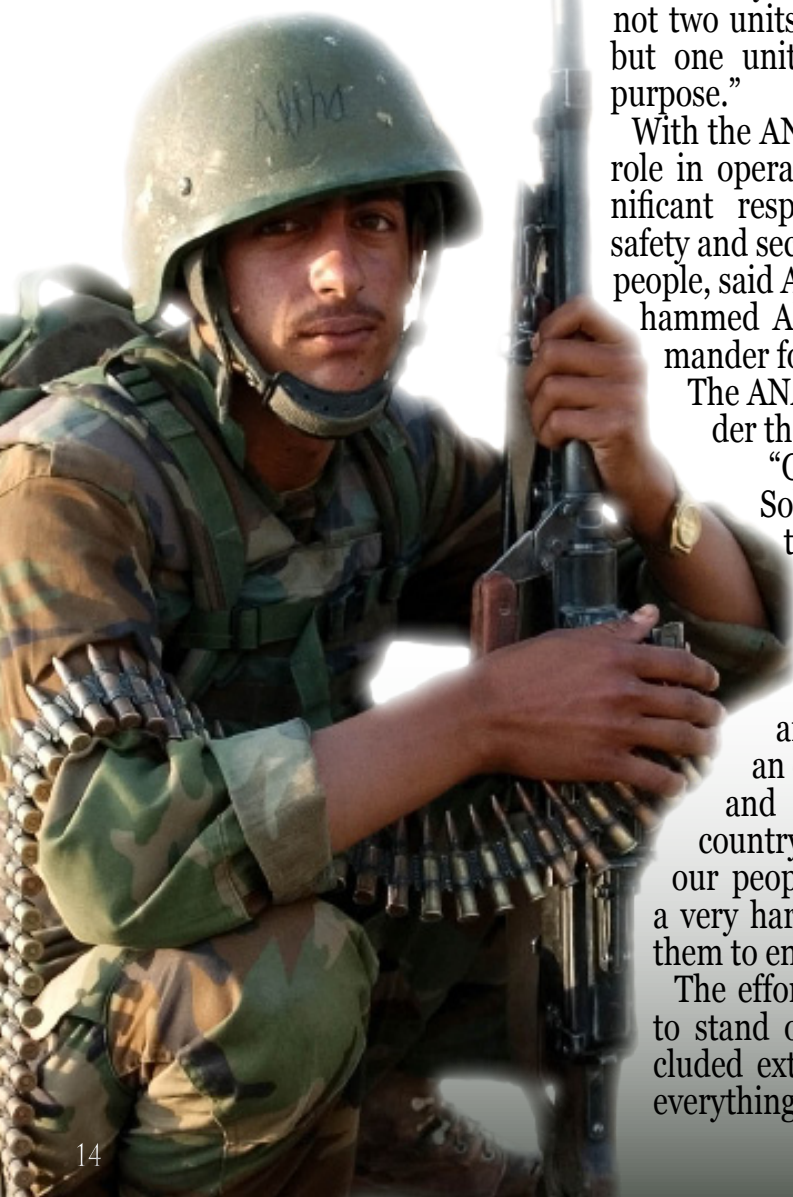
Though they are still planning and conducting operations with ISAF partners, the ANA Soldiers display an attitude of being eager to take charge, Ring said.

"A big part of it to me is their attitude, wanting to take more of a lead," said Ring. "They look for opportunities, seize those opportunities and they are securing Afghanistan. As they take more of a lead, at some point they really don't need us, which is exactly what the strategy is."

The combination of a literate fighting force, initiative-driven NCO Corps and ANA personnel capable of training their own Soldiers with minimal ISAF involvement will help the ANA achieve its goal of operational autonomy, said Ring.

"We've become great friends by working so closely together, and I have a great respect for the

Afghan army," he said. "They know they can trust us and count on us and we know we can (do the same). With that trust comes the ability for us to move forward. They shouldn't be wondering 'If I do this, will they leave me?' We're not going to leave them until it's time. The good news is the time is coming."



Afghan National Police

Protecting Afghanistan, Providing Law and Order

Story by Army Sgt. Spencer Case, 304th PAD

Contributors: 1st Lt. R.J. Peek and Pfc. Christopher McKenna, 3rd BCT, 101st Airborne Div. PAO

One of the fundamental steps to defeating the insurgency in Afghanistan lays in providing law and order for the people.

This responsibility falls on the Afghan National Police, a branch of the ANSF some 100,000 members strong, which includes the Afghan Uniformed Police, the Afghan Border Police, the Afghan National Civil Order Police, and a few other policing and paramilitary entities.

In many ways, the ANP have more of an impact on counterinsurgency

efforts than the ANA, said Army Maj. James A. Ramage, a deputy provost marshal for ANP development for CJTF-82.

"If the police are legitimate, if they're out there doing their job providing law and order, that goes a very long way toward de-legitimizing an insurgency," said Ramage, who hails from Hope Mills, N.C. "If people are secure in their homes and their neighborhoods they aren't going to join an insurgency."

Much has changed with the relationship between ANP and International Security Assistance Forces since CJTF-82 assumed command of RC-East June 3, 2009. The biggest change has been that the regional task forces became directly responsible for ANP progress last fall, an event which allowed for greater opportunities for Combined Action, Ramage said.

The new relationship between the ANP and ISAF battle space owners, combined with initiatives of the Government of the Islamic Re-

"If the police are legitimate, if they're out there doing their job providing law and order, that goes a very long way toward de-legitimizing an insurgency,"

-Army Maj. James A. Ramage, a deputy provost marshal for ANP development for CJTF-82.

public of Afghanistan, has helped combat two obstacles to developing a professional police force: corruption and lack of adequate training.

"In our rotation we've seen improved training and pay for the police, which in turn helps with the corruption issues," Ramage said. "If you're making a living wage, you're not going to make a buck on the black market or make a buck by fleecing down civilians for illegal tolls or some other racketeering type of crime. So on our rotation, the partnership we've been able to

do with the police along with the training, that's helped dramatically in terms of shaping a professional police force."

Ramage's claim that progress has been made with the development of the ANP over the last year is corroborated by the results of a survey conducted by ISAF.

Twenty male surveyors and 20 female surveyors gathered the viewpoints of more than 6,000 Afghans residing in every district of RC-East on issues related to security and development.

According to the most recent quarterly survey completed in April, 88 percent of Afghans in RC-East reported that they agreed with the statement, "The ANP are capable of protecting." Only 10 percent said they thought that they're in danger from the ANP, a 7-percent decrease from April 2009.



ANP
page 18

Afghan Uniformed Police

ANP Continued The AUP are the largest and most frequently seen face of the ANP and first line representatives of Afghan government.

The AUP is approximately 65,000 patrolmen strong and they are charged with the day-to-day policing of Afghanistan at the district level.

Keeping the force trained and competent is a high priority for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and ISAF.

To this end, troops in RC-East have increased partnership with the AUP during the course of CJTF-82's deployment. Of the nearly 160

rected Police District Development Program.

The FDPP extracts troubled AUP units from the districts where they operate and places them in a Regional Training Center for a period of eight weeks. While they are away, the ANCOP, an elite federal response force with more than 3,000 members comparable to U.S. police Specialized Weapons and Tactics teams, step in to fill the vacuum.

A newer program, the DPDD, is essentially an inverted version of FPDD. It allows the AUP units to remain in place and has trainers from the Ministry of Interior embed with the unit to conduct on-site

training for a period of 12 weeks. During that period, half the unit trains for six weeks while the other half conducts regular operations; the two halves then switch.

This puts less stress on the ANCOP and allows law enforcement to stay local, Ramage said.

"The local elders, the local villagers, can all see the immediate benefits," he said. "They don't have to become accustomed to an ANCOP or some other police agency coming into their district the whole time."

There are currently more than 50 districts in RC-East whose police are in either the FDDP or DPDD program, of which 18 began training during CJTF-82's tour.

At that rate, the Ministry of Interior is on track to meet its goal of having all AUP "key terrain districts," which the Ministry of Interior has selected for focused development efforts, trained by 2011.

Afghan Border Police

The ABP are composed of more than 12,000 police officers and are responsible for providing security at Afghanistan's four international airports and 3,435 miles of border with six countries. The total length of Afghanistan's borders is about the combined length of the U.S. border with Mexico and Canada's border with Alaska.

Afghanistan's border with Pakistan is its longest, stretching 1,509 miles. Of that, 450 miles is in RC-East, a distance about 100 miles longer than Arizona's border with Mexico. The Pakistan border is particularly important because of the threats posed by the narcotics trade and organized crime groups like the Haqqani Network.

Due to other challenges facing Afghanistan, capacity building for ABP has not been a priority over the last few years. However, progress in RC-East has allowed CJTF-82 to focus on the ABP more than predecessors. They have focused on education and partnership.

The ABP have made progress over the course of CJTF-82's deployment.

Many ISAF troops have partnered with ABP. Soldiers from C. Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Inf. Regt. at Waza Khwa, Paktika province conducted over 100 patrols jointly with ANSF in their first 100 days. These troops found the ABP to be competent partners and loyal servants of their country.

"Working with the ABP is a rewarding challenge and a unique experience," said 1st Lt. Dave Hanson, a platoon leader with C. Co. from Endicott, N.Y. "The level of partnership we have been able to

develop in such a short time frame demonstrates their willingness to protect their country and the promise of a bright future."

1st Lt. Scott Harris, the C. Co. executive officer, gave a similar assessment of the ABP.

"The ABP have been instrumental in our fight against the insurgents," said Harris, who hails from Fayetteville, N.C. "Whether they are working side by side with Coalition Forces or they are out conducting independent operations, the results are always the same—success."

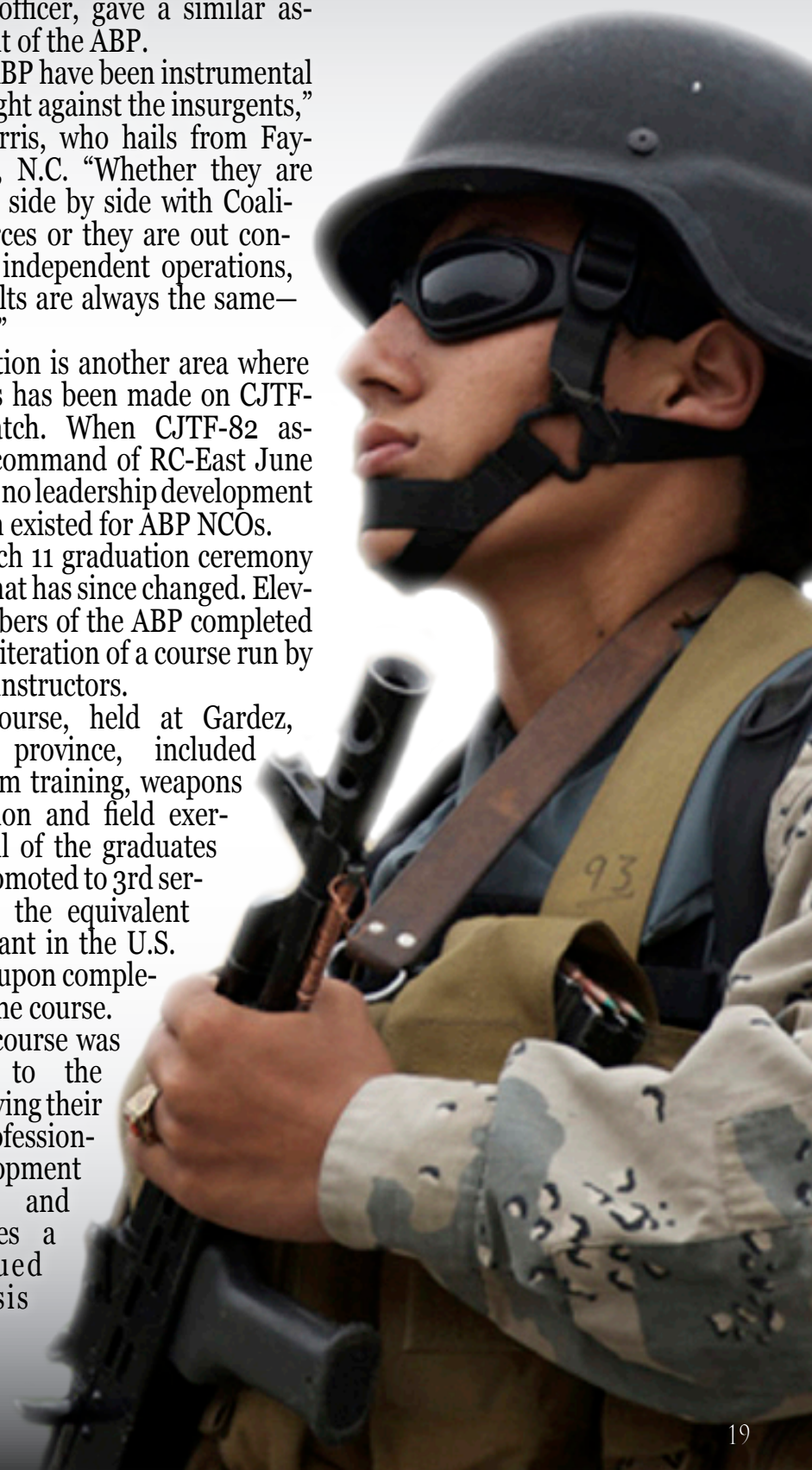
Education is another area where progress has been made on CJTF-82's watch. When CJTF-82 assumed command of RC-East June 3, 2009, no leadership development program existed for ABP NCOs.

A March 11 graduation ceremony shows that has since changed. Eleven members of the ABP completed the first iteration of a course run by Afghan instructors.

The course, held at Gardez, Paktya province, included classroom training, weapons instruction and field exercises. All of the graduates were promoted to 3rd sergeant – the equivalent to sergeant in the U.S. Army – upon completion of the course.

"This course was critical to the ABP solving their own professional development needs and reinforces a continued emphasis

of development of a professional NCO Corps," said Army Master Sgt. Jason Dodge of Stanley, N.Y., HHC, 3rd STB, who helps supervise ABP NCOs.



CJTF-82 Fallen Heroes

James Anderson	Anthony M. Lightfoot	Abraham S. Wheeler
Randolph Bergquist	Mark R. McDowell	Matthew M. Martinek
Jeffrey Lehner	Thomas J. Gramith	Johan Naguin
Jarrett P. Griemel	Gregory Owens	Marcin J. Poreba
Eduardo S. Silva	Dennis J. Pratt	Darryn D. Andrews
Ricky D. Jones	Justin D. Coleman	Youvert Loney
Steven T. Drees	Alexander J. Miller	Randy M. Haney
Rodrigo A. Munguia Rivas	Richard K. Jones	Michael C. Murphrey
Brian N. Bradshaw	Anthony Bodin	Thomas Rousselle
Peter K. Cross	Patrick S. Fitzgibbon	Edwin W. Johnson
Terry J. Lynch	Jonathan M. Walls	Aaron M. Kenefick
Justin A. Casillas	Jerry R. Evans	Michael E. Johnson
Aaron E. Fairbairn	Daniel Ambrozinski	James R. Layton
Nicolas H. J. Gideon	Morris L. Walker	Tyler E. Parten
Gregory J. Missman	Clayton P. Bowen	Piotr Marciniak
Joshua R. Farris	Brian M. Wolverton	Nekl B. Allen
Eric J. Lindstrom	Justin R. Pellerin	Daniel L. Cox
Jason J. Fabrizi	Matthew L. Ingram	Gabriel Poirier
Matthew K.S. Swanson	Darby T. Morin	Yann Hertach
Andrew J. Roughton	Kurt R. Curtiss	Kevin Lemoine
	Matthew E. Wildes	

RC-East OEF IX-X

Alex French	Anthony G. Green	Michael D. Cardenaz
Russell S. Hercules	Robert K. Charlton	Fabrice Roullier
Ryan C. Adams	Devin J. Michel	Matthieu Toinette
Brandon A. Owens	Eduviges G. Wolf	Harouna Diop
Aaron M. Smith	Brandon K. Steffey	Enguerrant Lebaert
Stephan L. Mace	Julian L. Berisford	Vincent L. C. Owens
Justin T. Gallegos	Christopher J. Coffland	Nicholas S. Cook
Christopher T. Griffin	Jason A. Mcleod	Jason M. Kropat
Kevin C. Thomson	Kenneth R. Nichols	Jonathan J. Richardson
Joshua J. Kirk	Elijah J. Rao	Robert Hutnik
Joshua M. Hardt	Ronald J. Spino	Sean M. Durkin
Thomas D. Rabjohn	Dennis J. Hansen	Jonathon D. Hall
Vernon W. Martin	Michal Kolek	Michael K. Ingram
Kevin C. Thompson	Anton R. Phillips	Robert J. Barrett
Michael P. Scusa	Jason O. B. Hickman	Grant Wichman
Kenneth W. Westbrook	Daniel D. Merriweather	Nathan P. Kennedy
Johann Hivin-Gerard	Geoffrey A. Whitsitt	Eric M. Finniginam
Radolsaw Szyszkiewicz	Lucas T. Beachnaw	Jeremy L. Brown
Szymon Graczyk	Robert Donevski	Denis D. Kisseloff
Chris N. Staats	Thaddeus S. Montgomery	Christopher Barton

THE FIGHT AGAINST IEDS

Story and photos by Spc. Jay Venturini, 304th PAD

IEDs are a familiar threat to International Security Assistance Forces, ANSF, and Afghan civilians.

In 2006, the ISAF formed a specialized unit to combat this threat: TF Paladin. Named after the warriors of Charlemagne's court, TF Paladin operates as the overarching entity charged solely with defeating IEDs.

As a subordinate of CJTF-82, TF Paladin is spread throughout Afghanistan and counters IEDs by way of road clearance, forensics, and training the ANSF and ISAF on counter-IED skills.

This three-tier approach has yielded results, said Army Col. Bert Ges, TF Paladin commander.

For example, although the number of IED incidents has increased in the past year, the average of successful attacks against ISAF troops has been reduced.

"We average about 800 IED incidents per month and of that, more than half of those are found and cleared with less than 20 percent being considered effective," Ges said. "However, we are working against a very savvy enemy that is

agile and adaptive, so we have to continually be ahead of them."

In 2008, the average for IED incidents per month was a little more than 300, with a higher percentage of them considered effective.

Route Clearance

Explosive ordnance disposal and route clearance units throughout Afghanistan take to the roads, some three or four times per week. Equipped with mine detecting vehicles, Talon robots, the latest IED intelligence and vigilant eyes, TF Paladin troops are ready for the next IED.

"The biggest thing is to find it before it finds you," said Spc. Eric Hitzges, a combat engineer with 3rd Plt., 62nd Engineer Co., 4th Engineer Bn., who routinely spends up to 14 hours a day on the road.

Even when conducting standard patrols, when a possible IED is discovered EOD personnel are never far away, said Army Lt. Col. Christopher Eubank, TF Gladius commander, who had battle space ownership of Parwan province for 12 months.

"Without (TF Paladin) we can't do a lot of things," he continued. "My

guys aren't trained in ordnance disposal or how to properly handle munitions, so any time there was a suspected IED, we would give Paladin a call. They would come out and we would secure the area while they did their work."

However, if that same patrol happens to get hit by an IED their job isn't over.

"After an IED incident it is important to secure the blast site and not let anyone touch anything," said Eubank. "That way when the EOD personnel come out to the site it will be preserved, and they can collect as much evidence as possible."

Forensics

The preservation of blast sites is crucial, because one of the most successful ways to defeat an IED is to learn how it was made and placed, which gives insight to what to look for on the roads.

Once an IED is neutralized the Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell lab goes to work, breaking down IEDs to their basic components, analyzing how the device works and how it was put together.

"Anytime there is an IED component out there it is a possible trea-

"Anytime there is an IED component out there, it is a possible treasure chest of information and intelligence on the enemy."

- Army Col. Bert Ges, TF Paladin commander.

sure chest of information and intelligence on the enemy," Ges said.

The information that is collected from the CEXC lab is distributed to the different battle space owners throughout Afghanistan with detailed IED information specific to the region they operate in.

"Through the exploitation of IEDs we can determine how they work and emplacement techniques, which helps EOD experts, conventional Soldiers and our Afghan partners do their jobs better," said Army Capt. Anthony Kazor, CEXC OIC.

The CEXC lab is constantly analyzing the most timely data and newest components to counter an enemy that is always changing their methods and tactics on how they make and place IEDs.

"Our analysis of the IEDs is always evolving," said Kazor. "But we are able to meet all the changes; we are able to exploit the devices to above satisfactory level in order to provide that timely, relevant data back down to the battle space owners."

Training

Collected IED information is in-

tegrated into IED training for ISAF and ANSF troops.

Every servicemember coming into Afghanistan receives daylong IED awareness training at one of five training sites throughout Afghanistan where they learn about specific threats in their area.

In addition to standard training, a new tool for combat engineers has come into play recently. Blow in Place Theater-Specific Training equips combat engineers in route-clearance platoons with the knowledge and skills to identify and safely destroy certain types of IEDs without EOD personnel assistance.

"This training gives combat engineers the experience they are going to need when they are out on route clearance missions," said Army Staff Sgt. Sean Purdy, of the 539th Explosive Hazards Team and BIP-TST instructor. "Their main mission is mobility, so having the skills to blow an IED themselves and continue their mission is vital to their overall success."

Since the inaugural class, 159 combat engineers have completed the course, including 10 Marines. There are three more classes sched-


uled with plans to add more.

TF Paladin also does extensive training with other ISAF countries as well as the ANA.

Notably, they have begun a partnership with the Pakistani military to grow and develop their EOD personnel and counter-IED capabilities with a national-level counter-IED facility in Pakistan.

"We are working with them to build and expand their EOD elements, as well as teach them to neutralize IEDs," said Ges. "As their capabilities mature we plan to show them how to render an IED safe."

Despite all the training and best efforts of TF Paladin, EOD and route clearance personnel they cannot achieve their mission alone.

"The IED threat is a problem set that is going to be solved by counterinsurgency," he continued. "An IED task force isn't going to solve this problem, the Soldiers on the roads and amongst the people are. It's all about the golden rule, treat the Afghans like you want to be treated." 



◀ MRAP

Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle:

- Used in Afghanistan and Iraq
- 48 different versions
- Introduced in 2003
- Primary vehicle used for missions
- Designed to protect occupants against all attacks

Husky ▶

Husky Mine Detection Vehicle:

- Used in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Designed to take IED blast without injury
- Equipped with metal detection trailers
- Sole mission is to find mines
- Equipped with ground-penetrating radar sensors



DEVELOPMENT IN RC-EAST: KEYS TO SUCCESS

Story by Army Sgt. Spencer Case, 304th PAD

Operation Enduring Freedom won't be won with bullets and bombs alone.

While combat operations rage on, a quieter narrative unfolds in the background. It's the story of new schools, new opportunities and new challenges.

Those who understand it, like Army Maj. Bryce Jones, a Reserve civil affairs officer with the 405th Civil Affairs Bn., say it's critical for winning the war.

"We want to get the populous to say 'you know what—we don't need Taliban anymore because Coalition Forces are making our lives better,'" said Jones, a Henefer, Utah resident, who spent eight months helping to implement U.S.-funded development projects in Panjshir province.

Development is particularly important in RC-East, one of five regional joint task force command territories in Afghanistan. This territory, the battle space of CJTF-82, is roughly the size of Mississippi. It contains 14 of the country's 34 provinces surrounding the capital, Kabul, and about 9.9 million people, who make up roughly a third of the country's population.

Dawn Liberi, the civilian counterpart of Army Maj. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the commander of CJTF-82, said 41 of the 81 regional development zones selected by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for special attention are found within RC-East.

Liberi said the two largest sources of U.S. government money, U.S. Agency for International Development and the Commander's Emergency Response Program, contributed a total of about \$900 million to development and governance projects in RC-East since June 2009. The two programs contributed in roughly equal amounts.

In order to understand what this money means—to understand the broad development strategy—an acquaintance with the key concepts and key players is essential.

"We want to get the populous to say 'you know what—we don't need Taliban anymore because Coalition Forces are making our lives better,'"

Army Maj. Bryce Jones,
civil affairs officer with the 405th Civil Affairs Bn.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The old saying, "Catch a man a fish, feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish, feed him for a lifetime," captures much of the essence of the buzzword Capacity Building.

Capacity Building is a term that underscores the ultimate ISAF goal of leaving Afghanistan with sustainable, self-sufficient institutions.

"Capacity Building is really enabling—Afghans in this case—to essentially do the tasks that they need to do in order to make their country work, to make it run," Liberi said.

While Capacity Building takes place at the institutional level, much of the most important work happens through person-to-person interaction, Liberi said. For example, one civilian from the Department of Agriculture began hosting weekly demonstrations to show Afghans how to farm better. Fifty Afghans arrived to the first demonstration, 150 to the second and 800 people to the third.

Capacity Building requires a change in mindset for troops who have been trained to have a "Go get 'em attitude," Jones said.

"It takes so much patience for us because military guys naturally want to solve the problem on our own ... but you've got to help them solve their own problem," Jones said. "They've got to come up with the idea; they've got to come up with the way to do it."

UNIFIED ACTION

How is it that diverse civilian entities and the military are able to function together coherently in the same battle space? Unified Action is the answer.

Unified Action has two components, Liberi explained.

"First and foremost it's enabling all of the civilian agencies under the United States government to essentially work together in a chain of command, if you will, under chief of mission authority, which comes from the ambassador," Liberi said. "So instead of having separate agencies doing different things on their own, Unified Action enables there to be one structure and one unified chain, which didn't exist before. The second thing that it does is enables the civilians at each level to be counterparts to the military."

Army Maj. Gary R. Kramlich of Minot, N.D., an operation analyst with CJTF-82, explained why Unified Action matters.

"Unified Action is putting the right people in the right place with the right skills," Kramlich said. "The military's very good with organization. We have the equipment to sustain ourselves in any environment, but we're not necessarily the best qualified to teach mayors how to be mayors. We're not the best qualified to teach farmers how to be farmers. But people from Department of State, people from Department of Agriculture, people from USAID, are."

COMBINED ACTION

Combined Action is the integration of ISAF and the Afghan troops into a single team. While Combined Action is usually talked about in reference to combat operations, Kramlich said there is "no doubt" about its being important to development as well.

"The United States military and NATO mission has incredible capacity, but we struggle when and comes to understanding the culture, we struggle when it comes to understanding the language and that's why (our Combined Action with the ANSF) is building the right solution. They understand the people, they understand the tribal dynamics, they understand the sensitivities that we may inadvertently make worse."

Kramlich said the benefits of Combined Action have been tremendous. He cited the teamwork of ISAF and ANSF during the national election as a particularly conspicuous example of success.

*KEYS
page 26*

(left) Navy Lt. j.g. Doug Jih an engineer for the Parwan PRT who hails from Flushing, N.Y., takes notes while he and his fellow troops inspect section one of the Parwan to Bamyan Road during a two-day mission to western Parwan, May 15 and 16. They were also inspecting colverts, bridges and power polls which are considered critical structures.

Photo by Senior Airman Jim Araos, Parwan PRT PAO



PRTs

In early 2002, Army units called Coalition Humanitarian Liaison Cells were the first military vehicle for furthering development in Afghanistan after the fall of Taliban rule. These were the forerunners of today's PRTs.

PRTs are diverse U.S. and NATO military units of typically less than 100 members, who can be either military or civilian. It's hard to summarize the diverse array of tasks they engage in, but the most important include mentoring Afghanistan's provincial-level officials, providing oversight and quality control for contracted projects, and helping provincial development councils approve and implement development projects. PRTs often provide the funding for projects through CERP and USAID.

PRTs in RC-East organize and implement a wide range of projects using at least 80 percent local labor. These projects focus on such different things as education, rule of law, health and sanitation, and transportation. The Parwan PRT is involved in constructing a 26-room high school and a 16-classroom girls school. The Panjshir PRT used local labor to complete about 25 miles of a road that will eventually connect Kabul to China via Badakhshan province, the panhandle of eastern Afghanistan.

There are currently 27 PRTs operating in Afghanistan. Of these, 14 are in RC-East.

ADTs

Agribusiness Development Teams function similar to PRTs but are more focused on projects that deal with agriculture. They regularly engage in building greenhouses, conducting quality control on local slaughterhouses and planting trees.

Compared to PRTs, ADTs are relative newcomers. According to the Army's handbook for ADTs, the ADT originated in 2007 when Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren, Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, and civilian and military leaders in the state of Missouri developed the idea to deploy troops with expertise in agriculture.

The 2007 brainstorm resulted in the creation of the Missouri National Guard's 935th ADT. Several other states followed suit, including Texas, Nebraska, Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Liberi said she has never known of an ADT being targeted in an IED attack. When she asked a group of ADT troops about this, they attributed the lack of attacks to the fact that they provide valuable services to the population, she said.

RC-East contains eight of the nine ADTs in Afghanistan. Speaking of these, Scaparrotti said, "They're worth their weight in gold."

DSTs

District Support Teams are similar to PRTs but they operate at a more local level of government. (For a rough analogy with the United States, think of provinces as states and districts as counties.) DSTs were formed largely to keep PRTs from being stretched too thin over large amounts of territory, Kramlich explained.

DSTs, company-sized elements with mixed military and civilian members, are excellent exemplars of Unified Action. Ideally, each DST would contain three civilians, one from USAID, one from the Department of Agriculture and one from the Department of State. The civilians in DSTs stay at district centers for 12 to 18 months in order to establish long-term relationships with district-level officials.

Kramlich said the increase in the number of DSTs in RC-East has corresponded with the "civilian surge" throughout Afghanistan.

Both Liberi and Scaparrotti mentioned DSTs as important components to the development success CJTF-82 has found over the course of the last year. CJTF-82 began their deployment at a time when no DSTs were operating in RC-East.

"We now have 19 District Support Teams in RC-East and it will go up to 23 very shortly," Liberi said during a May 11 interview. This represents more than half of the DSTs in Afghanistan.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The complicated nature of the development mission means there is no easy way to gauge the success of a given PRT, ADT or DST. Circumstances may dictate that it is best for a PRT to avoid pushing a project too quickly so that it can make its way through the proper Afghan channels. A good example of this is how the Panjshir PRT worked to establish a landfill in their area of operations.

The unit met with the mayor of Bazarak, the capital of Panjshir province, to discuss the project of building a landfill, Jones said. Getting the mayor to accept the idea was the easy part. A landfill expert worked with the mayor to find an area that met all the specifications.

"We realized it wasn't going to come to fruition while we were there and we didn't care," Jones said. "The key thing is we wanted to get it started so the new PRT could come in and say 'oh guess what we have an area for a possible landfill, in our nine months we can make progress toward that. We may not get it running, but we can make progress.'"

It may sometimes seem like "three

steps forward, two steps back" to those at the local level who deal with the nuts and bolts of the issues, but the big picture numbers give some reason for encouragement.

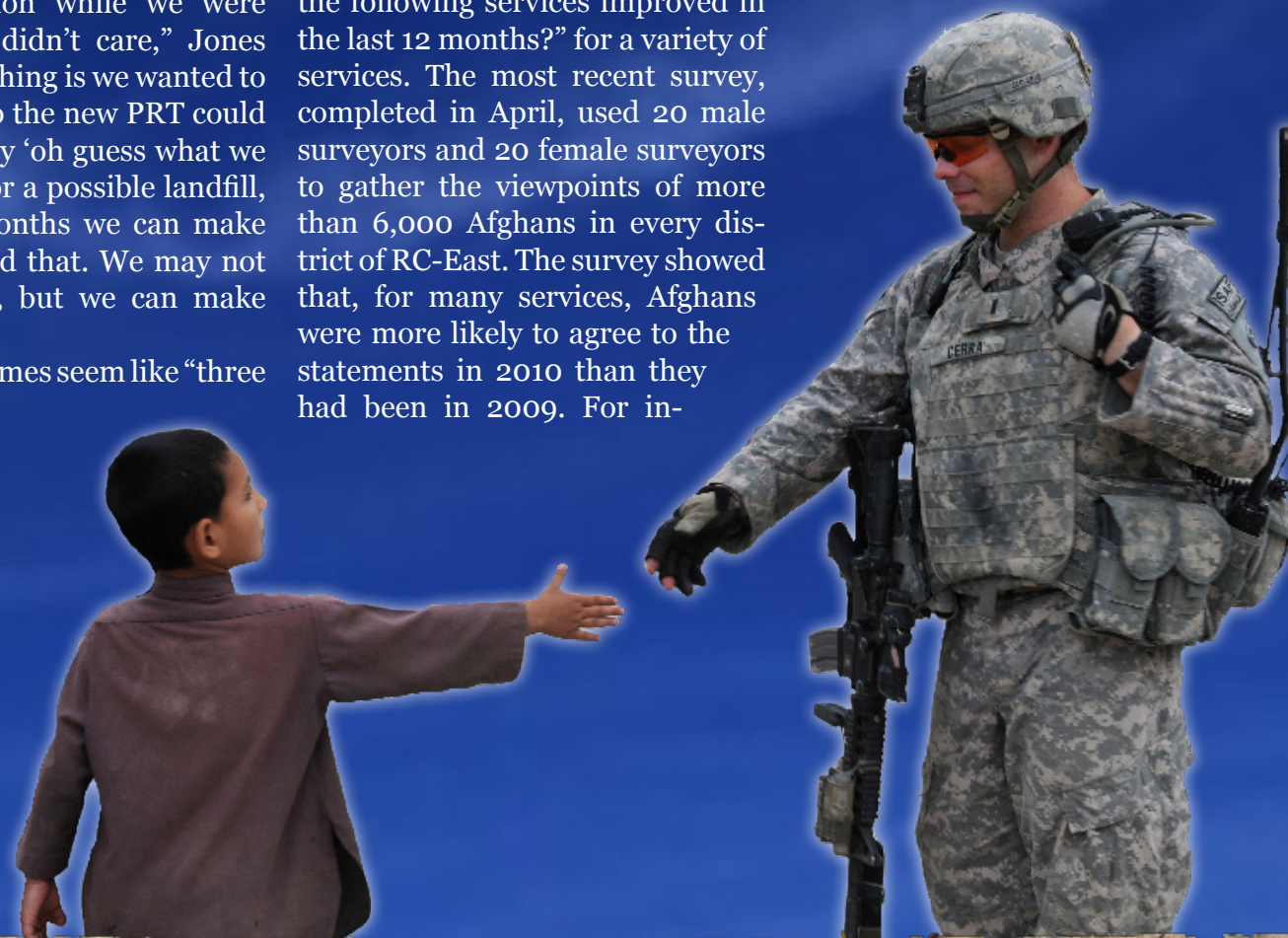
"Under the Taliban there were 700,000 kids in school now there are 7.2 million; a lot of that is because of programs we've enabled the ministry of education to develop," Liberi said. "As (a result) of programs with the Ministry of Health, 80 percent of Afghans have access to healthcare where they didn't before. So these are the kinds of programs that have made a difference in people's lives."

Further reasons for encouragement can be found in a quarterly survey, conducted by ISAF, which asks Afghans questions like, "Have the following services improved in the last 12 months?" for a variety of services. The most recent survey, completed in April, used 20 male surveyors and 20 female surveyors to gather the viewpoints of more than 6,000 Afghans in every district of RC-East. The survey showed that, for many services, Afghans were more likely to agree to the statements in 2010 than they had been in 2009. For in-

stance, 71 percent said boys' education had improved (a 7-percent increase), 56 percent said girls' education had improved (a 5-percent increase) and 66 percent said roads had improved (a 21-percent increase).

Kramlich said the improvements in basic services translate into greater trust in GIROA.

"We find that if it's a PRT that's doing it, if it's an ADT that's doing it, whether it's us doing it through CERP funds whether it's a non-governmental agency providing those services, they still see it as the government of Afghanistan providing the services to them, and that's the part that keeps them looking to GIROA as the best alternative to the Taliban," Kramlich said. ●



Army 1st Lt. John C. Cerra of Pittsburgh, a platoon leader for Co. D, 1 Bn. 101st Inf. Regt. Nangarhar PRT, TF Mountain Warrior, shakes hands with an Afghan youth during a visit to the markets of Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, April 26. The Nangarhar PRT civil affairs team conducted a market assessment to help determine a few of the infrastructure needs and the status of the local economy.

CITE-82

Year Highlights

Securing the Future Through Education



Photo by Air Force Capt. Stacie N. Shafran,
Panjshir PRT PAO

First graders at the newly opened Panjshir PRT-funded Haish Saidqi Girls' School answer questions about what they want to be when they grow up. Although officially a girls' school, a small number of boys attend as well. The school opened June 23, 2009, and will serve more than 500 girls from nearby villages in Panjshir's Rokha district. This school represents one of the more than 8,000 schools established since 2001. During Taliban rule only 700,000 boys and no girls attended school. Today, there are more than 7.2 million children in school, 2.2 million of which are girls.

Elders Mandate Peace at Jirga

Malik Niyaz, an influential tribal leader of the Mohmand Valley, Nangarhar province, appeals to his peers to take action through unification during a historic tribal meeting in Nangarhar province, Jan. 21. The Jirga included maliks, or tribal leaders, and 170 village elders from six districts in Nangarhar province. The elders met to denounce the Taliban and corrupt governance by signing the anti-Taliban Shinwari Pact. The pact allowed the sub-tribes to unify in their stance against the Taliban, and also represents a new level of tribal cooperation with the ANSF and ISAF seen throughout Afghanistan. "We promise we will help you fight Taliban," Niazzy said, "but you must help us."



Photo by Army Sgt. Tracy J. Smith,
48th Inf. BCT PAO

Advancement of Women in Afghanistan

Bamyan Governor Habiba Sarabi speaks to attendees of the RC-East Women's Conference held May 11. on Bagram Airfield. Sarabi is the first woman to be an Afghan governor; she is also a successful hematologist and committed environmentalist who helped establish a national park. Other advancements in the equality of women have included women occupying 68 seats in the parliament, more than any other South Asian neighbor, and the placement of Afghanistan's first female ANA general.



Photo by Spc. Christina Dion,
300th MPAD

Connecting Afghanistan Through Radio



ABP 6th Kandak commander, Col. Niazy, and Georgia National Guard's 1st Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt. commander, Army Lt. Col. Randall V. Simmons, prepare to broadcast a message to the people in the Shinwar district using the district's new radio station. The message was a follow-up to an anti-Taliban Shinwari Pact Jirga at the Kandak headquarters, Nangarhar province. The radio station is a gift to the people of that region and part of a media information initiative sponsored by ISAF. More than 120,000 personal radios have been distributed throughout RC-East since June 2009 in order to connect citizens with the multiple radio stations that have been estab-

Photo by Army Sgt. Tracy J. Smith, 48th Inf. BCT PAO

Establishing Rule of Law

Court Administrator Ghula Abani reads the charges to the court during the first public trial in Kunar province, March 16. Three of the four men charged for the attempted murder of Kunar Prison Director Abdul Wahadule Noorguli were found guilty.

Rule of Law establishment and education have remained priorities for Afghanistan's development.

Since June 2009, more than 5,000 Afghans in RC-East have attended Rule of Law training, an average of 27 Rule of Law infrastructure projects have been worked per month and more than 187,000 Rule of Law publications have been distributed.



Photo by Senior Airman Nathan Lipscomb, Kunar PRT PAO

Advancing Agriculture in RC-East



From right, Army Master Sgt. Don K. Lilleman of Higginsville, Mo., and Army Staff Sgt. Jason P. Ites of Gravois Mills, Mo., with the Nangarhar ADT, TF Mountain Warrior, present the villagers of Chure Khel in Nangarhar province with new tools, May 1. The Nangarhar ADT visits villages throughout the area to check on government projects and discuss community agricultural needs. Agricultural development is particularly important to progress in Afghanistan, as over 80 percent of the Afghan population are involved in agriculture. ADTs are uniquely suited to assist.

RC-East contains 10 of the 11 ADTs in Afghanistan.

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte, 300th MPAD

Paving the Way for Afghanistan's Future



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte, 300th MPAD

Sunlight refracts through the window of a HMMWV with a colorful result as an Afghan road crew lays fresh asphalt on the Naray-Asmar Road, Kunar province, March 6. The project is considered essential for the region as it will help residents in the area have improved access to their government and its services.

Since Taliban rule in Afghanistan ended in 2001, more than 1,864 miles of road have been built in the 15 provinces comprising RC-East. This represents a 5,900-percent increase to the 31 miles of roads built in the Taliban era. According to a survey conducted by ISAF, 66 percent of Afghans in RC-East said the roads had improved between April 2009 and April 2010.

Improving Afghanistan's Health Care



Photo by Spc. Albert L. Kelley
300th MPAD

Air Force Capt. Philip M. Hotchkiss, of Panama City, Fla., the senior medical officer with the Laghman PRT, examines a young boy who was brought to him on FOB Mehtar Lam in Laghman province, March 29. At age six, the young boy is unable to walk and his growth is stunted. After an examination, Hotchkiss diagnosed the boy with polio. The medics at FOB Mehtar Lam occasionally provide medical care to villagers who do not have access to standard medical care.

"Ideally, this will lead to improvements in their health care system, and the locals will have more options for timely care, independent of foreign assistance," Hotchkiss said.

Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, the percentage of Afghans who have access to healthcare has increased from 8 percent to 85 percent, according to ISAF.

Afghan Refugees Return Home



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Kelley J. Stewart,
Parwan PRT PAO

Members of the Parwan PRT walk into Barikop, also known as Beni War-sak, a returnee village in Parwan province, May 12. The PRT met with Es-matullah Karimi, Parwan Director of Refugees and Repatriation, Engineer Abdul Majid, Panjshir DoRR, Haji Sulaiman, deputy mayor of Panjshir province, and village elders to discuss the issue of resettling Afghans to the village near the base. There are currently 500 families living in Beni War-sak.

An estimated 8 million citizens fled Afghanistan during the Taliban's rule. More than 5.3 million Afghans have returned to date.

The Story Continues

CJTF101.com

The Road to Valor

A Tribute to Heroism

Column by Army Staff Sgt. Corey L. Beal

Valor is defined as heroic courage; boldness or determination in facing great danger, especially in battle.

More than 2,000 years ago, the ancient Roman poet Ovid wrote that "The road to valor is built by adversity."

We may exhibit our values in everyday life, but valor can only be exposed in the face of the most

trying of circumstances.

Those trying circumstances have occurred innumerable times throughout the past year in Afghanistan.

Although every story cannot be told here, one event exemplifies the road to which valor has been built.

The following are unaltered, verbatim excerpts from official state-

ments taken after the largest organized assault against Coalition Forces in more than two years.

This in no way encompasses all the actions taken by those present, but merely attempts to reveal the multiple acts of pure heroism in the face of death by the Soldiers of B. Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 61st Cav. at COP Keating and OP Fritsche on Oct. 3, 2009.

At 0600 on 3 October 2009, COP Keating and OP Fritsche, Kamdesh district, Nuristan province, Afghanistan, came under attack by an enemy force estimated at 400 fighters. The fighters occupied the high ground on all four sides of the COP and initiated the attack with concentrated fire from B10 recoilless rifles, RPGs, DSHKAs, mortars, and small arms fire.

During the first three hours of the attack, mortar rounds impacted on the COP and OP every 15 seconds. All six of the Troop's M1151 HMMWVs sustained direct hits from RPGs, half of which withstood as many as eight RPGs each. Within the first several minutes of the battle, mortar rounds hit the main generator on the COP, eliminating power and electricity to most of the camp, including the tactical operation center

and troop aid station.

Enemy mortar rounds and RPGs pinned down the troop mortars at COP Keating and OP Fritsche, limiting indirect fire assets to the soldiers in the fight. In conjunction with the Afghan National Army collapsing their positions, Taliban fighters breached the perimeter of COP Keating and stormed the outpost, forcing the American Soldiers to fight on an extremely congested battlefield. As the fighting continued, enemy rounds set many buildings ablaze, eventually setting fire to and destroying close to 70% of COP Keating. As a result, the troop was forced to abandon its TOC and aid station in order to continue operations. The helicopter landing zone was controlled by enemy forces, which kept MEDEVAC aircraft from evacuating numerous

casualties. Throughout the 12-hour battle, as well as during the four days of enemy contact that followed, American Forces killed over 100 Taliban fighters and injured at least 80 more. Despite the resounding tactical success against a numerically superior enemy, eight Americans and two ANA Soldiers died and an additional 43 American and Afghan forces were injured.

Communications were downgraded to only tactical satellite, battle positions ran out of ammunition due to lack of covered resupply routes, enemy forces temporarily controlled the ammunition supply point and the helicopter landing zone, indirect fire assets were pinned down, the perimeter was breached, the COP was in flames and the troop was sustaining multiple casualties.

1ST LT. ANDREW BUNDERMANN:

In the early morning of 1 October, 2009, a resupply helicopter carrying the B Troop commander, the platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, and the 3rd Platoon's senior scout was struck with small arms fire in the fuel tank...

This incident kept the troop commander outside his area of operation and left 1LT Bundermann as the ground force commander when enemy forces attacked...

With great skill and perseverance, 1LT Bundermann commanded the Troop from COP Keating controlling force protection, integrating air support and indirect fire assets, and overseeing the complex concert of various enablers on and off the COP to win an arduous battle against a numerically superior enemy...

As the fight waged on, it became apparent to 1LT Bundermann that a majority of the enemy contact was coming from the nearby town of Urmol, which bordered the river along the COP's northern perimeter. Early in the morning on 3 October, fighters from the Taliban and Hezb-Islami-Gulbuddin entered Urmol, sent the villagers away, and established multiple fighting positions orientated toward COP Keating.

Shortly thereafter and unbeknownst to American and Afghan forces on the COP, the enemy fighters took control of the ANP station at the base of Urmol, approximately 100 meters northwest of the COP's ECP...

In order to preserve the lives of his men, he made the difficult decision to engage the enemy in Urmol and the ANP station with indirect fire and direct fire from attack aviation assets. By diminishing the enemy threat to their north and northwest, 1LT Bundermann was able to better focus the defense of COP Keating to the southeast and west.

In a bold counterattack, 1LT Bundermann managed a series of clearance missions that retook the ASP, the Shura building, and the ECP, and enabled the troop aid station to shift casualties to a newly protected building.

1LT Bundermann's perseverance enabled him to lead B troop Soldiers in a counterattack that kept the camp from falling into the hands of the enemy.

SGT. VICTOR DE LA CRUZ:

OP Fritsche came under heavy indirect and direct fire from an estimated 75 insurgents... SGT De La Cruz quickly got into position as a team leader to direct fire and lead his team in the direction of the enemy's main assault.

During the initial phase of the attack, SGT De La Cruz received wounds to his thigh and back; however through the duration of the engagement, he repeatedly exposed himself to accurate small arms and RPG fire in order to point out enemy's positions to his Soldiers...

SGT De La Cruz exposed himself to enemy fire and bravely moved to an Improved Target Acquisition System position. . . .

He destroyed four enemy positions using six TOW missiles, which resulted in a lull in the enemy fire that allowed his section to regain the tactical initiative.

This swing in momentum led to the eventual withdrawal of enemy forces that attacked OP Fritsche...

...was selected to lead the 2nd QRF assault element down to COP Keating. Despite his wounds, SGT De La Cruz successfully led the assault element as the point man through the rugged terrain to COP Keating.

SGT. ZACHARY SWELFER:

...the point man was in the open, alone, and receiving the brunt of the enemy fire. Without orders or hesitation, SGT Swelfer ran forward from his covered position and firing his M203 grenade launcher and rifle at the enemy as he ran. He killed one enemy with his grenade launcher continued running and firing until he reached the point man's position and they began to fire side by side.

VALOR
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SGT. BRADLEY LARSON:

...he took immediate RPG strikes to his position, and accurate sniper fire sent bullets bouncing off his turret. Under this heavy fire, SGT Larson courageously remained in his turret and continued to engage with his .50 Caliber machine gun.

He reloaded twice and fired close to 1,000 rounds from his position before precision sniper fire struck him in the head and arm, and a RPG disabled his weapon system....

For approximately five hours, SGT Larson was cut off from all friendly forces....

After SPC Carter secured a 200-round drum of 5.56mm ammunition, SGT Larson delinked the drum of ammunition and refilled M4 magazines with SPC Carter. Shortly after reloading, he engaged and killed two Taliban fighters who had penetrated the wire and were attempting to take his position.....

SGT Larson valiantly pushed the assault team under heavy fire with little cover to allow an aid and litter team to move up and recover the friendly heroes.

After moving back to the ECP, he threw a smoke grenade and secured the ECP with concertina wire to ensure no additional Taliban fighters would breach the ECP.

SPC. KEITH STICKNEY:

At this time, the mortar pit itself began receiving accurate AK-47 and machine gun fire, but this did not deter SPC Stickney from taking the lead in getting the 120mm mortar into action, performing FDC while his subordinate Soldiers manned the mortar...

Despite accurate enemy RPGs impacting all around the mortar pit and within meters of the Soldiers, SPC Stickney and his team risked their own lives to adjust the 120mm mortar tube. The enemy fire suppressed the mortar crew, but SPC Stickney insisted that the team keep working on their hands and knees to get the mortar sighted...

An alternate enemy support-by-fire position began firing more RPGs and machine gun rounds into the mortar pit, forcing the crew to finally evacuate, sprinting under enemy fire to the TOC.

Once at the TOC, SPC Stickney alerted the ground commander of their situation. Without hesitation, SPC Stickney grabbed a M249B Squad Automatic Weapon and, with RPGs impacting all around the TOC, led PVT Santana and PFC Holmes to an alternate fighting position, where he and his team exchanged fire with several enemy fighters.

SPC Stickney's team fired several hundred rounds of 5.56mm ammunition at enemy fighters attempting to climb the perimeter wall.

Knowing that the COP could not hold out long without indirect fire, SPC Stickney directed PVT Santana to follow him and rushed under fire to the mortar pit, firing back at the enemy the entire way... SPC Stickney stood exposed to heavy enemy fire, firing suppressive bursts from the M24 and M4s, giving the mortarman enough cover to provide COP Keating with extremely accurate 120mm mortar fire.

...because of SPC Stickney's technical competence and personal courage, he is directly responsible for preventing two enemy breach attempts and for providing crucial indirect fire support to two-fixed sites under contact by a numerically superior enemy.

SGT. 1ST CLASS JONATHAN HILL:

While directing his platoon, SFC Hill took multiple shrapnel wounds from RPG fire while trying to organize a resupply effort to the embattled guard positions...

While the team was clearing the east side of the COP, SFC Hill and three other Soldiers came under accurate sniper fire. SFC Hill, without hesitation, picked up a Latvian sniper rifle and eliminated the target at a distance of over 300 meters....

SFC Hill led his men in a clearing and securing the helicopter landing zone from enemy forces in order to evacuate the many American and Afghan casualties.

With complete disregard for his own well-being, SFC Hill continuously led from the front, providing a shining example for his men as they fought to hold COP Keating.

CAPT. CHRISTOPHER CORDOVA:

...an RPG exploded at the door of the aid station, causing shrapnel wounds to two of his medics, SGT Hobbs and SPC Floyd, with a more serious injury to SPC Stone.

The enemy contact outside continued as a wall of SAF bounced off the exterior of the exterior of the aid station, but CPT Cordova remained focused. While attempting to resuscitate SGT Kirk, five wounded ANA Soldiers arrived to the Aid Station and CPT Cordova directed SGT Hobbs and SPC Floyd to treat them.

Enemy sniper rounds continued to penetrate the COP, and RPG explosions seemed to never end, but the physician assistant continued to work on his casualties with intense concentration. The dismounted infantry company would not arrive for several hours, and CPT Cordova determined that PFC Mace would not survive without a blood transfusion... A field blood transfusion had only been briefly discussed, not even practiced, during his training as a physician assistant....

CPT Cordova repeated the transfusion an additional three times, donating his own blood while monitoring PFC Mace's vital signs every five minutes.

The men of COP Keating fought with ferocity and valor, destroying a numerically superior enemy more than four times their size.

CPT Cordova's actions saved the lives of several Soldiers, and alone accomplished the work of four medical professionals without stopping for sleep or food.

SGT. THOMAS RASMUSSEN:

SGT Rasmussen climbed on top of the truck and assisted PVT Faulkner with the weapon system. Almost immediately, a RPG struck the front of the vehicle and knocked SGT Rasmussen to the ground, but without hesitation he took up his previous position and continued to enable the gunner to engage....

When SGT Rasmussen started to move out of the building, he was met by a wall of machine gun fire from a Taliban fighter who had succeeded in breaching the COP's perimeter. SGT Rasmussen responded by opening the door again, throwing hand grenades at the enemy fighter, and then systematically following with fire from his M4 and 203. His action allowed the assault team the necessary freedom of maneuver to move out of the barracks and begin their assault...

When leading the counterattack against the ECP building, SGT Rasmussen took the building by force, using 203 rounds to clear the area of all enemy fighters...

Holding and reinforcing the ECP was critical for all elements on COP Keating...

SGT Rasmussen displayed incredible valor throughout a tumultuous day. Knowing the grave danger he was routinely placing himself in while resupplying battle positions and assaulting multiple enemy-held buildings, he proved his dedication to his fellow soldiers.

Quotes of OEF IX-X

A year's worth of quotes from around RC-East

"Just once I'd like to come out here and not get shot at. Just once."

Army Sgt. Graham Mullins of Columbia, Mo., Mullins is one of the Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. Regt., 4th Inf. Div. who have called Korengal valley, Kunar province home since June 2009. The isolated valley is nicknamed "The Valley of Death."

"When they received their certificates, they were pretty much screaming as loud as they could."

Army Staff Sgt. John Wirth, assistant operations NCO for the 1-501st Inf. Regt., commenting on the reaction of students of the ANP basic training course in Paktika province June 4, 2009.

"In the end, I was able to interact with my counterpart and he was comfortable working with me. We have an appreciation for what they do and treat them as professionals."

Army 2nd Lt. Stewart Brough, Kunar PRT security force platoon leader. This was the first time the PRT conducted a walking foot patrol through the village with the ANP. The interaction was beneficial to both units.

"They are targeting civilians. IEDs that go off with a command wire are not an accident. Someone pulled a trigger."

Army Col. Michael Howard, the commander of the 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div., DATE, who controlled the battle space comprised of the Paktika, Paktia and Khost provinces. Howard was speaking to encourage Afghans to identify Taliban members.

"We should work to not let bad people in our country. We should help the Coalition Forces and not the terrorist groups who bring their fighters here. This is the job of our elders, scholars and theologians... to announce it is better to have peace than to fight."

Nuristan Provincial Governor Jamaluddin Badar, during an Oct. 22, Jirga involving more than 300 leaders and elders from four provinces in RC-East.

"The thing that has to be determined is why it's not friendly. Is it by choice? Is it the villagers themselves that are anti-coalition forces? Or is it because somebody pushed their way into the village and the village people are scared?"

Sgt. 1st Class John Moyle, platoon sergeant for 1st Plt., 554th Military Police Co., said, on assessing the local security posture of villages in Nagarhar province.

"At this point it has nothing to do with the war on terror. This is humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. No different than what we would do back in the states or what we're doing currently in Haiti."

Army Col. Richard Shatto, the TF Cyclone commander who hails from Columbus, Ind. Shatto spoke of the Salang avalanche response operation in Parwan province, Feb. 9.

"This operation proves that Afghan security forces and Coalition Forces can go anywhere, anytime and successfully conduct any operation we choose to defeat the enemies of Afghanistan."

Army Col. Randy A. George, commander of TF Mountain Warrior. The remote mountain village had reportedly been overwhelmed by insurgents for several days, until an air-assault mission into the area by ANSF and ISAF service members forced them to retreat.

"We pretty much look like a bunch of ants just running around everywhere."

Sgt. 1st Class Robin Siems, platoon sergeant for 2nd Plt., 1613 Engineer Support Co., about the construction of COP Penich, Kunar province, July 3.

"They were skeptical at first, but they warmed up to us. They really liked the idea of having light at night."

Spc. Jacob Beynon, a medic with 2nd Plt., A Troop, 3-71, 10th Mountain Div. They are providing some remote villages with electrical power generators in a project affectionately known as "Extreme Make Over: Afghan Edition." The intent of the project is to help increase the quality of life for the Afghans--one small village at a time.

"I gave him morphine to prepare him for the pain he was about to experience. When we removed him from the turret, I realigned his leg as best I could, trying not to cause any more damage."

Senior Airman Ashley Jackson, a medic with Kapisa PRT. Jackson was riding in a Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicle (MRAP) with U.S. Soldiers during a mounted combat patrol mission to inspect development projects in the province. The team had completed its mission near Shohki village, and was returning to Bagram when the MRAP was targeted by an insurgent attack.

"A lot of people think there is a rift between our two countries; there isn't. The leaders might not always agree with this or that, but we are working together towards the same goal -- to eliminate the insurgents and IEDs from here in Afghanistan and in Pakistan."

Flight Lt. Akhtar Abbas, of the Pakistan air force, who participated in a 10-day counter-IED training event hosted by U.S. EOD experts at Bagram Airfield beginning Jan. 29.

"We are trying to just talk to the locals and see what they need because they are turning towards the enemy just looking for simple handouts."

Spc. Justin Morris, 3rd Plt., Co. B, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain Div. Soldiers operating in Charkhi district recently began working with local nationals to improve their communities' one project at a time through the "Extreme Makeover" program.

"If we can show the people the potential of their own capabilities to provide food and income for themselves, they will accomplish it. ADTs have the potential of assisting the Afghan people to improve their overall quality of life through more modern agricultural technology and time-proven techniques of successful farming."

Army Staff Sgt. Roger B. Broach, an agricultural expert with the Tenn. ADT.

"That contributes a lot to the infant mortality rate and maternal death rates here in Afghanistan. About one in five babies die in birth. The maternal rate is not much better, about one in eight, and those are from complications, bleeding, and infections."

Dr. Abdul Mateen, the Paktika Director of Public Health, June 12, 2009, commenting on the need that spawned special education programs to train and certify mid-wives. The traditional method of pre-natal care, as well as labor and delivery, is overseen by the most senior or experienced female in the family.

"The first question I ask a patient who comes in with a hearing complaint is 'Were you wearing hearing protection?' Since I arrived here in May (2009), I have not had one servicemember answer yes to that question."

Air Force Col. Joseph A. Brennan, the ENT doctor at Bagram Airfield.

"This school means a lot to the future of these girls. They used to study in destroyed buildings and temporary facilities. Now they have things like good desks and blackboards."

Zulami Saheen, the Panjshir province director of education, June 23, 2009, on the opening of the Haish Saidqi Girls' School in Panjshir province.

