

Ryder Dispatch

The Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Polson

KABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Pfc. Matthew Emery, Company G, 334th Brigade Support Battalion, stacks a bag of beans in the arms of a local Afghan man from the village of Qaleh-ye Janan during an Afghan National Police and Troop A, 1st Squadron, 134th Cavalry Regiment, partnered humanitarian assistance operation in the Musahi District, here, Jan. 30.

Operation United Front

By 2nd Lt. Sean Polson
A Troop, 1-134th Cav.

The Musahi District Police Mentor Team (PMT) of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 134th Cavalry Regiment, Nebraska Army National Guard, has been working diligently to strengthen the Afghan National Police's (ANP) security mission and help the Afghan locals in the Musahi

District of Kabul Province, Afghanistan.

Musahi is located in the mountain ranges directly south of Kabul and separates it from the Logar Province. Musahi suffers from severe poverty and a damaged infrastructure. Musahi is also a known insurgent stronghold and infiltration route into Kabul by insurgent forces

located in Logar Province. In the months leading up to Troop A's arrival in Musahi, the district had little mentor presence and the insurgent forces had complete freedom of movement through the valley.

Since the transfer of authority from the 101st Field Artillery to the 134th Cavalry Squadron

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On the move

By 1st Lt. Tim Halbur
HHC, 2-34th BSTB

Every unit in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division has a tremendous amount of equipment. This equipment consisting of vehicles, including 25,000 gallon fuel tankers, each section's specialized equipment and every supply sergeant's stockpile of supplies, has been moved throughout the world during this brigade's deployment.

The first big equipment move was from home stations in Iowa to Camp Shelby, Miss. Considering, the units are in every corner of the state and everywhere in between, this was a huge task in itself. Then after managing to get all that equipment down to Mississippi, a large portion of it was taken to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. Most of the equipment returned to Mississippi, while some of it was sent overseas and still other parts were sent straight back to Iowa. Once back in Mississippi, the equipment again had to be separated as to what was headed back to Iowa and what was headed overseas.

After determining what was going overseas, there was many a headache as to what equipment was going over and by what means. The brigade had a limited amount of strategic air assets, equipment that would be flown straight from the mobilization site to Afghanistan. Other options included equip-

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Ironhawk meets T-Hawk



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Shoulder to shoulder



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Security meeting...saftey

From the Editor

Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus
Editor-in-Chief
Public Affairs NCOIC

Relationships are built at a compelling rate while on deployment.

Soldiers begin to bond with the people they work with on a daily basis, whether that is the Soldier on the front lines with his tight knit squad, or the with Airman that provides vital resources to the fight. Relationships are integral in getting things done. But relationship building does not stop there.

While conducting counter-insurgency operations, it is critical that relationships are formed with Afghan National Security Force partners as well as others from the international community. By this point in the deployment, relationships have been established, and I urge you to further those positive relationships, to build trust among the forces, to support



the mission we were all given.

Other relationships that we must not forget are those with our friends and families back home. Throughout deployments, communication wanes, but take the extra time to keep in touch. It's these relationships that you will come home to, that you will rely on for support, that you will return to normalcy with, so treasure them when you can. There will more often than not, be a return on your investment.

We hope you enjoy this issue and appreciate your continued support. 🐻

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Ryder Dispatch

The Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division

2-34th Brigade Combat Team

Commanding Officer
Col. Benjamin Corell

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Arnold

Mission:

The **Ryder Dispatch** is a monthly publication created to celebrate and support the Soldiers and families of the 2-34th BCT by providing brigade members with information on what is happening around the brigade, and to keep Soldiers and families updated on current events and policies set forth by the command.

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Command Post



By Brigade Commander
Col. Benjamin J. Corell

One of the most important lessons I've learned during my 25 years of military service is the importance of developing and fostering relationships. And after more than seven months into our Afghan deployment, this lesson rings true now more than ever.

Everything involved in our mission here revolves around relationships - relationships with our Afghan Security Force Partners, relationships with our Coalition partners, relationships with our civilian government and nongovernmental counterparts, and perhaps most importantly, relationships with one another.

Deployments often foster the development of lifelong relationships between Soldiers. Relationships built on shared experiences both good and bad. These relationships are often vital to our morale. Our battle buddies are there to support and listen when times are tough and help pass the time when the

days grow long and weary.

Battle buddies are the people that we come to know best and trust with our very lives. These relationships define us and can mean the difference between mission success and failure. Don't take these relationships for granted and do your best to strengthen them as we move forward.

As important as deployment relationships are to our mission, we must not forget or neglect our relationships with our family and friends back home. These are enduring relationships, the ones that will help us return and reintegrate back into civilian life.

In the military, we must always be mindful that our relationships remain appropriate. Stay focused on your mission, rely on the support network that your battle buddies provide and call and write home as often as possible. 🐻



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan - U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus (left), ISAF force commander and Col. Ben Correll, (right) the 2-34th IBCT commander, talk together in a pavilion outside FOB Methar Lam, Feb. 7.

Thru the Ranks



By Brigade Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Arnold

The heritage of a unit is a source of pride and motivation for all members. For those of you who are not familiar with the history of the 34th Division, I encourage you to look into it. I think you will be amazed at some of the things you learn. From the inception of the unit early in the last century to recent actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, members of the 34th Division have established an honorable legacy of hard fought battles and long deployments in answering the call to duty.

I frequently hear Col. Benjamin Corell talk about how as a young man growing up in rural Iowa he would see veterans of the 34th division wearing their uniforms on Memorial Day and relating stories of battles fought. He describes the reverence and awe he has always felt for these men. They were common men from America's heartland who left the security of their homes and families to respond to a nation in need. Many of them did not return.

In his book, "An Army at Dawn," Rick Atkinson relates the struggle of allied forces as they fought across the sands of northern Africa and through the mountains of Italy in World War II. He describes the setbacks encountered at Kasserine and the final triumph at Rome; battles in which the 34th division played a major role. One cannot read these passages without feeling immense pride to serve in the same unit as such

patriots. They were committed to the ideals of liberty not just for Americans, but for the whole world.

In these battles, the entire youth of some Iowa communities was decimated to a shocking degree. Those who survived returned to create productive and meaningful lives for themselves and their families, but the scenes of terrible battle and friends lost left a permanent scar in their collective memories.

Before we deployed to Iraq, with the 1st Battalion, 133 Infantry, Col. Corell and I, along with our company command teams, had a chance to attend a reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association in Des Moines. We met with many of these warriors from battles of so long ago. To a man, they had one overwhelming and pervasive concern. They admonished us to "do them proud," to uphold the honor of the division to which they had devoted themselves, and to add to the legacy they had sacrificed so much to establish.

We went to Iraq and did exactly that. Now we are all here in Afghanistan doing the same thing. It is not easy, nothing worth doing ever is. But when this is all over and we come home to the people of a grateful state and a grateful nation, I hope you will bear the Red Bull of the 34th Infantry Division with equal pride to yourself and honor to those who have worn it before. 🐻

Ironhawk meets T-Hawk

By 1st Lt. Ryan Lett
832nd Engineer Co.

The last decade of American warfare has seen the rise of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), the most well-known being the Predator and Shadow drones. The newest UAV coming has a reported 176 foot wingspan and can take a picture of Afghanistan in one snapshot. On Jan. 17 the 832nd Engineer Company's Route Clearance Patrol 76 was introduced to a UAV of a much smaller scale.

The T-Hawk is a portable UAV weighing 19 lbs and roughly the size of an office trashcan. The design is built around a fan which is powered by a motor running on aviation gas. The engine can take it to speeds around 50 mph and heights of approximately 2500 ft for just under an hour on one tank. The T-Hawk carries a camera with infrared and normal daylight modes and is controlled by an operator with a remote unit from up to 4 kilometers away, with good line of sight.

The T-Hawk can be em-

ployed by route clearance patrols for route or quick area reconnaissance and surveillance. They can also investigate suspected improvised explosive device sites and use the thrust from its fan like the air digger on the Buffalo A2, Mine Protection Clearance Vehicle to uncover the IEDs.

Spc. Cody Pinkerman and Pfc. Charles Mitchell attended the 40 hour T-Hawk UAV pilot's course at the Joint Robotics Repair Depot building on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan from Jan. 7 - 21. The course was taught by Blake Meyer and Bob Pawloski and was divided between power point lectures and practical, hands-on application, including two hours of flight time for each operator.

"Bob and Blake were pretty good instructors," said Mitchell. "They quizzed us constantly and gave us a hard time if we didn't know the answer."

"Flying it was the best part obviously," said Pinkerman. "It took about 15 minutes of using the control unit before I got the hang of it, so it was really easy."

The T-Hawk proved to have some unconventional flying techniques one called the Yo-Yo Effect which Bob and Blake taught to the Soldiers. The control system was also different than they expected.

The control unit is a laptop with no joystick, just a touchscreen and stylus that shows a picture of the area it is flying over. The operator simply points to where they want it to fly and the T-Hawk goes there. It also has an autopilot mode that can be enabled that makes the T-Hawk return to where the control unit is set-up.

The T-Hawk's durability was tested during the training with a hilarious ending for those involved. When the new pilots were flying the UAV there was an interruption in the control unit's signal and it crashed.

"The T-Hawk's circuits got fried and it dropped straight to the ground from about 75 feet



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Lett

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan - The T-Hawk UAV, the newest addition to the 832nd Eng. Co., RCP 62.

up," said Pinkerman. "The crash smashed the air nozzles used for flight control and the instructors had to take it back to the shop and repair it."

Pinkerman and Mitchell both agreed the course was entertaining and looked forward to their new role as UAV pilots.

"Now all we're waiting on is company supply to issue us flight suits because we're 'ahem' trained pilots," joked Mitchell. 🍷

EQUIPMENT Cont. from Pg. 1



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Tim Halbur

THUMRAIT, Oman - Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Gift, the Brigade Movement NCOIC from Ankeny, IA prepares a Tricon full of unit equipment onto an Air Force pallet to ready it for its flight into Afghanistan.

ment moving by boat, then convoyed through Pakistan or taken by boat to the Sultanate of Oman, then flown from Oman to Afghanistan. These other options were also limited, so a lot of juggling had to be done.

The equipment and vehicles that went by ship to Oman and flew to Afghanistan arrived in January while the equipment that left in early September by ship and convoy is still trickling in.

Sgt. 1st Class Philip Gift, the movement non-commissioned officer with

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-34th IBCT and four Soldiers from various battalions went to Thumrait, Oman to pick up the equipment and bring it back with them to Afghanistan. They enjoyed a pleasant surprise when they arrived as the weather was much nicer than what they had left in Afghanistan, a perk of working for movement operations.

"The weather there was a heck of a lot better," said Staff Sgt. Tobias Moriset of the Support Operations Office, 2-34th Brigade Support Battalion, one of the soldiers that went to Oman to retrieve the brigade's equipment. "Most Airmen in Thumrait, Oman were in PT shorts and t-shirts every-day." 🍷

Charlie Med. makes Kalagush home

By Capt. Adrian Taylor
334th BSB

Tucked away in the southern Hindu Kush Mountains sits small Forward Operating Base Kalagush. Commanded by Capt. Garrett Gingrich, Company C, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, part of 34th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Kalagush is the last U.S. run forward operating base in the Nuristan Province.

"We are a fairly secure base at the moment," Gingrich, from Waterloo, Iowa, explained Feb. 25. "The winter makes it difficult for the insurgents to move around. We expect the insurgency to increase come spring." In order to help reduce that insurgency, Gingrich said they will continue to work with the locals to build a trusting relationship so the locals understand that Co. C is there to help them.

Along with Co. C, there are other components on the base, including the newest addition, a team from Co. C, 334th Brigade Support Battalion, known as Charlie Med, which is also a part of Task Force Red Bulls.

"The base is made up of our infantry company and platoons from active-duty U.S. Army field artillery and military police units," continued, Gingrich. "The Provincial Reconstruction Team that has been serving here is currently on the way out and they ran the medical clinic on our base. We are very glad to get an element of Charlie Med. Without them it would severely limit our ability to run missions in this area"

The five person medical team, up until last month, was providing level 2 medical services at Camp Phoenix in the capital city of Kabul, Afghanistan. The majority of Charlie Med relocated to Bagram Airfield in order to establish a level 1-plus medical treatment facility and assist the 334th BSB with convoy support and base operations.

"It is always really sad to leave your best friends behind," said Staff Sgt. Jessica Beswick, the senior medic, from Coralville, Iowa. "There was a little extra anxiety finding out that you are heading to a tiny FOB at the end of the world. We knew little about it except we had heard it had been hit before by insurgents. Our nervousness and anxiety were outweighed by the excitement of taking on a new challenge."

It was a hard transition for the team at first. They fell-in on



NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan - U.S. Army Capt. Barbara Kruger, a Physician Assistant from Adel, Iowa and U.S. Army Sgt. Rachel Hecht, a combat medic from Merrill, Iowa prepare to remove burn dressings from a 3-year-old Afghan girl at FOB Kalagush.

a treatment facility run by the Nuristan PRT, made up of medical personnel from the Navy and Air Force.

"Our systems were very different," explained Sgt. Rachel Hecht, a combat medic from Merrill, Iowa. "We had to learn to mesh with the PRT unit and the infantry company. Infantry units are known to be tight-knit organizations. Their medics train and fight alongside of them. It was hard to come in and say here we are, trust us."

The main mission of Charlie Med is to run sick call operations on the base.

"We mainly see U.S. and Afghan Soldiers. We most commonly see young Soldiers with musculoskeletal injuries, due to the heavy equipment they carry while on patrols," explained Capt. Barbara Kruger, the Charlie Med physician assistant and an Adel, Iowa, resident. "We also

see contractors and Afghan day workers. The current medical rules of engagement only allow us to see local nationals for life, limb and eye-sight. This is difficult because we do not want to turn anyone away."

"A small girl came in with burns over 50 percent of her body," said Beswick. "She had been treated locally but was in extreme pain. We removed the dry dressings, treated



NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan - U.S. Army Capt. Barbara Kruger, a Physician Assistant with Company C, 334th BSB, provides medical care to a day worker at the FOB Kalagush clinic.

the burns and redressed her wounds. She fell asleep after and her father said it was the first time she slept in over four days."

After U.S. Army medics treat local nationals, they refer them to local hospitals for follow-up treatment.

"We have no idea if they will follow-up with the local doctors or not," said Beswick. "The nearest hospital here is in Kabul. Locals in Nuristan prefer to go to Pakistan. We can only hope they continue to get treatment."

Like Gingrich and the infantrymen of Co. C, Charlie Med is preparing for the challenges they will face when spring comes to the Hindu Kush. ♥

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Dec. 1, Troop A's PMT, lead by 1st Lt. Dennis Frey Jr., has conducted roughly two dozen missions in the district. These initial missions have led to the development of Operation United Front, a complex plan spanning the winter months with three focused goals: partner with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in every mission conducted, influence the populace through humanitarian assistance and fortify the vulnerable ANSF positions throughout the Musahi Valley.

"We are not going to say we are not coming to help because it is too hard or too dangerous," said Frey. "The hardest challenge with the insurgent forces hiding within the community is trying to help the police district without spreading intel to the Taliban. Musahi is a key district in maintaining Kabul security."

"I believe that the Musahi police have the potential to overthrow any Taliban or insurgent force from the district," said Frey when asked about the Mushai ANP's capabilities. "If the police get engaged and stay engaged with the villagers, and put their faces out there."

The Musahi PMT and the Musahi ANP, with the assistance of soldiers from the Zone 1 Security Kandak commanded by Col. Amirsalem Adamkhail have conducted four humanitarian aid missions to various villages in the Musahi District. During the missions, the teams have delivered over 25 tons of humanitarian aid to the people of Musahi in the two months since Operation United Front kicked off.

"The people like it and they are working with us now, said Adamkhail. "The Afghan Nai-



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Polson

KABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Musahi District Police provide bags of rice, beans, flour and cooking oil to Qaleh-ye Janan villagers during an Afghan National Police and Troop A partnered humanitarian assistance operation in the Musahi District, here, Jan. 30.



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Polson

KABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A little Afghan boy from the village of Qaleh-ye Janan, cherishes his new blanket during an Afghan National Police and Troop A partnered humanitarian assistance operation in the Musahi District, here, Jan. 30.

tonal Army, Afghan National Police and Coalition Police Mentor Teams all worked together to make this happen. It brings the people together to work with the government."

Additionally, a new police department in the district is 75 percent complete, and fortification upgrades have been initiated on five key ANSF security positions throughout the valley. Operation United Front addresses a distinct focus on making strides during the winter months, but long term projects are in the works as well. Frey's PMT has conducted partnered recons with district leaders to several potential school and clinic sites.

"I want to know the poorest villages and the villages with the most problems with insurgent forces and I want to build the schools there and provide humanitarian assistance there in order to combat the Taliban's efforts," said Frey, during a meeting with Col. Amdullah Oria, the Musahi Police District Chief.

Though the efforts may seem marginal when in comparison to the work that still needs to be done, the PMT's efforts have developed a strong bond with the ANP and community elders and Frey has great ambitions in store for the Musahi District.

"Think about the small strides," said Cpt. Zachary Labrayere, the Troop A commander. "Two months ago the insurgent forces had the ANP and coalition forces speculating as to what was happening in the Musahi Valley. Now we have them wondering the same things." 🐻



By 1st Lt. Ryan Lett
832nd Engineer Co.

One of the main goals of Task Force Red Bulls during Operation Enduring Freedom XI is expanding the capabilities of our Afghan National Army counterparts so that eventually they can handle the security mission in the numerous provinces in Afghanistan. This is also a central idea of counter insurgency operations. Improvised explosive devices are the number one cause of casualties in Afghanistan and the ANA has responded by forming their own route clearance companies (RCC).

ANA RCC's are commanded by an ANA captain and are more than 50 men strong. They currently use up-armored Humvees and Ford Rangers for patrol vehicles. They are equipped with an organic explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) section that can handle IEDs and unexploded ordnance. Like U.S. route clearance patrols (RCP), they are trained as engineers. Like Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. is for the U.S. Army, Mazar-e-Sharif is the home of ANA engineers.

RCP 76 has been conducting missions in the Laghman Province in support of 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Ironman. The mentorship of ANA RCC 201st Corp is another added mission to the busy schedule of RCP 76. Recently, introductions and entry level training were conducted at Forward Operating Base Gambieri at the headquarters of ANA RCC 201st Corp. Capt. Aziz the ANA RCC commander noted that his men were motivated and wanted to work hard, but they haven't had very much training.

After some initial planning, entry level training was conducted and RCP 76 was

Shoulder to shoulder

832nd RCP 76 partners with ANA RCC Coy 201

introduced to their counterparts. As they worked, the mood was light. The ANA soldiers had a few laughs trying to pronounce Sgt. Tony Chanthavanh's name. A few times it came out as "Chan-Taliban" which caused a few laughs. It was decided that RCP 76 would train the RCC in EOD robot training, GPS/map orientation and route reconnaissance and entry level first aid.

areas and explain the whole conversion from grid to magnetic concept to their non-commissioned officers."

Spc. Adam Cook, the platoon medic for RCP 76, faced some of his own hurdles during the training as well.

"They don't have an actual medic for their company," said Cook. "So right now I'm trying to teach their men some of the

basics of combat first aid, so that we have something to build off of the next time we come down. Their techniques also vary greatly from ours."

EOD team leader Staff Sgt. Martin Yake of the 744th Ordnance Battalion got an up-close look at some of the ANA EOD equipment.

"They use a smaller EOD robot than what we use," said Yake. "The main thing is that they drive it around enough so they get used to operating it in that environment."

Yake and his team set up a mini training lane with some actual

common IED indicators such as lamp cord, so the ANA robot operators could interrogate it and work on their robot proficiency.

At the end Capt. Aziz appreciated the training and looked forward to the next time. They got to work "Enshanana be Shanana." Shoulder to Shoulder. 🇺🇸



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Lett

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Sgt. Troy Chanthavanh a Soldier with the 832nd Engineer Company's RCP 76, instructs Afghan National Army non-commissioned officers in map orientation at FOB Gambieri, here.

Fortunately the RCC equipment was in great shape and looked brand new. They even had some tools that aren't carried by U.S. RCP's. What the ANA called their "Disruptor" was a demolition kit with a small charge that can blow the fuse out of the cone of conventional munitions. This can enable them to render munitions safe and possibly recover them for evidence.

Initially, problems were identified such as language barriers when instructors worked with the equipment the ANA possessed.

"During the map orientation class, obvious map terms we use didn't have an equivalent word in Dari," said Sgt. Chanthavanh. "So I had to backtrack on some





U.S. Army courtesy photo

Red Bull colors fly high for father, Soldier

NEW SHARON, Iowa - Students from North Mahaska school stand under the 34th Infantry Division Red Bulls flag as it flies proudly in front of the school. The students are from 7th through 12th grade including Tyler Strasser, 5th grade and Reece Strasser, 6th grade who are the sons of Sgt. Maj. Matthew Strasser the operations sergeant major with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd brigade combat Team, 34th Infantry Division Task Force Red Bulls.

Security meeting heightens safety

By 1st Lt. Nicholas Rasmussen
1-168th Inf.

Paktya security and how to improve it was the main topic at a joint security meeting held at Forward Operating Base Gardez Jan. 23.

The newly established weekly meeting included participants from the Afghan National Security Forces, the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, Paktya Provincial Reconstruction Team, the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Steve Boesen, a native of Ankeny, Iowa, and commander of the 1st Bn. 168th Inf. Regt., known as Task Force Lethal, helped put together the joint security meeting designed to coordinate the efforts of ANSF and coalition forces in Paktya.

"It gives us a chance to come together and say, 'Hey, we have a problem here, let's talk about how to solve it,'" said Boesen. "The whole purpose of the meeting is to get everyone together in an effort to solve the problems of Paktya. I've seen this meeting in Khowst and Ghazni, and it has worked real well; doing things piecemeal does not work. I've seen it."

One focus of this week's meeting was the practicality and effectiveness of night raids performed within the province.

Brig. Gen. Abdal Rahma Safi, the Paktya chief of police, believes the increased presence of the security forces during the day and night contributed to the low level of insurgent activity in the province.

"Night raids have been very effective based on the reports I have received," said Safi.

Col. Mahmoud Zazai, commander of the Afghan National Army's 1st Kandak, said the shoulder-to-shoulder operations conducted at night by ANA and coalition forces in Zormat District have been successful at controlling insurgent activity.

"I think night raids work to get insurgent forces out of the area," said Zazai. "We can go places that we couldn't before."

Gen. Nazar Shah Safi, the National Directorate of Security chief, spoke of the practical reasons for the ANSF and coalition forces to conduct night raids.

"Conducting operations during the day has a high likelihood of civilian casualties. If conducted at night, civilians are safe in their houses, and it is easier to capture the target," he said.

Other topics at the meeting included the activity level of insurgent forces, the effectiveness of the ANSF and coalition presence, and the need to sustain recently improved ANSF and coalition forces communication and cooperation.

"We used to not participate in operations, night raids or air assaults," said Safi. "But now, we cooperate with coalition forces, and civilian casualties have decreased."

Mike O'Brien, State Department representative for the PRT, said the security meeting established by Boesen and Team Paktya has been a positive step to achieving congruency of effort by the ANSF and coalition forces in Paktya.

"We will always be available to conduct joint operations with ANSF and coalition forces," said Col. Rahimi, the executive officer for the Paktya Afghan National Civil Order Police Brigade. 🇺🇸



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Rasmussen

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Brig. Gen. Abdal Rahma Safi, the Paktya Chief of Police, discusses his assessment of Paktya Province's security during a newly established weekly security meeting on forward operating base Gardez Jan. 23.

ANA, US together Barrack's

By **Spc. Stacey Bonnar**
Troop A, 1-113th Cav.

Soldiers conduct base security operations at Joint Combat Outpost (JCOP) Pul-E Sayad, Parwan Province, carefully monitoring the traffic entering and exiting the perimeter.

These soldiers live in converted shipping containers, they take smoke breaks, and slug down energy drinks to stay awake on long shifts. They are your typical Soldiers pulling a day of guard duty in Afghanistan. What's not typical is that this post isn't just guarded by American Soldiers. It's also guarded by members of the Afghan National Army (ANA).

JCOP Pul-E Sayad is home to Soldiers of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, a part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, French Army soldiers, as well as members of the ANA. The French and American soldiers here mentor the ANA and Afghan National Police (ANP) to build their skills and abilities.

"We work with the ANA and ANP to help better their understanding of law enforcement and military standards to establish and develop their ability to sustain their own government and local laws," said Sgt. 1st Class Luke Krier, the Troop A, 3rd platoon sergeant.

"They trained us very well," said ANA Pvt. Alam Zib, from Kunar Province. "We learned how to drive, how to shoot and now we are very good at it."

"We graduated from the training site and were taught by U.S. Soldiers," said ANA Pvt. Mohammed Anef, from the Gul Darah village in Kabul Province. "I joined voluntarily to help support my family." He enlisted in the ANA eight months

ago and says he is happy to be working at Pul-E Sayad.

Though Troop A works with both the ANA and ANP, they have a closer relationship with the ANA since they share the JCOP. This relationship was earned by the ANA soldiers and they recognize the trust and respect given to them by U.S. Soldiers.

"We realize how trusted and respected we are to guard American and French soldiers here," said Anef. "We trust and we respect them, too."

This respect is also shared by the local villagers.

"They have good behavior, they are happy we are here," said Zib.

A Part of 113th Cavalry's mission is to work with the ANA and ANP to create a sense of confidence and trust among local people within the community around Pul-E Sayad.

"If you compare our army with what it was 10 years ago, we are much better off now with the support of U.S. and coalition forces," said ANA Staff Sgt. Walif Mohammed. "Americans have supported us and helped us gain a positive image in our community. With continued support, we will be able to stand on our own feet with a sustainable army."

"The Afghan people are tired of war," said ANA Sgt. 1st Class Navid Ahmed a platoon sergeant. "The people are willing to work with the ANA to stand up against our enemies, especially in Parwan Province. We can defeat our enemies. If we have continued support for a few more years, we will be able to fight our enemies alone, without the international community." ♥

Lawyer



By **Maj. Bill Kelly**
2-34 BCT, Brigade Judge Advocate



The barrack's lawyer was thinking about relationships today. Three things popped out of his mouth when asked about his relationships. His first thought was that what happens on deployment stays on deployment. His second pearl of wisdom was that he is not afraid to commit- he is monogamously challenged. Finally, his last thought was that he is not doing anything wrong until he gets caught. As Abraham Lincoln said, "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt." The Barracks Lawyer leads good servicemembers astray by his selfish and foolish view of using people and the deployment for personal gain. What the Barracks' lawyer misses, is the concept that holds all relationships together, including the relationship between the leader and the led, is trust. Trust is based on integrity.

The Brigade Judge Advocate firmly believes that our actions on deployment impact many people. Letters of Reprimand, Article 15s and UCMJ actions follow servicemembers home on deployment and tarnish award possibilities. Inappropriate relationships harm families and hurt unit morale. The barrack's lawyer disregards selfless service and places no emphasis on putting the welfare of the Nation, the Army and subordinates before his own. Our code of military justice is based on integrity. The primary purpose of the military's system is to provide the military commander with necessary tools to enforce good order and discipline. The bottom line is that relationships need to remain professional. That is easy to do when we follow our leadership's policies and practice army discipline and respect.

The Army spells out which relationships between Soldiers of different rank are prohibited. The barrack's lawyer may advise you to be in one of these relationships because no one will ever find out. Nevertheless, all members may be held accountable for relationships that violate this policy. Stay out of relationships that: Compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command; Cause actual or perceived partiality or unfairness; Involve, or appear to involve, the improper use of rank or position for personal gain; Are, or are perceived to be, exploitative or coercive in nature; Create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on discipline, authority, morale, or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission. If we do not have professional relationships, fraternization is a violation of the UCMJ. Would you rather take home a medal or an Article 15? ♥

Any "good advice" from your Barrack's Lawyer?
Email it to: iowaredbulls@yahoo.com



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan - (Top of page) 1st Lt. Lucas Peterson and (Above) Capt. Garrett Gingrich are pictured during Operation Brass Monkey a Company C, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment mission outside Parwai, here.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus



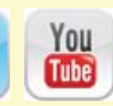
U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus

PARWAN PROVINCE Afghanistan - (Above) Sgt. Robert Streeter, (Left) Sgt. Cullen Wurzer, (Right) 2nd Lt. Andrew Smith and Pfc. Nicholas Vanderpool are all pictured during Operation First Snow a Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment mission in the Kohe-E Safi Disitric, here.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus

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**RED BULLS
ATTACK!!!**

Thanks to all of the support from our fellow Red Bulls. The Public Affairs team has been hard at work telling the soldiers story. Check out our websites and leave us a comment on our wall.

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