

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TASK FORCE BASTOGNE

BASTOGNE

A detailed illustration of a bulldog's head, facing forward, with its mouth slightly open, showing its teeth. The bulldog is rendered in a golden-yellow color with blue outlines, set against a dark blue background that is part of the magazine title banner.

MAGAZINE

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OCTOBER 2010

Security
and
Development



Stay Diligent Task Force Bastogne

I continue to be impressed by Task Force Bastogne's dedication to the mission, standing shoulder to shoulder with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) as they provide security to the Afghan people; assisting the Afghan government in providing the essential services, governance tools, and economic stability to the region.

Your dedication to the mission and successful partnerships with the ANSF has made a tremendous difference during the time we have

A Word From The Commander

been here. The numerous, successful combined operations you and our ANSF partners have executed in the Nangarhar, Nuristan, Laghman and Kunar provinces have shown

the enemy that they will find no respite anywhere.

Every one of you played a role in helping to make the September Afghan Parliamentary elections happen; the new government is taking shape. You will always remember that you were there for the birth of freedom in a nation that had known only fear.

The entire team has pulled together: our civilian partners, PRTs, ADT's and battalion task forces all working together for a common goal. We now welcome a new member to the team, the 1-61 Cavalry Squadron (Task Force Panther) from our sister brigade, 4th BCT 101st, "Currahees". Task Force Panther will further enhance the security and stability of the Nangarhar province, positioning additional forces ready to assist the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) units and the Afghan government in providing security for the people.

The past two months have not been without hardship and sacrifice. Five more Bastogne heroes have lost their lives. These heroes answered the call to defend our freedom and assist the Afghan people as they fight for their own. We owe it to these brave souls to continue this noble and sacred calling, continuing to make this area safer for the Afghans who call it home.

You all have proven your competence in every task and challenge you have faced. You continue to take the fight to the enemies of the Afghan people. Your example stands as a shining example of courage and honor. You, together with our ANSF partners, will continue to show the insurgency that they can't find respite anywhere and will not be allowed to bring terror and despair back to the Afghan people.

Bastogne! Air Assault!



Col. Andrew P. Poppas
Task Force Bastogne Commander

Maintain your professionalism

We are well on our way to establishing ourselves as one of the finest Task Forces that has ever been formed and that is due to the extreme sacrifices that each and every one of you have made since our arrival. It has been a challenging and very dangerous journey up to this point and it is paramount that the entire Bastogne TF stays completely focused on individual, collective, and unit level tasks and missions.

A WORD FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

As we move into the second quarter of our Brigade deployment I would be remiss if I did not thank the Missouri and California ADTs and welcome their replacements. We have also gone through a relief in place of our Afghan Commando ODA Team and Forward Medical Support Team. I know I speak for all of us when I say they provided the very best professional support through tactical combat mentoring and execution for the ODA and the superb medical treatment of the FST. It is also terrific to have the 1-61 Cavalry Squadron join us from the great 4-101 Currahee's! I know we all welcome all our newly attached Task Force Brothers and Sisters as we continue our mission together.



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin R. Benson
Task Force Bastogne Command Sergeant Major

I ask that you all continue with diligence to protect the force. It is critical that every Warrior mitigate undue risk and shield our most precious commodity from undue harm. Utilization of the Battle Buddy System and vigilant leadership will continue to be the keys to success.

We have been blessed to receive huge amounts of support from individuals, families, classrooms of children and organizations from all over the world. I know we are all busy but I ask that you take the time to thank those that support us.

I ask that we all maintain focus. Keep yourselves physically and mentally fit. Protect the Force so that we can efficiently project the Force! Do not become overconfident, do the basics right and concentrate on the execution of fundamentals.

It is my Honor to be the Command Sergeant Major of such an outstanding organization and I pledge my continued support to every member of our Task Force.

"Honor and Country"
CSM Kevin R. Benson

A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY

HONOR AND COUNTRY

BASTOGNE



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COL. ANDREW P. POPPAS

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MPs stay active within the Afghan community

By Spc. Christopher Howard
MP Platoon, HHC, 1st STB

The Military Police Platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, Task Force Spartan continued their efforts to improve relations with the Afghan community.

One of these ways is by Cash-for-Work Programs where local Afghans are hired for jobs within their local communities. The potential Cash-for-Work projects are submitted by the Afghan village elders to the District Development Assembly to discuss the idea and justify the need for it. The projects are then voted on by the district councils and once the projects are approved, the Military Police Platoon steps in to begin the projects.

Assisting in the management and monitoring of Cash-for-Work programs, Military Police Soldiers are able to help citizens take pride in their communities. U.S. Army Sgt. Rob Huff of Erlanger, Ky. distributes cash to a local village elder that pays the registered workers from the community.

The workers adhere to work schedules and rules set by the managing Afghan elder. These programs allow Afghan citizens to support their families through the wages from a steady job.

U. S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Streit said, "Through the Cash-for-Work programs we are helping the citizens help themselves. They are working hard to restore the heritage and dignity of their communities which was stolen from them by the Taliban or other criminal elements."

Laborers working on approved projects perform many tasks including cleaning the neighborhood, cleaning water supplies, and helping repair roads and culverts. This helps the unemployed members of the community giving them a means of providing for their families, and restoring pride to their villages.

In addition to partnering with the local villages in the Cash-for-Work program, the Military Police Platoon

is responsible for developing a working relationship and training the Afghan National Police. From patroling techniques to maintenance and logistical training, the MPs work side by side with the ANP developing a well managed police force able to deliver essential services and protection to the Afghan citizens.

U.S. Army Spc. John Hayes of Wappapello, Mo. said, "In this type of environment the ANP not only work as police but also operate like soldiers. The ANP are very quick to pick up military tactics, such as our battle drills and tactical formations such as wedge, file, and staggered column. The ANP are given a sense of pride by being able to protect their assigned districts," he said.

Both missions of the Military Police Platoon are assisting the Afghans to restore pride in their communities through hard work. Through their continued efforts, Afghanistan will be a better country when they depart.



U.S. Army Sgt. Kenneth Huff of Erlanger, Ky., Military Police Platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, Task Force Spartan, pays the local village elder the money for a "Cash-for-Work" project.

California transfers authority to Iowa

**By Capt. Peter Shinn
Kunar ADT PAO**

Members of the Iowa National Guard's 734th Agri-Business Development Team wasted no time in establishing a relationship with key government and agricultural officials of Kunar Province.

Since the Iowa ADT's advance party arrived last month, ADT leaders have held meetings with provincial Governor Fazlullah Wahidi and his agricultural minister, conducted assessments of ongoing agricultural projects in Kunar and even sat in on a briefing for International Security Assistance Force Commander Gen. David Petraeus on the ADT's activities in Kunar province.

U.S. Army Col. Craig Bargfrede commands the Iowa ADT. He went to the Kunar governor's compound and met with him just days after arriving in Afghanistan.

"I thought it was very important to meet with Governor Wahidi and his staff as soon as we could," said Bargfrede of Ankeny, Iowa. "One of our key goals here is to improve the government's ability to provide agricultural services to its citizens. We can't do that without a strong relationship with the provincial leadership team," he said.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Neil Stockfleth, who leads the Iowa ADT's agriculture section, and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dave Lewis, the ADT's executive officer, began building relationships at a lower level even earlier. The pair traveled to the governor's compound for a meeting with provincial agricultural officials at the beginning of August. According to Stockfleth, the Afghans he met with were highly prepared and came to the meeting with a long list of projects on which the ADT and provincial government could work together.

"I was very impressed with the meeting," Stockfleth said. "These guys had done their homework. They knew what current technology is, what's available and

they sure brought it up."

Stockfleth, of Sioux City, Iowa, noted that advanced agricultural technology projects might not be the most appropriate to begin with in Kunar province. For example, while some provincial agricultural officials expressed interest in improving local livestock bloodlines through artificial insemination, Stockfleth pointed out that improving basic livestock nutrition would yield more immediate dividends for most agricultural producers in the province.

"We'll work with them on the basics and then move along the continuum toward more advanced techniques," Stockfleth said.

The Iowa ADT is taking over from the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division ADT, which has been working in Kunar for the better part of the last year. And when Gen. David Petraeus, commander of International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan, came to the province recently, the 40th ID ADT

commander briefed the general on the ADT concept. Lewis, the Iowa ADT executive officer from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was present at the briefing.

"Gen. Petraeus seemed very interested in this aspect of the counterinsurgency campaign," Lewis said.

The focus of counterinsurgency is protecting the population, which is why the Iowa ADT is working closely with civilian agencies including the U.S.

Department of Agriculture and the State Department. The Iowa ADT is under the operational control of the Combined Joint Task Force 101, also known as Task Force Bastogne. Kate Byrnes, the

Senior Civilian Representative to the Task Force, visited the Iowa ADT at Forward Operating Base Wright.

"Col. Bargfrede's team is made up of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen with extensive civilian agricultural experience," said Byrnes. "Building the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is truly an interagency effort, and he understands that."

The Iowa ADT began arriving in the Kunar province in mid-July. The ADT will be in place for the better part of the next year before being replaced by another National Guard ADT.



Col. Craig Bargfrede, Commander of Ankeny, Iowa, Iowa National Guard's 734th Agri-Business Development Team, meets with Gov. Syed Fazlullah Wahidi at the governor's compound in Asadabad, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in early August.

Crops to help with Afghan flood relief

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



U.S. Army Spc. Matthew L. Miller of Streetsboro, Ohio, a grenadier with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force No Slack, provides security for his unit during a visit with Afghan community farmers and leaders near Combat Outpost Monti in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province Aug. 17.



An Afghan community leader points to the boundary of crops outside Combat Outpost Monti in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province during a meeting with International Security Assistance Forces Aug. 17



U.S. Army 1st Lt. James D. Horne of Fayetteville, N.C., a platoon leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force No Slack, marks the boundary of crops outside Combat Outpost Monti in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province Aug. 17 that will be cut down to provide food for animals impacted by recent floods.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Alexander H. Johnson of Evanston, Ill., an incoming platoon leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force No Slack, takes notes during a visit with Afghan farmers and community leaders near Combat Outpost Monti in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province Aug. 17.

The duty of every Soldier: Saving lives



Task Force Bastogne medical personnel continue to save lives at the tip of the spear with state of the art care from the point of injury through evacuation to home station. Every Soldier, medic and provider is rigorously trained to give life-saving care while deployed in Afghanistan. All Bastogne Soldiers become Eagle First Responders by learning care under fire techniques, tourniquet proficiency, and expedient medical evacuation. Every Bastogne Combat Medic receives realistic lane training at Basic Combat Casualty Care. In the Tactical Combat Medical Care Course Doctors and Physician Assistants take the lessons learned from freshly deployed Field Surgeons into the fight. With the help of C Co 2/3 “Dustoff” of TF Knighthawk, the 555th and the 745th Forward Surgical Teams, injured Bastogne Soldiers are immediately flown to modern surgical facilities where they receive life saving care. In terms of trauma survivability our rapid response rivals civilian care anywhere in the world. When Bastogne Soldiers get injured, seven out of ten return to the fight. Our families can be comforted by knowing their Soldiers are cared for by the best – from the point of injury in the heat of battle all the way to the safety of world class facilities in the United States.



Tribal leadership key to security in Nangarhar

By U.S. Army Spc. Albert L. Kelley
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The tribe has always been the most powerful structure in Pashtun society, now the tribe is being called upon to help increase security in Nangarhar.

Nearly 200 tribal elders, or Maliks, from Nangarhar's largest tribes, the Shinwari, the Mohmand and the Khogyani tribes, gathered to discuss tribal matters and listened to coalition force leaders and provincial government leaders request their assistance in improving security in the Nangarhar province, August 4 and August 7.

"During the soviet era and the civil war era that followed, many of the elders had become maligned," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. James D. Sisemore, of Lexington, Mo., commander of 1st Special Troops Battalion, Task Force Spartan. "The objective of these shuras was to reconnect the tribes back with the government."

Coalition and provincial leaders also asked the tribes to support the constitution, oppose external malign influences, support a free election for all men and women and set an example for other tribes to follow said U.S. Army Capt. Glenn T. Battshinger, of Mays Landing, N.J., a civil affairs operations center leader with the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, PRT Nangarhar.

"Taking on a larger security role is not intended to



Maliks from the Shinwari ethnic tribe listen to words from fellow tribal coalition and provincial government leaders during a shura in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, Aug. 4.

replace the Afghan National Security Forces," said Battshinger. "It augments what they are doing."

Providing security does not necessarily require picking up weapons. It includes keeping insurgents out of their villages and reporting their activities.

Working with the different tribes will itself be a challenge as each tribe possesses its own daily concerns that they are dealing with.

The Mohmand tribe, the largest landholder of the three tribes is the most secure tribe.

The Khogyani tribe is currently struggling to stabilize its leadership.

"Recently, [the Khogyani] lost their tribal chief to an improvised explosive device," said Battshinger.

The Shinwari tribe is dealing with internal disputes over land. However, they have chosen to work with the government and use arbitration to settle their disputes versus the tradition method – with guns.

"We feel connected to the government," said one village elder. "Before there was definitely distance between the government and the people."

Task Force Spartan leaders feel they are taking the correct approach.

"[Ultimately], a reduced number of attacks against coalition forces and Nangarhar residents will determine the success of the shuras," said Sisemore.



A malik from the Shinwari tribe addresses fellow tribal, coalition forces and provincial government leaders during a tribal shura in the Shinwar District of eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, Aug. 4.

Roads: Focus of Bandits COIN fight

By Capt. Alex Torres
1-32 Cavalry, 1 BCT

The Government Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Bandit have indirectly focused on the people of the Narray District in the northern Kunar Province by massing efforts on road improvements to make things easier on their way of life, Aug. 31.

Task Force Bandit believes that the government's involvement in road improvements and completing such a project will help to legitimize GIROA and strengthen the people's confidence in the government.

The district of Narray lies deep in the Hindu-Kush Mountains. Villages are sporadically strung out along the Kunar River, which feeds into Afghanistan from Pakistan running the length of the Kunar Province into Jalalabad. A dirt road runs alongside of the river connecting small villages providing a lifeline to the people of Kunar allowing them to travel between villages to find work, attend schools, and obtain basic necessities not available in their own villages.

The road in its current state is prone to giving way and washouts during inclement weather leaving it impassable for days or weeks at a time. Coalition Forces were aware of the road's vulnerability but things really came to light in early August when the same rains that caused severe flooding in Pakistan washed out several portions of the road in Kunar. It destroyed several bridges and stranded an Afghan Border Police check



Road workers work on the road that will connect five villages in eastern Afghanistan's northern Kunar province and help legitimize the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Sept. 2.

point leaving it without resupply for several days due the road washing out on both sides of the check point. Several days of work on the road were needed to make it usable for local Afghans. The current road project looks to solve these issues.

The road project will provide road refurbishment for five villages in northern Kunar. The project will include repair of roads damaged by roadside bombs, as well as building retaining walls and washes in historical flood areas. All in all, some 370 men will be employed to work on the roads, which will be conducted in three phases. The first phase is the repair of existing roads. Phase two will connect several villages on the eastern side of the Kunar River from Sow Khor to Dokolam which is approximately 19 km projected to be completed by mid-September. Phase three will focus on repair and construction of irrigation canals in preparation for spring agricultural planting.

As a result of these projects, the local citizens of Narray will gain more confidence in their government – not only because of the infrastructure improvements, but also due to the fact that local concerns about corruption have been mitigated by greater GIROA accountability. Specifically, project payments are now conducted under the oversight of GIROA officials and Coalition Forces at Forward Operating Base Bostick. The contractors and the District Sub-Governor make the payments to the project laborers with the support of Afghan National Security Forces and Coalition Forces.



Road workers work on the road that will connect five villages in eastern Afghanistan's northern Kunar province and help legitimize the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Sept. 2.

Laghman PRT Attends Iftar Dinner

By U.S. Air Force Staff
Sgt. Ave Pele

**Laghman Provincial
Reconstruction Team
Public Affairs**

Members of the Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team join Laghman Governor Mohammed Iqbal Azizi and other guests for an iftar dinner at the governor's residence in eastern Afghanistan's Mehtar Lam district, Sept. 1.



A mullah leads guests in prayer before an iftar dinner at the governor's residence in eastern Afghanistan's Mehtar Lam district, Sept. 1.



Caterers prepare an iftar dinner at Laghman Governor Mohammed Iqbal Azizi's residence in eastern Afghanistan's Mehtar Lam district, Sept. 1.



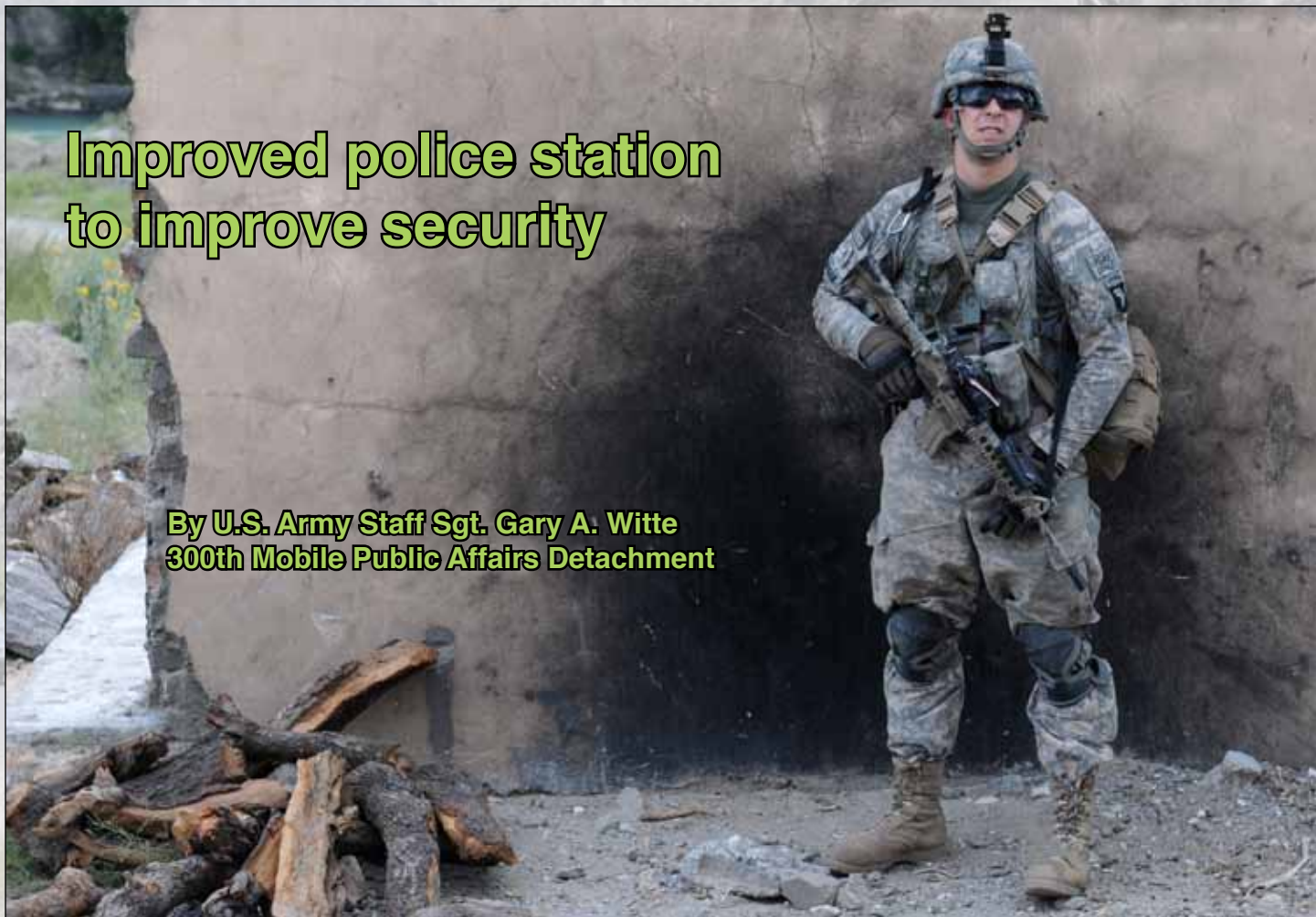
Members of the Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team join Laghman Governor Mohammed Iqbal Azizi and other guests for an iftar dinner at the governor's residence in eastern Afghanistan's Mehtar Lam district, Sept. 1.



George Hogeman of Falls Church, Va., the U.S. State Department representative with the Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team, visits with Laghman Governor Mohammed Iqbal Azizi and U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Possehl of Newnan, Ga., Laghman PRT commander, at the governor's residence in eastern Afghanistan's Mehtar Lam district, Sept. 1.

Improved police station to improve security

**By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**



U.S. Army Pvt. Matthew D. Morgan of Monte Vista, Colo., a gunner for 2nd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Bulldog, prepares to leave the Tantil Afghan National Police station after a July 12 meeting with ANP officers and civilian contractors.



U.S. Army Pfc. Rich T. Bennett of Chicago, Ill., a team leader for 2nd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Bulldog, provides security for the Tantil Afghan National Police station during a July 12 meeting with ANP officers and civilian contractors.

An Afghan National Police officer crosses a catwalk at the Tantil ANP station during a July 12 meeting between ANP officers and civilian contractors. International Security Assistance Forces, based at Combat Outpost Michigan, are looking at ways they can help improve defenses at the station in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province and thereby increase security in the area.



An Afghan National Police officer crosses a catwalk at the Tantil ANP station during a July 12 meeting between ANP officers and civilian contractors.

A Soldier's promise fulfilled

**By: U.S. Army Spc. Albert L. Kelley
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

With tears forming in her eyes and voice shaking, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Olcott stood before a crowd of homeless Afghan children, prepared to fulfill a seven-month endeavor, Aug. 14.

Before deploying to Afghanistan, Olcott, from Daytona Beach, Fla., a flight mission planner with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Lighthouse, made a commitment to her children.

"I made my children a promise," said Olcott. "I made it before I went to Iraq as well that I would do something for the children in that country. I didn't know how but I was determined to do it."

Olcott learned of the dire need for school supplies while handing out Beanie Babies to Afghan children on Forward Operating Base Fenty during Christmas of 2009.

"These children really wanted to learn," said Olcott. "They especially wanted to learn English. So I started emailing friends and family back home telling them I could use some school supplies."

Friends and family responded immediately by sending various types of school supplies. In addition, the 3rd Infantry Division's Adopt-A-Soldier program coordinator offered to send additional items to Olcott.

Through a reporter named Michael Jordan, who was filming a documentary on 3rd ID, Olcott was able to secure two large green tough boxes full of supplies from the Matthew Freeman Foundation.

U.S. Marine Capt. Matthew Freeman, of Richmond, Ga., was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. He also shared a passion to provide school supplies to the children of Afghanistan.

"...the kids would rather have pens and paper than food and water," said Freeman.

With items now coming in from the Matthew Freeman Foundation, the Adopt-A-Soldier program and Olcott's own non-profit organization, Operation New Start, Olcott soon had a large container full of clothing, toys, formula, bottles, toiletries, toothbrushes, shoes, coloring books and more.

Eventually, a civil affairs company was assigned



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Olcott, of Daytona Beach, Fla., a flight missions planner with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Lighthouse, poses with children after she donated two boxes of school supplies to them, Aug. 14.

to locate an appropriate village in which Olcott could personally distribute her donated items.

U.S. Army Capt. Glenn T. Battshinger, of Mays Landing, N.J., a civil affairs operations center leader with the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, Provincial Reconstruction Team Nangarhar, knew just the villagers that could use the supplies.

"A pencil gives a child hope," said Battshinger. "A notebook gives them the ability to keep a written record of their hope. Education is the only way Afghanistan will get out of its hole."

Barely a month ago, these villagers lost their homes during regional flash flooding and now were living in an internally displaced persons camp in Nangarhar.

As Olcott prepared to hand out the supplies, she became visibly overwhelmed by the moment.

"I broke down," said Olcott. "Wow, I'm really here. These kids really do need help. They are the future of Afghanistan."

Back at FOB Fenty, Olcott has also done whatever she can to help children and the adults alike. After working her ten-hour overnight shift, she can often be found at the local bread store donating food supplies, which led to the introduction of pizza by the bread maker.

She has also donated baby supplies to local hospitals and toiletries to Afghan Soldiers stationed on FOB Fenty.

"This experience in Afghanistan has been one of the most memorable in my career and my life, said Olcott. "Just being able to save someone is probably the most amazing feeling."



U.S. Army Pfc. Gary W. Faust of Bowling Green, Ky., a medic with 4th Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Bulldog, practices his fist bump with children of Andersil village in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province July 20.

Troops build goodwill with Afghans by steps

**By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

It does not take long for the kids to show up. When Afghan and International Security Assistance Forces set foot in a community in eastern Afghanistan, they become objects of fascination to question, shake hands with and watch.

"They'll ask us why we're here," U.S. Army Spc. Cory B. Petrosky of Grapevine, Texas, a radio operator with Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Bulldog, said. "They'll talk about their daily lives ... They like to let us know what they're doing. They'll show us their school books."

Many of the youths ask for the pens U.S. Soldiers keep in their uniform sleeves while others want to say hello and show off their English skills. Troops can quickly find themselves surrounded by a crowd of

smiling children.

U.S. Army Capt. Robert R. Reynolds of Huntsville, Ala., the company commander of the unit based at Combat Outpost Honaker-Miracle in Kunar province, said the more contact his Soldiers have had with a village, the friendlier the residents are and the more cooperation they provide.

"I think we're very respectful to the people," he said. "They always want to ask us in for tea and the kids always go up to the Soldiers and want to give them high fives."

Reynolds, whose base sits where the Watapur and Pech Valleys meet, said their most recent focus with residents has been crop diversification. This program involves the Afghan government paying farmers to keep roadside cornfields at a certain height and thereby denying insurgents a place from which they can ambush traffic.

"We're getting out there and working with the

locals ... and showing them we're here to secure the area for everyone," Reynolds said.

Building a rapport with the Afghan people can be accomplished in many ways.

Provincial Reconstruction, Agribusiness Development and Civil Affairs Teams across the country serve as a conduit between the people and their government to ensure the progress of public works projects.

Being prepared

Service is also a focus at Forward Operating Base Finley-Shields in the Nangarhar province, where an Afghan scouting program has steadily built momentum.

The program, which currently involves service members and base personnel working with Afghan children, was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant by the U.S. Dept. of State. U.S. Army Capt. Glenn T. Battschinger of Mays Landing, N.J., a Civil Affairs team commander with the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, Task Force Spartan, began the program in February.

As a Boy Scout troop leader and former eagle scout, Battschinger said he wanted a way to provide Afghan youth with the attention they need and to help teach them discipline and respect.

"I'm teaching these kids the way I teach my Scouts at home," he said. "They're the same children."

With the support of local Afghan leaders, about 100 boys have joined the troop and meet weekly in a secure field at the base, learning such skills as knot tying and first aid.

"It takes an hour a week and that's more joy than we get from the rest of the week," Battschinger said of those at the base who volunteer to help at the meetings.

One of those volunteers was U.S. Army Capt. Mary B. Danner-Jones of Neenah, Wis., the public affairs officer for the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team. Her unit's executive officer, U.S. Army Maj.



U.S. Army Capt. Glenn T. Battschinger of Mays Landing, N.J., a Civil Affairs team commander with the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, Task Force Spartan, presents patrol leaders with neckerchiefs at the April 24 scout meeting at Forward Operating Base Finley-Shields.

Jocelyn Leventhal, asked her to take charge of a girl's scouting program that would mirror the boys'. In August, they had their first meeting in a separate part of the field.

Plans call for the girls to learn crafts, hygiene and first aid. Danner-Jones said she hopes the girls' program "opens up the world for them and gives them a view outside of their compound."

The Afghan Scouts program is currently not affiliated with the World Organization of the Scout

Movement, although it uses many of the same traditions. In April, Boy Scouts from the United States sent the Afghans neckerchiefs they could wear to make up for their lack of uniforms.

Uniforms won't be a problem much longer with the U.S. Dept. of State grant, which will fund Afghan Scout troops at 30 schools throughout the Jalalabad area for a year, Battschinger said. It will cover the costs of two troops at each school – one male and one female – in addition to uniforms and instructors.

"All those Afghan children need is a bit of attention," he said, noting the future leaders of the country are children. "This is something that will touch everyone that comes in contact with it."

Faridoon Malikzai, a senior patrol leader interviewed in April, said the program had encouraged the kids to go to school, stay honest and stay out of trouble. He hoped to someday work as a professional scout leader.

"I'll train the people to do good works," Malikzai said. "The future of the country belongs to the kids ... they will know what is right and what is wrong." an ANP checkpoint at eastern Afghanistan's Shege village. Zaiyee toured nine checkpoints in Kunar province, evaluating them and meeting with International Security Assistance Forces to discuss improvements and the staffing of each to improve security.

Iron Gray strikes Taliban Strong Hold

By Maj. Alan Gilman
Task Force Iron Gray S-9

Throughout the month of August 2010, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment (Task Force Iron Gray) in conjunction with Afghan National Army (ANA) forces conducted several air assault operations into Western Mehtar Lam District, Laghman Province.

Coalition Force (CF) and ANA soldiers fought side by side defeating dozens of insurgents in Shahgulyan, Hendor and other neighboring villages.

Discovered during the joint operation was several large weapons caches consisting of various weapons, ammunition, rockets, mortars, military grade and home made explosives along with Taliban propaganda materials.

Staff Sgt. John A. Julian of 1st Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment (Task Force Iron Gray) secures the high ground overlooking the village of Shahgulyan during joint Coalition Force and Afghan National Army operations conducted on 10 August 20010. (Photo by Spc. David Jackson, 982D Combat Camera Company)



Spc. Miguel F. Rosa (left) observes fires as Spc. Kristopher A. Zulkeski (Right) fires a 60MM mortar round to suppress Taliban fighters during operations in Western Mehtar Lam District, Laghman Province (Photo by Spc. David Jackson, 982D Combat Camera Company)



In early morning darkness an Afghan National Army soldier secures his equipment before descending down the mountain with Task Force Iron Gray soldiers to search the village of Shahgulyan (Photo by Spc. David Jackson, 982D Combat Camera Company)

ANA, ISAF repair bridge in combined effort

**Story by U.S. Army Spc. Richard Daniels Jr.
Task Force Bastogne Public Affairs**

The 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps Afghan National Army Engineers, assisted by Company G, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force No Slack; 230th Engineer Company and 323rd Route Clearance Company conducted bridge repairs Aug. 6 – 8 along Route California.

Due to heavy rains and flooding, many structures in eastern Afghanistan became unstable including the Dab Bridge in Kunar province's Dangam District, which disrupted both civilian and military traffic along the route.

"We were moving north after the rain washed out to prepare for resupply to [Forward Operating Base] Bostick," said U.S. Army Capt. Adam M. Karr of Chesapeake, Va., brigade engineer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Bastogne. "We hit a bridge over a culvert that the center supports had been seriously damaged. We couldn't run logistics convoys over it," he said.

The ANA and Coalition forces assessed the damage of the bridge. Several key components of the bridge, constructed of concrete and stone, had been washed away by floodwater.

"A portion of the bridge had given out," said Sgt. Alvin Dionicio of Waipahu, Hawaii, 230th Engineer, Hawaiian Army National Guard, Task Force Bastogne. "[The] center column under the bridge was washed away so that caused a hole in the bridge."

They discovered two cement slabs deteriorating, which had to be removed to reach the foundation underneath, added U.S. Army Spc. Kawika M. Aweau of Haiku, Hawaii, 230th Engineer, Hawaiian Army National Guard, Task Force Bastogne.

An impaired bridge wasn't the only obstacle the ANA and Coalition Forces faced. They soon found themselves being attacked

from across the river.

"About half an hour into working on the bridge we took small arms fire from across the river," said Dionicio. "The first thing everyone did was take cover and tried to identify where the rounds were coming from. That was one of three engagements that day."

Even while under fire and working in the river below the bridge, the group continued to pour mortar and cement and hand carry rocks to the site.

"We couldn't use river rocks because they were too round and smooth, if you put grouter on it, it wouldn't make a solid foundation," said Aweau.

After the foundation was set, the team went back the next day to move the older slabs to allow room for two-way traffic and military vehicles to pass through.

"We were able to pull together the material and expertise that we needed in time to get it fixed so we could resupply all the FOBs and combat outpost north of it," said Karr. "We got it done in about 72 hours."

Villagers didn't waste time to utilize the roads. Easy transportation made easier living.

"They can go to work, visit their family or sell their goods to the towns, outposts and the combat operation bases, it makes their life a little bit easier for transport," said Aweau. "I think it will be better for them economically and bring the families closer."



The 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps Afghan National Army Engineers replaces a cement slab on the Dab Bridge Aug. 8 in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province.

Preventive medicine keeps Soldiers in the fight

By Army 1st Lt. Emily K. Baker
Task Force Taskmasters Company B XO

Mosquitoes, ants, and wasps, oh my! The unforgiving terrain of the Nangarhar, Nuristan, Konar, Laghman provinces in eastern Afghanistan hosts hoards of insects and wildlife that create quite a hairy situation when it comes to cohabitating with troops; however, the Soldiers of the Preventive Medicine section of Charlie Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion, see “combat” with these creatures on a daily basis.

What is the worst vector problem pestering Soldiers in a deployed environment? “Flies! We have tons of flies and mosquitoes...and mosquitoes are so much worse because it’s harder to see them,” says U.S. Army Capt. Susan Gosine of Fort Campbell, Ky., officer in charge of Preventive Medicine at FOB Fenty in Jalalabad.

Mosquitoes and sand flies present a particular challenge because they can be carriers of vector-borne diseases such as Malaria. Soldiers deployed overseas are directed to take medication to prevent them from contracting the disease, though many Soldiers forget to take their pills. There were 29 cases of Malaria reported in 2009, mostly due to Soldiers forgetting to take their prescribed antibiotics.

“I specifically want to emphasize Malaria awareness,” says Army Lt. Col. Joseph Llanos of Saginaw, Mich., a Preventive Medicine doctor for the 101st

Airborne Division based out of Bagram Airfield. “This is the time of year—August and September—when Bastogne will have the highest risk of Malaria cases.”

Although vector control accounts for a large portion of the issues that PM handles, it is not the only concern of U.S. Army Capt. Gosine. She is overall responsible for the environmental safety of the base’s residents, including living conditions, food preparation, and water.

“The overall mission of Preventive Medicine is to prevent disease and non-battle injuries while deployed,” states Capt. Gosine, who has a team of Soldiers and techs working with her at FOB Fenty.

PM is extremely important to troops in a field situation. If war fighters are not kept fit to fight, then their ability to accomplish the mission is greatly degraded. That is why Capt. Gosine and her team regularly visit outlying combat outposts and forward operating bases in the Bastogne Area of Operations.

“Well, if you consider past wars, Preventive Medicine is very important because you can lose troops to something as simple as diarrhea,” said Capt. Gosine, thinking in a historical sense.

Even the common cold can be a combat degrader, but signs in the Dining Facility and the latrines remind Soldiers to practice good personal hygiene techniques.

“Our goal is to preserve the force, because once you get sick, it is a showstopper,” said Lt. Col. Llanos, “but if you prevent it, Soldiers will be overall healthier.”

Another concern for deployed Soldiers are sports-related injuries. According to Lt. Col. Llanos, it is both one of the most common theater injuries and the most preventable.

What is one thing Soldiers can do to prevent illness? “Wash your hands! I can’t say it enough,” warns Cpt. Gosine. “When eating outside the wire, be aware of gastrointestinal issues and diarrhea,” cautions Lt. Col. Llanos.

As for those pesky insects, PM will continue their mission to keep Soldiers and civilians alike safe from the environment and anything else non-combat related that might cause them harm.



U.S. Army Capt., Susan N. Gosine of Queens, N.Y., the preventive medicine officer in charge with Company C, 426th Brigade Support Battalion, Task Force Bastogne, views bacteria through a microscope at Forward Operating Base Fenty, August 31.

Artillerymen blast insurgents during operation

By U.S. Army Spc. Richard Daniels
Task Force Bastogne Public Affairs

Soldiers of 6th Section, 3rd Platoon, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls fire rounds several rounds fire for effect.



U.S. Army Sgt. John Rhodus of Farmington Hills, Mich., 3rd Platoon gunner, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls, lines up the reticule pattern in his sight on his aiming reference.



(Left) U.S. Army Sgt. John Rhodus of Fort Campbell, Ky, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls, sights onto his aiming reference. U.S. Army Pfc. Matthew Wiebers of Thornton, Colo., prepares his lanyard to hook up to the howitzer and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Eric Schoof of Fayetteville, N.C. checks the exact elevation using the gunner's quadrant.



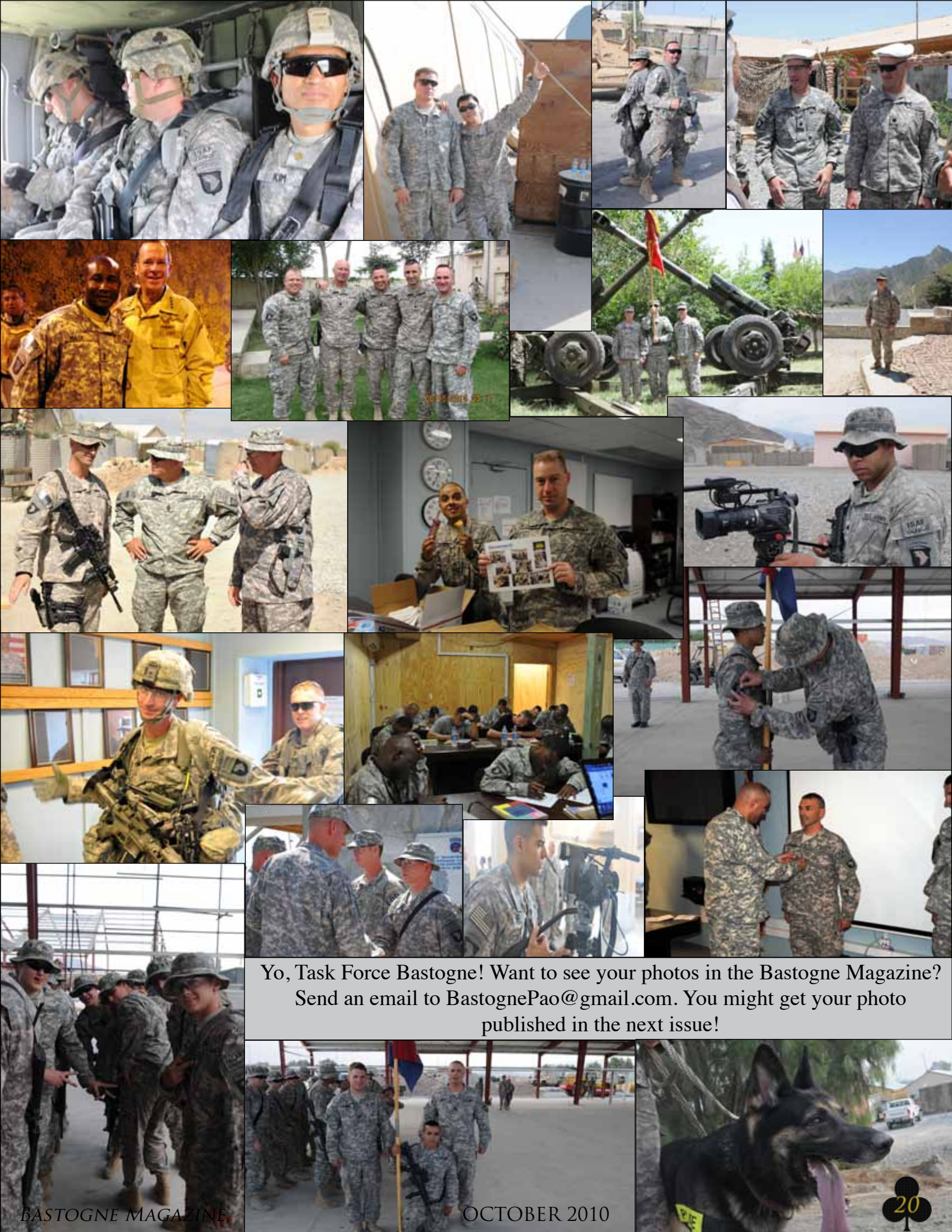
U.S. Army Pfc. Anthony Jefferson of Warren, Ohio, 3rd Platoon, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery



Regiment, Task Force Balls, U.S. Army Pfc. Bradley Daniell of Haskell, N.J. and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ardoin of Lake Charles, LA. conduct a fire direction crew drill in the back of a Mine Resistance Ambush Protected vehicle.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB





Yo, Task Force Bastogne! Want to see your photos in the Bastogne Magazine?
Send an email to BastognePao@gmail.com. You might get your photo
published in the next issue!

Bastogne's Fallen Heroes

August 17, 2010 - September 18, 2010



It doesn't take a hero to order men into battle.
It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle.
- Norman Schwarzkopf



Stay motivated, stay dedicated! Bastogne!

Mo-mo-mo-mo-mo-mo-motivation, De-de-de-de-de-de-dedication You hopefully all remember this song from back in basic training. You needed some motivation to finish basic training--that might have been a college fund, your family, the future, a new challenge, or being part of something bigger -serving your country etc. What about now? What motivation do you have to finish this deployment? Well, guess what? We are already half way to redeployment. It is a lot cooler than a few months ago. Some of you have already gone on R&R and some of you still looking forward to R&R. These are all motivations that we need to finish this deployment.

Each of you is doing significant and important work here assisting Afghanistan, and our world. We might not see the changes now, but we will see down the road the changes to which we are contributing every day. When I visit COPs and FOBs, I see Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Civilians accomplishing their mission day in and day out; i.e. manning guard towers, patrolling, CLPs, running all kinds of missions etc. It can be difficult to see the big picture of how important your role is in accomplishing our mission here; but every time I visit our troops what I see is "team work," and I am motivated by that.

Bastogne Families, regardless of your units, we are here for one another and please remember that we are in this fight together. In the same way that I draw motivation from running (some of you are thinking that I should stop talking about running, but it's true), you can draw motivation from fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen and especially God. Let's keep motivating one another, running the race, and trusting in God.

May God bless and keep you all.

CH (MAJ) Moon H. Kim



Chaplain (Maj.) Moon Kim
Task Force Bastogne Chaplain

Task Force Panther welcomed to Nangarhar

By U.S. Army Spc. Richard Daniels
Task Force Bastogne Public Affairs



The 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Panther held a transfer of authority ceremony where U.S. Army Lt. Col. William B. Johnson of Bruceton, Tenn., Task Force Panther commander, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony R. Broadhead of Clarksville, Tenn., uncased their battalion colors at Forward Operating Base Connolly in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province Sept. 14.

The ceremony signified their assumption of authority of the Khogyani, Chaparhar, Surkh Rod, Pachir wa Agam, Sherzod, and Hezerak Districts in Task Force Bastogne's area of operation. Included in the ceremony was a combat patch ceremony recognizing the Soldiers first 30 days in theater.



BASTOGNE RETENTION TEAM

The new Fiscal Year is approaching fast and now is the time to start looking at your reenlistment options, whether you want to stay at your current duty station, go overseas or see where the Army needs you. The Army offer's 5 different reenlistment options that Soldiers may qualify for, with these options Soldiers may also qualify for a reenlistment bonus.

The first option is Regular Army Reenlistment. This carries no guarantee of assignment, training or stabilization. Soldiers will be assigned and utilized according to the needs of the Army.

The second option is Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment. This guarantees 1 to 12 months stabilization at current duty station. Deployed Soldiers may reenlist for 2 years and receive 1 to 6 months stabilization. With this option Soldiers can take advantage of the Fort Campbell Education Reenlistment Incentive Program, where you can go to college for up to 16 semester hours.

The third option is Army Training Reenlistment. This guarantees to qualified Soldiers attendance at an available service school of choice for PMOS, SQI, ASI or language training.

The fourth option is Overseas Assignment Reenlistment. This guarantees assignment to one of the following overseas areas of choice: Korea, Alaska, Europe or Hawaii.

The fifth and final option is CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment. This guarantees assignment for a minimum of 12 months at the CONUS station of choice.

If you are planning on ETSing from the active Army, you should seriously consider what the Army Reserves has to offer in the way of a Different MOS, Bonuses, and additional Educational incentives.

There are many options that Soldiers can qualify for when it is time to reenlist. See your Career Counselor Today for what options you qualify for. By SSG Vereen, Career Counselor 1STB

