



# KBC INSIDER



VOL. 1 - ISSUE 7

NEWSLETTER OF THE KABUL BASE CLUSTER INSTALLATION COMMAND

MARCH 2011

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1-181st organizes infrastructure reconstruction in Kabul

# KBC INSIDER

VOL. 1 - ISSUE 7 - MARCH 2011

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs Office  
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

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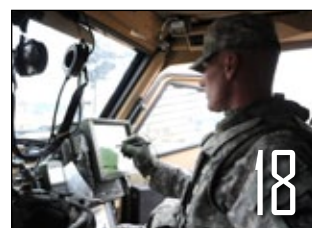
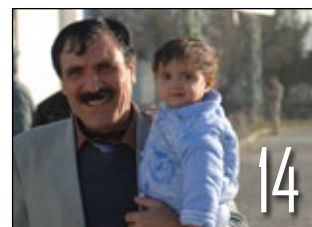


## ON THE COVER

Members of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, conduct a convoy brief prior to an operation Feb. 23 at Camp Phoenix. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

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# **SAFETY WARNING**

**REGARDING WEAPONS PURCHASED IN AFGHANISTAN**

**DO NOT FIRE THESE  
TYPES OF WEAPONS**



## **CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Because firearms are inherently dangerous, weapons purchased in the United States are subject to stringent regulations which control the materials, process and people involved in the manufacturing of weapons.
2. Weapons sold in Afghanistan are not subject to the same regulations as weapons sold in the United States. Consequently, you do not know the quality of the materials used or the process followed to manufacture or assemble the weapon.
3. Even if the weapon is a genuine antique, there is no way to know the history of the weapon or how it has been used or misused in the past.
4. By purchasing this weapon and shipping it to the United States, you are responsible for injuries that result from firing the weapon. Do not under any circumstances give this weapon to a family member, friend or loved one without specifically warning them not to fire the weapon.
5. If you choose to ignore this warning, please have this firearm examined by a certified gunsmith prior to firing it to ensure it is both functional and safe.



# AROUND THE KBC



## JOINT TRAINING

U.S. Army Spc. Dustin Pratt, 1-181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard, trades his M4 rifle for a Portuguese Soldier's G3 rifle at an improvised range on the snowy, barren mountainsides of Kabul Military Training Center, Feb. 28, for the joint-nation weapons familiarization training. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Broughey)

## AMBASSADOR VISIT

A Mongolian Soldier, and other Mongolian military members, receive NATO ISAF service medals from the U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, Jonathan S. Addleton, during his visit to Camp Eggers in Kabul, March 22. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)



## 17th CSSB FLE

Members of the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Forward Logistics Element pose for a unit photo at Camp Phoenix in March. The 17th CSSB FLE provides transportation, maintenance and logistical support for the Kabul Base Cluster.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)





## CAPTIVATED CONGREGATION

The U.S. Army's Chief of Chaplains, Maj. Gen. Doug Carver, speaks to servicemembers during a Kabul Base Cluster chaplain's conference March 25 at Camp Phoenix. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)



## GETTING DUNKED

Lt. Col. Thomas Rynders, commander of the 1-134th Cavalry Squadron, Nebraska Army National Guard, gets wet in a dunk tank March 25 to help raise money for Special Olympics. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)



## BULGARIAN INDEPENDENCE

Bulgarian forces and other U.S. and coalition forces celebrate Bulgaria's Independence Day March 3 at Camp Phoenix. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)



## REENLISTMENT

ISAF Commander Gen. David Petraeus reenlists Soldiers from the 198th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, during a ceremony March 29 at ISAF Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Cody Byrum)





## KBC Insider wins top honors in media competitions

The KBC Insider won top honors in several public affairs competitions in March.

The command information publication placed 1st in the 2010 National Guard Bureau Print Media Competition in the field expedient newspaper/newsletter category, and placed 2nd in the same category for the Department of the Army's 2010 Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Communications Competition – the highest level of awards for excellence in military journalism.

"It's such a great honor to be recognized at that level," said Capt. Anthony Deiss, public affairs officer, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. "I want to thank all the public affairs professionals in the KBC who contributed stories to the newsletter, as well as all the servicemembers we covered, who helped to make the newsletter a success."

The KBC Insider was first established in August 2010, and is a first-time applicant to each public affairs competition.



## Maine, Alabama National Guard units transfer authority at Camp Eggers



(U.S. Army photos by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

**ABOVE:** 1165th Military Police Company Soldiers Capt. Courtney Pullum, center, commander, and 1st Sgt. Charles Johnson, right, senior noncommissioned officer, both of the Alabama Army National Guard, uncased their unit guidon Feb. 24 during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Eggers.



**LEFT:** Capt. Courtney Pullum, 1165th Military Police Company, Alabama Army National Guard, shakes the hand of Capt. Peter Carter, 1136th Transportation Company, Maine Army National Guard, Feb. 24 after the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Eggers.

### By Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

**CAMP EGGERS** – The 1136th Transportation Company, Maine Army National Guard, transferred authority with the 1165th Military Police Company, Alabama Army National Guard, during a ceremony here Feb. 24.

The 1165th took over the responsibility of providing force protection and base security for several bases in the capital of Kabul from the 1136th, which departed for home after a year-long deployment.

"The 1136th has done an outstanding job providing support to Task Force Rushmore and the Kabul Base Cluster," said Brig. Gen. Theodore Johnson, Task Force Rushmore commander, during the ceremony.

"These citizen-Soldiers provided force protection for more than 3,000 U.S. and coalition servicemembers stationed throughout the KBC, and I am thankful for their support."

The nearly 160 members of the Bangor, Maine-based 1136th turned over their duties to the Soldiers of the Fairhope, Ala.-based 1165th, who will continue to manage base-security operations, personnel movement security, and provide a quick-reaction force.

"I know the 1165th will provide the same level of support as the 1136th, and I look forward to working with you and welcome you to the Task Force Rushmore team," said Johnson.

# High school classmates reunite at Camp Phoenix



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Army Maj. Trent Bruce, left, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, SDARNG, and Air Force Reserve Maj. Erica Meyer, Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435, pose for a picture at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. The two 1995 Custer High School, S.D., graduates reunite to serve together while stationed at Camp Phoenix.

**By Sgt. Rebecca Linder**

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

CAMP PHOENIX – There were 70 in this graduating class, but two of South Dakota's Custer High School class of 1995 are serving together here in the Kabul Base Cluster. Maj. Trent Bruce, who has been in country for more than nine months, and Maj. Erica Meyer, who has been serving here for about two months reunite, but this time in uniform.

Keeping in contact off and on since high school, the two have made significant contributions to their hometown school and to their country being second-time deployers.

"In 2005, Erica and I started a scholarship for Custer High School from the class of 1995," said Bruce. "Ever since then we have had frequent contact through email and Facebook; Erica knew that I was here, so when she found out about her deployment, she contacted me."

The Class of 1995 Alumni Scholarship fund, which is \$500 for one graduating senior each year, isn't the only good will these two bring to the table. These two bring expertise to the war in Afghanistan and help play a major part in reshaping the infrastructure and government.

Bruce, who resides in Rock Rapids, Iowa, is a civil engineer for a private consulting firm, DeWild, Grant, Reckert and Associates, when not mobilized.

Bringing his civilian skill sets to war, Bruce, a member of the Sioux Falls-based 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota



(Top, photo courtesy Maj. Erica Meyer) (Bottom, U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

**TOP:** Maj. Erica Meyer, right, talks with Mr. Bill Lucas, a State Department Foreign Service Officer from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement and the Director of the IPIT at Camp Phoenix.

**BOTTOM:** Maj. Trent Bruce, right, visits with Afghans hired using the "Afghan First" program, about a construction project on Camp Phoenix.

Army National Guard, oversees all aspects of construction, facility maintenance and public works in the Kabul Base Cluster.

As a member of the 196th, also known as Task Force Rushmore, he helps support more than 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces stationed throughout 11 bases in Kabul. The unit provides installation management and support for daily operations on the bases.

Meyer, of the Air Force Reserve, is a planner for the Rule of Law Interagency Planning and Implementation Team (IPIT) with Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435. The IPIT, a joint civil-military organization, is responsible for planning, coordinating resources, and synchronizing Rule of Law efforts in Afghanistan. As a member of the IPIT, Meyer, assists the Afghan government in developing and sustaining a transparent, equitable and efficient justice system.

"A functioning legal system allows security forces to transfer custody of insurgents, enabling the transition of security from the U.S. military back to the government of Afghanistan," said Meyer, stationed at Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Va., when not deployed. "We look at investigations, prosecutions, courts and corrections – keeping bad people from those trying to do good. It's an important mission in Afghanistan right now so we can bring troops home."

Helping students at Custer High School and serving their country are just two acts of selfless service that these two share, and although Bruce and Meyer don't work directly together, Bruce said the two still enjoy catching up and eating dinner a few times a week.



# British Parliament member visits National Guard Soldiers

By Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

CAMP PHOENIX – British Parliament member, Mr. Julian Brazier, met with U.S. National Guard Soldiers stationed here Feb. 22 to help assess the future of Britain's reserve component by gaining insight from reserve forces serving in Afghanistan.

Brazier, co-chair of the All-Party Group for the Reserve Forces for Britain, is part of a group of parliamentary members formed at the request of British Prime Minister David Cameron to look at ways its Territorial Army (TA) can expand their role and benefits to its members.

"The National Guard comes from a common root with the British Territorial Army...and I believe [the National Guard] model is a very effective model," said Brazier. "Prime Minister Cameron said he wants special work done on the reserves, and we can learn a huge amount from you."

Brazier is looking at how the National Guard supports operations overseas, domestic operations at home, professionally develops its servicemembers, and provides educational benefits.

National Guard Soldiers from South Dakota, Nebraska and Massachusetts shared their experiences with Brazier, and spoke openly about serving as citizen-Soldiers.

"I believe we've helped to answer some of Mr. Brazier's questions about the role of the National Guard and how we develop our people and provide benefits," said Lt. Col. Andy Gerlach, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota National Guard.

Brazier was particularly interested in the use of National Guard units in a theater of operation, as well as how it professionally develops its officers and noncommissioned officers (NCO).

"I knew a lot about how reserve units were



(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

**British Parliament member, Mr. Julian Brazier, right, visits with Lt. Col. Andy Gerlach, left, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota National Guard, and Lt. Col. Anthony Couture, 1-181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard, Feb. 22 at Camp Phoenix. Brazier met Soldiers from several National Guard states in an effort to help assess the future of Britain's Reserve component by looking at the U.S. National Guard model and how it supports operations overseas, domestic operations at home, professionally develops its servicemembers and provides educational benefits.**

being used before coming to Afghanistan, but it's very interesting to talk to someone who has actually been deployed here," said Brazier. "Developing your people is also important and there is a lot we can learn on the officer and NCO pieces."

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**"The National Guard comes from a common root with the British Territorial Army...and I believe [the National Guard] model is a very effective model. Prime Minister Cameron said he wants special work done on the reserves, and we can learn a huge amount from you."**

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— British Parliament member, Mr. Julian Brazier

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"The National Guard has been a leading component of the U.S. military in supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans, and is no longer a strategic reserve, but an operational force that deploys alongside the active-duty components," said Gerlach. "Our men and women have done

a tremendous job balancing their home lives, professional careers, and obtaining civilian education in the midst of continuous deployments."

Brazier also inquired about the role of the National Guard and their importance to state-specific missions.

"We are looking at providing more regional missions in Britain, which there is little of at the moment," said Brazier. "The National Guard is such an asset to their communities during winter storms or floods, and we are interested in how you provide that support."

Brazier said that while not everything the National Guard does or how it operates will cross over to how the TA will provide support to Britain in the future, the most important part of his visit is to gain lessons learned from these National Guard Soldiers, and apply it to a model that works for Britain.

"The National Guard has a lot to offer those who fill its ranks, and the support we provide to our states and nation is invaluable," added Gerlach. "I'm honored that Mr. Brazier sees the value in what our organization provides, and wants to apply a similar concept that works for Britain's Territorial Army and the British people."



# 1-181st Infantry Soldiers help school principal supply students and teachers



Spc. Ryan Satterfield of 3rd Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-181st Infantry Regiment, hands a notebook to a student while Pfc. David Alves gets a pack of crayons and a handful of pens and pencils ready for the next student. The 1-181st Soldiers delivered the humanitarian aid in the form of clothes and school supplies, collected through Operation Outreach Afghanistan, to the students and teachers of an elementary school in Camp Phoenix's neighboring village of Ud Khel March 26.  
(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Broughey)

By Spc. Michael Broughey  
1-181st Infantry Regiment Public Affairs

KABUL – The Ud Khel High School reopened its doors for the new school year following the March 21 celebration of Nowruz, the new year holiday in Afghanistan and other parts of the region.

In keeping with the 1-181st Infantry Regiment's continued support to the village of Ud Khel, the Massachusetts Army National Guard unit, along with their partners through Operation Outreach Afghanistan, delivered school supplies for the students and their teachers March 26.

Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, who left Camp Phoenix before dawn to arrive at the school before class, secured the area while members of 2nd Platoon delivered the supplies.

After the dozen boxes of supplies were brought in and placed in the hallway, Vice Principal Mohammed Jan, a graduate of Kabul University who has been teaching for 22 years, helped separate the supplies in each box with help from fellow teachers, 3rd Platoon Leader 2nd Lt. Christopher Ocasio and U.S. Linguist Amir in preparation for the distribution of the supplies.

"It's really hard for us to understand because it is so different, but the high school actually serves all the kids in Ud Khel from age seven to 18," said Ocasio. "The teacher's salaries and some supplies are paid for by the government, but the desks are on loan from Paktika province and there's no electricity in the school right now, though they have the wiring for it. We're working on getting that for them now."

As the students who were lined up outside by classroom filed into the hallway, teachers and Soldiers alike handed out the supplies one-by-one until all the classes were filled.

"I definitely saw some smiles," said Pfc. David Alves, one of the



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Broughey)

Staff Sgt. Randy Isaacs of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-181st Infantry Regiment, hands a notebook to each student about to enter class during a delivery of humanitarian aid in the form of clothes and school supplies, collected through Operation Outreach Afghanistan, to the students and teachers of an elementary school in Camp Phoenix's neighboring village of Ud Khel March 26.

Soldiers who helped pass out writing utensils to the students. "A lot of the kids didn't even show up with pens," he said.

By the time each grade school student walked into class that morning they were ready to learn, now armed with a handful of pens and pencils, a box of crayons and a notebook in their hands.

Teachers also received several useful supplies including chalk, rulers, glue, construction paper, art supplies, an English dictionary and English and math books.



# Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization provides training, situational awareness for KBC

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

CAMP PHOENIX – Whether it is preparing operation plans or tracking personnel and information throughout the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC), the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization (DPTM) ensures troops are trained, safe, and ready to fight.

This section of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, is just one that provides situational awareness and tactical training for the more than 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces stationed throughout 11 bases in the KBC.

“Running current operations is our mission here,” said Maj. Todd Bartunek, director of the DPTM. “There are several Soldiers standing by for anything that might happen that we should be aware of; whether it is recovering stolen property, attacks, fires or anything that we have to get involved with. We have to be ready, trained and plan to respond to those events.”

When it comes to informing troops of threats within the KBC, the DPTM’s Installation Operations Center (IOC) makes sure all units know if it is safe to travel or conduct their missions.

“The IOC manages the information flow,” said Bartunek, of Rapid City, S.D. “If they get information about IEDs (improvised explosive devices), or other pertinent information, then we need to inform our troops in and around the KBC so they don’t get caught up in what is going on outside the wire.”

“We monitor all communication nets, maintain a common operating picture for the region, and provide the command and staff with situational awareness through information flow and management,” added Maj. Christopher Engbrecht, IOC officer-in-charge, of Brookings, S.D. “The IOC also tracks KBC staff movements with 100 percent accountability.”

Also part of DPTM’s mission is keeping servicemembers safe by ensuring their weapons are properly “zeroed” in to each Soldier, and making sure each person who comes to the KBC is properly trained on combat tactics.

“The training the units receive when they come to country is the most current,” said Lt. Col. Tim Butts, 196th, director of Joint Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (JRSOI), of Buffalo, S.D. “We do IED, vehicle rollover and tactical directive training; that way when every Soldier comes into country, they have the current tactics, techniques and procedures so they are prepared to go out and do their mission the best they can, with confidence.”

Making sure operations are conducted efficiently, all incoming personnel are trained and ready to fight, and ensuring the servicemembers who are already in country continue to be safe is what DPTM strives to do.

“The combined efforts of the IOC, JRSOI and the plans section are something we don’t take lightly,” said Bartunek. “Our mission is necessary for the overall success of the KBC.”



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Lt. Col. Tim Butts, center, Joint Reception, Staging and Onward Integration officer-in-charge for the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, looks over a target with a contractor after an Airman zeros in his weapon at a range near Kabul.



(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

Maj. Todd Bartunek, director of Plans, Training and Mobilization (DPTM), 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, looks over a FRAGO at Camp Phoenix. The DPTM provides situational awareness and tactical training for the more than 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces stationed throughout 11 bases in the Kabul Base Cluster.



# Personal security detail ready for the unpredictable

By 2nd Lt. Sean Polson

Task Force Fury, 1-134th Cavalry Squadron

KABUL – One of the most unpredictable jobs in the Nebraska Army National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry Squadron's deployment, is the squadron commanders personal security detail (PSD). It may not be the most difficult or eventful job, however, it's a job that several members of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT) do well.

The PSD is used to moving the squadron commander around Kabul province to all the various districts in the squadron's area of operation to meet with various Afghan National Police chiefs, Afghan National Army commanders, and to move the squadron's Soldiers out on missions.

Since a significant activity may arise anywhere at anytime, the PSD cannot plan their schedules more than 48 hours in advance, and even then, their schedules will change, making their jobs unpredictable.

However, with their three months of training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and the National Training Center, the PSD is ready and capable to adapt to any change.

While at Camp Shelby, the PSD spent several days training and practicing various battle drills amongst the group, as the PSD is made up of Soldiers from all different staff sections from HHT. Since they did not have the luxury of working with each other and training with each other prior to the start of the deployment, Staff Sgt. Jake Whitaker, platoon leader, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Filips, platoon sergeant, had a lot of work ahead of them to get the team synched together.

When arriving at any police station in the districts, the



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

**Personal security detail members Sgt. William Becker, Sgt. Christopher Moulton and Pfc. Joshua Tenney, of the 1-134th Cavalry Squadron, Nebraska Army National Guard, discuss convoy movement operations back to Camp Phoenix from Police District II in Kabul on March 14.**

noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), whether it be Filips or Sgt. Christopher Moulton, has an important job of staging the vehicles to prepare for a quick exit in case of any dangerous event. The NCOIC must ask any other Police Mentor Team in the area, or even the Afghan people around the area, if they have seen any major activities in the area and inform the commander if need be.

## 1-134th CAV route clearance team destroys weapons cache



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

**The Nebraska Army National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry Squadron Route Clearance Team destroys a weapons cache reported by the Musahi Police Mentor Team in Musahi district March 14.**

By 2nd Lt. Sean Polson

Task Force Fury, 1-134th Cavalry Squadron

MUSAHI DISTRICT – The quiet afternoon skies of Musahi District, Afghanistan, were abruptly interrupted with the sounds of explosions on March 14.

The Nebraska Army National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry Squadron Route Clearance Team (RCT), led by Staff Sgt. Joshua Meyers of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, quickly responded to a weapons cache when they received a radio call from the Musahi Police Mentor Team (PMT).

Meyers linked up with his Afghan National Army (ANA) counterparts and drove out to the weapons cache site in Musahi valley. Upon arrival, the route clearance team began gathering evidence from the mortars and anything else left behind at the site. The RCT has spent countless hours training how to inspect a crime scene at Camp Shelby, Miss., the National Training Center, and even their first few weeks at Camp Phoenix.

One could compare the RCT to a crime scene investigator (CSI) back in the U.S. Shortly after gathering all the evidence that was left behind, the ANA route clearance team and Meyers' team prepared the 100 mortar rounds for a controlled detonation.

Other than responding to any captured enemy crime scenes, the squadron's RCT plays an important role in keeping the streets of the Kabul province safe from any improvised explosive devices (IED), as well as mentor the ANA's route clearance team in crime scene investigations and patrolling for IEDs.





A detainee participating in agricultural training at the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP) takes a break from tree planting to check his sunflower seedlings March 19. More than 80 detainees participate in an agricultural training program offered by the reintegration directorate at the DFIP. Reintegration programs at the DFIP provide detainees with educational and vocational skills they can leverage upon release, providing the men a means of supporting themselves, their family and their village.

# AG TRAINING

## Detainees participate in agricultural program at DFIP

Story and photos by U.S. Navy Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager

**D**etainees participating in agricultural training at the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP) planted more than 50 apricot and almond trees at the DFIP Agricultural Center March 19.

"Planting a tree is an action that never brings consequences but advantages," said an Afghan agricultural instructor to detainees gathered at the farm. "It is an investment in nature."

More than 80 detainees regularly participate in the agriculture training program offered by the DFIP's reintegration directorate. Training consists of classroom and hands-on instruction on a farm within the theater internment facility. Classes are taught by Afghan instructors and

participants learn about efficient irrigation methods, techniques to improve crop yield and methods to extend the growing season.

"The goal is to give the detainees new skills, techniques and appropriate technologies to increase their ability to grow food, either to feed their family, or to sell for income," said Jim Conley, Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 agriculture advisor.

The tree planting coincided with the Nowruz holiday, which marked the vernal equinox and a new year on the Afghan calendar. According to their instructor, the weeks surrounding the holiday are a traditional tree planting time in Afghanistan.

Prior to planting, detainees listened to a short educational program that explored the value of trees to the Afghan economy and environment, and learned about planting methods and benefits trees can bring to Afghanistan.

The trees were donated by the U.S.-based non-governmental organization Roots of Peace. Detainees worked in teams to plant the almond and apricot orchard. One person held each tree in place with a leveling tool while another used a shovel to fill the hole, and a third man patted down the soil and watered the tree. According to Conley, it will require two growing seasons before the trees will bear fruit, but after weeks of preparing the earth for planting, the men appeared pleased and took a moment to admire their work.

Other crops grown on the farm include grape vines and wheat, as well as greenhouse tomatoes, cabbage, spinach, and sunflowers. Agricultural training is just one of several vocational programs available to eligible detainees. Classes in bread making, sewing and tailoring, as well as literacy and civics training, are also available at the DFIP.



Reintegration programs at the DFIP provide detainees with educational and vocational skills they can leverage upon release, providing the men a means of supporting themselves, their family and their village.

“My observation is that the detainees are generally quite happy to be on the farm and to be engaged in farm activities,” said Conley. “It’s a chance to get outside, and for those who are farmers, a chance to return to what they know.”

The DFIP, a state-of-the-art theater internment facility located several kilometers from Bagram Airfield, was completed in September 2009 and occupied by detainees in late December 2009. The DFIP is equipped with a medical facility, on-site family visitation center, vocational facilities and educational classrooms. The design of the DFIP accommodates detainee reintegration efforts and enables Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 to better align detainee operations with the overall strategy to defeat the extremist insurgency in Afghanistan.

CJIATF-435, in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and U.S. interagency and international partners, conducts operations in detention, corrections, the judicial sector and biometrics. CJIATF-435 is conducting a conditions-based transition of detention operations to Afghan control while promoting Rule of Law practices.



A detainee clears rocks from the soil surrounding a newly planted tree during a Nowruz tree planting event on March 19. Detainees participating in an agricultural training program offered by the reintegration directorate at the Detention Facility in Parwan planted more than 50 apricot and almond trees at the DFIP Agricultural Center.



A detainee uses a hose to water a newly planted tree during a Nowruz planting event on March 19 at the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP). The men planted more than 50 apricot and almond trees, grape vines, wheat, tomatoes, cabbage and sunflowers at the DFIP Agricultural Center.



A detainee participating in agricultural training at the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP) visits the greenhouse to inspect a cabbage plant March 19. More than 80 detainees participate in an agricultural training program offered by the reintegration directorate at the DFIP.







# SAVING ASMA

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder  
Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

## Service members, community give Afghan infant new chance at life

(U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Darren Pontier)

**B**eing in a combat zone is a sacrifice, and leaving friends, family and other necessities at home while serving here continues to be an act of selfless service donated by thousands of servicemembers year after year.

Acting by impulse to help others is a gift that several military members bring to the table all around the world, and in Afghanistan, one noble act, contributed by many Americans helped to save a local infant's life.

Air Force Lt. Col. John Newman, NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, was introduced to an Afghan Soldier, Faqir, who said his granddaughter, Asma, was in need of a life-saving heart surgery because of blue baby syndrome, a medical disorder where babies are born with heart conditions that decrease the oxygenation capacity.

“Children born with congenital heart defects often need surgery in order to definitely treat the problem,” said Capt. Regan Norgaard, physician's assistant, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, who helped assess Asma. “In her case, a heart surgery was vital in order to provide more oxygenation to the rest of her body.”

Newman added, “The only reason Asma survived as long as she did is because of a leak between the chambers of her heart where the blood could mix.”

Newman, senior advisor to the senior personnel officer at Logistics

Air Force Lt. Col. John Newman, right, talks to Faqir, an Afghan Soldier, while he reunites with his granddaughter, Asma, March 17 at Kabul International Airport, after she returned from receiving a life-saving heart surgery back in the U.S. Newman and other charities helped to coordinate the surgery to help heal her blue baby syndrome, a medical disorder where babies are born with heart conditions that decrease the oxygenation capacity.

Command, outside of Kabul, said he knew she needed help after looking at her passport photo and seeing a picture of the sick 10 month old. He added he was willing to do whatever needed to be done in order to get her help.

“This whole thing puts a lump in my throat really,” said Newman, of Indianapolis, Ind. “When I saw that picture of Asma, I knew I had to do something.”

Knowing Newman was a member of Operation Outreach – Afghanistan (OOA), a non-profit organization that receives gifts and donations such as school supplies, blankets and clothes, then puts them in care packages and delivers them to needy villages throughout Kabul, Faqir hoped Newman would have a connection to be able to help his granddaughter.

“When I first learned of baby Asma's condition, I remembered a similar case that the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team had worked in 2005 for an Afghan boy,” said Newman. “I called and spoke to leadership back with the Indiana





(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

**Capt. Regan Norgaard, left, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, listens to Asma's heart on Jan. 2 at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan as Mr. Jim O'Neil looks on. Norgaard was able to assess her condition before being able to fly to America to receive a life-saving heart surgery.**

National Guard about Asma; they gave me the green light and said it would be a worthwhile cause to find a way to save her."

After getting the go ahead from his leadership, Newman forwarded all the information he had on Asma to a pediatric heart surgeon, Dr. Mark Turrentine, at Indiana University and Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, who is very familiar with cases like this.

"Dr. Turrentine is one of the top pediatric heart surgeons in the United States and agreed to provide his services free of charge," said Newman.

Another generous offer by the Rotary Club's Gift of Life International, a charity that joined with Riley hospital in 1999, which agreed to provide five surgeries per year to children from third world countries, was willing to help with any extra costs.

After coordinating with Lt. Col. (retired) James Graham, who works with the Rotary Club of Central Indiana, the chapter agreed to help offset the cost of the surgery and provide accommodations at the Ronald McDonald house, next to the hospital.

Teaming up with Dr. Turrentine at Riley Hospital once again, was another organization, Children in Need International (CINI), which helps to provide transportation to medical facilities all over the world for children in countries that cannot provide that medical care.

CINI has teamed up with Turrentine in the past to help Iraqi children in need over the years and is now very pleased to be able to expand their work into Afghanistan to support Asma, added Newman.

"CINI serves as the bridge between the children and other charities, providing visa coordination and air transportation to the point of care," said Newman. "The foundation also provides assistance to the guardians in the U.S. or country of care."

After lining up the surgery, Newman said he knew the language barrier would be difficult for the family, so getting an escort was a necessity, but getting an interpreter from Afghanistan wasn't a possibility. Using his National Guard connections, he was able to coordinate through Camp Atterbury, Ind., a major mobilization training station, to get a Dari-speaking interpreter from Indiana University.

Dan McFerrin, a retired Marine, also the husband to the president of CINI, volunteered his time to escort Asma and her family to America and upon arrival would meet the translator and other Indiana National Guard members at the airport.

"I felt so blessed once again," said Newman. "Not only did I find someone who was willing to flip the bill for round-trip tickets back to the United States for Asma and her grandparents, he was also willing to escort the family."

"Guard connections have been really unique to this situation. Being a Guardsman, you have people that are citizen-Soldiers who are doctors, lawyers, policemen and others, and those connections in the Guard are really what help facilitate missions like this," added Newman.

Guard connections came in handy once again as Newman needed help gathering a few missing pieces before the family would fly out Jan. 12.

Members of the 196th's Staff Judge Advocate section, helped to provide power of attorneys for Asma's grandparents to be able to fly with her and make medical decisions on her behalf; while Norgaard was able to test Asma's oxygen levels before flying.

Prior to seeing Norgaard, Asma's family tried four times at different hospitals throughout Kabul, but could not get her levels read. Fortunately, Newman was able to bring her and her family to Camp Phoenix, who then had Norgaard and his team assess Asma.

"We take for granted going to the doctor and them putting a reader on your finger to measure the oxygen levels," said Newman. "Here, they don't have that type of technology, so working with Task Force Rushmore provider, Norgaard, through OOA was a big help."

Determining if Asma would make the flight, and to see if she needed any extra equipment or supplemental oxygen along the way, Norgaard coordinated with Dr. Turrentine and was able to facilitate the decision that she was fit to travel and get her surgery.

Arranging transportation, expediting visa's, and finding an escort for Asma and her family was no easy task, but came as answers to his prayers, said Newman.

"I was so blessed because every time I hit a roadblock, I prayed on it and the next day there would be an answer for a way to help," said Newman. "Everything just fell into place, and it is really quite miraculous; it is crazy that she was even still alive at 45 percent oxygen levels in the blood, which were her readings in the United States."

Although a strong Christian, Newman added, "This surgery transcends politics and religion. It doesn't matter where you are from or what religion you are; when you help a child like this, it's just the right thing to do."

On Feb. 11, more than \$400,000 worth of surgeries was provided for free for Asma by Dr. Turrentine, Riley Hospital and Indiana University, and overall close to half-a-million dollars was donated in a collective effort through the hospital, CINI and Gift of Life for travel, room and board, and the visas for the family.

"Today, more than a month after her surgery, Asma now has 100 percent oxygen levels in her blood for the first time in her life," said Newman. "She is a totally new child with so much more energy. She is off medication, totally healed, strong, and the doctor said she was going to live a normal, happy life."

Without a plan or doubt and knowing there wasn't much time, Newman, stepped up to coordinate her surgery and placing together the pieces that needed to happen, one Afghan child got a second chance at life.





(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Carl Alves)

Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1-181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard, stand with resident workers at the new sewage drain in progress outside a mosque in the northern end of Ud Khel, Feb. 24. Soldiers of the 1-181st patrolled the area daily to ensure the safety of the villagers and laborers of the project throughout its construction.

# CIVIL RELATIONS

## 1-181st organizes infrastructure reconstruction in Kabul

By Spc. Michael Broughey

1-181st Infantry Regiment

Kabul is a capital city with a sprawling downtown surrounded by low-income, traditionally rural villages with little infrastructure to support a rising population. Ud Khel, a village that borders the walls of Camp Phoenix, is one of those villages in need.

The recent completion of two newly reconstructed drainage sewers in the neighboring village marks another milestone for civil relations between Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-181st Infantry Regiment at Camp Phoenix and the people of Ud Khel, who were hired as laborers by a local Afghan contractor to build the sewers in March.

Capt. Andrew Prewitt, an intelligence officer for Headquarters, explained that the entire process all began with Soldiers of Headquarters Company identifying the village's need for improved drainage in two separate spots by patrolling the area and interacting

with the locals on a regular basis.

Residents of Ud Khel informed the Soldiers of one ditch that was eroded on both sides, creating a narrow and dangerous path to a mosque on the southern end of the village that flooded in the spring.

Omar Hotak, a native of Ud Khel and an elected member of the Kabul Provincial Council, a government body equivalent to U.S. state legislature, coordinated the Afghan side of the construction efforts.

Another eroded drainage ditch on the side of another mosque on the northern end of the village was improperly dug and far too flat.

The project for this comparatively smaller drain was coordinated with the help of Ustad Bashir, the respected leader of the Ud Khel Youth Council and past coordinator with the 1-181st for humanitarian aid delivery missions in the neighborhood.

"They ran it from the village area all the way to the main road,"





(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Quentin Carmichael)

**This Jan. 2 photo shows residents of Ud Khel walking through this drainage ditch outside a mosque in the northern end of village that was filled with trash and unsanitary before the 1-181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard, coordinated with Ustad Bashir, leader of the Ud Khel Youth Council, to have local Afghans hired to build a new sewage drain.**



(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Andrew Prewitt)

**A resident worker of Ud Khel stands before a partially completed section of the new sewage drain outside the mosque in the southern end of the village, March 11. The improved drainage ditch was built in coordination with the 1-181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard, who paid for the project and a local Afghan contractor who hired residents of the village for unskilled labor.**

said Spc. Austin Allgood, a rifleman with 3rd Platoon, Headquarters Company, who patrolled the area daily with his squad throughout the construction to ensure the safety and security of the resident workers. Once complete, the improved drainage sewers will provide more sanitation to the area, he added.

Once the eroded sewage ditches were identified, the trash clogged at the sides of the ditches had to be removed, followed by landscaping, and finally masonry, to place the stones and create the walls of the drainage ditches.

Funding for the projects came directly from the Commander's Emergency Response Program or CERP. This program gives authority to Lt. Col. Anthony Couture, commander of the 1-181st, to approve the release of funds for projects such as these, where the health and well-being of local nationals is at risk.

CERP funds are allocated and distributed by Civil Military Operations Officer Capt. Quentin Carmichael, whose job it is to have the project approved by U.S. Forces – Afghanistan, "to ensure the project is nested with the overall reconstruction strategy in Afghanistan," he said.

Once approved by both the commander and U.S. Forces – Afghanistan, the project is announced and local contractors place a bid of sorts to take the job, based on their company's background experience, the number of resident workers they will hire for labor, and the cost of the project.

"The relationships built by helping them with their infrastructure helps increase their security and the safety of our patrols as well," said Carmichael on the two successful projects in an area that has been overlooked in the past, despite its proximity to Camp Phoenix.





Staff Sgt. Thomas Ascher, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, briefs Soldiers before departing on a convoy mission Feb. 23 at Camp Phoenix. Ascher, Spc. Matthew Stevens, center, and Spc. Samuel Mayo, right, are all members of the 196th's Movement Team that provide transportation for servicemembers conducting missions at other camps throughout the Kabul Base Cluster. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

# THE TRANSPORTERS

## Movement Team keeps Soldiers safe traveling in Kabul

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

Arriving to the motor pool around an hour and a half prior to the starting point (SP), the team meets to prepare the vehicles for the trip. Starting up the blue force tracker system, loading up the M-240B machine guns, and doing preventative maintenance checks and services (PMCS) on the vehicles are all part of a routine that is not out of the ordinary for the 16 members of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's Movement Team.

"The drivers, gunners and truck commanders work together to make sure the trucks are all ready to go," said Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Cunningham, South Dakota Army National Guard. "This is important to get done so we make sure we don't have any breakdowns on the road and we can complete the mission without any problems along the way."

With more than 400 missions completed since June, this is one routine these Soldiers have performed several times before.

"We have to make sure we do a good PMCS because if our truck breaks down, it's not only our lives that are in danger out on the road, but our passengers as well," added Spc. Matthew Stevens, a gunner on the Movement Team.

Most of these passengers are other Soldiers of the 196th, who help support the more than 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces stationed throughout 11 bases in the capital of Kabul with installation management and daily operations on each camp.

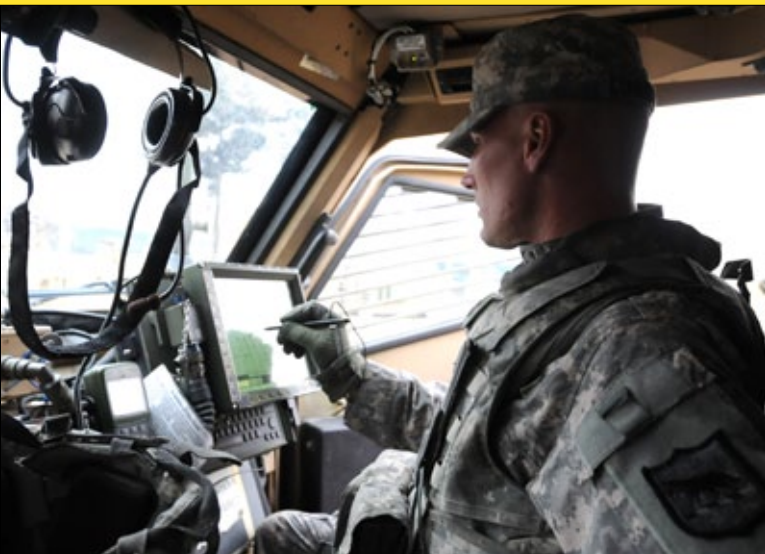
Since the Sioux Falls, S.D.-based unit cannot oversee all activity from their primary location at Camp Phoenix, personnel have to travel on a daily basis to ensure other camps throughout the city are functioning properly.

"Some of our biggest customers are the Directorate of Public Works," said Cunningham. "They oversee all the (construction) projects in the Kabul Base Cluster."

After preparation is done on the vehicles, the team then moves to their staging area. This is where the team meets, picks up their passengers, and receives a brief from the convoy commander (CC).

What routes the convoy will be taking, possible threats along





(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

**Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Cunningham, conducts precombat checks prior to a mission Feb. 23 at Camp Phoenix. Cunningham is a member of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's Movement Team, which provides transportation for servicemembers conducting missions at other camps throughout the Kabul Base Cluster.**



the way, and other necessary precautions about the trip is all vital information included in the brief before loading up.

"There are two new vehicles on the BOLO list (be on the lookout for)," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Ascher, CC, during a convoy brief on Feb. 23. "Be advised of any of these vehicles while traveling," he continued after reading descriptions of the vehicles.

"If there are no convoy questions, then let's get loaded up," finished Ascher, of Brookings, S.D.

Crawling over passengers to assume his position in the gunner's hatch is Stevens, of Papillion, Neb., where he maintains his sectors of fire from the SP until reaching the final destination – Camp Eggers.

After checking all personnel's proper protective equipment, briefing passengers on medical instruction, and ensuring all Soldiers are buckled in, ready for the ride, Cunningham, truck commander, yells "all clear," to driver, Spc. Samuel Mayo, also of Sioux Falls, as he shuts the back end of the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle (MRAP).

"As a truck commander, my job is to ensure the truck and its passengers get to our destination safely," said Cunningham,

Movement Team noncommissioned officer in charge. "I have to advise each passenger on certain procedures, such as securing my gunner if there is a rollover, and where the medical bags are in case of an attack."

Preparing to move out, Soldiers in the back of the MRAP put on their head phones, turn on their weapon CCOs (close combat optics), and plan mentally for any attack that might happen along the ride.

Once passengers are secure and the vehicles are escorted down to the gate, Cunningham and Ascher join their drivers, gunners and passengers inside the vehicle before heading out to the city streets.

"Looks like traffic is pretty [congested] today," said Cunningham, while leaving the camp gates after receiving confirmation for departure from the base operations center.

While driving down Jalalabad Road in Kabul, miscellaneous chatter continues to be spoken over the radio, but silence lacks between the team members as Stevens and Mayo keep vigilant by scanning for enemy activity and vehicles on the BOLO list.

Other conversation about possible demonstrations and explosions in the area keep all personnel conscious about the enemy while traveling.

Coming up to the most dangerous traffic circle in Kabul, Massoud Circle, Ascher prepares to move his convoy into the gates of the "green zone," a secured area of military installations and government offices.

Also located in the green zone is Camp Eggers, the final destination for this mission. Here the team drops off its passengers and begin their waiting game.

"Basically, once we get to the camp that we are going to visit for the day, we just sit, hang tight, and wait for our passengers to get done conducting their business at the camps," said Cunningham.

While waiting, the team occupies themselves before getting ready to move out and return to Camp Phoenix. Some read and relax, while others entertain themselves with extracurricular activities.

"It gets to be a long day sometimes, but we play a little bit of wiffle ball, football, and play catch with a baseball," said Cunningham. "We have come up with some pretty creative ideas; sometimes we watch movies on the PSP (Playstation Portable), listen to music, hang out, or just tell stories."

After several hours of waiting, the passengers accomplish their business, report to the vehicles and all personnel load up to start the journey back to their home camp.

Unlike their passengers, the Movement Team's job doesn't end when arriving back to camp.

"When we get back to Phoenix, we unload our passengers at the clearing barrels, fuel our trucks up to top them off and make sure they are ready for the next day's mission," said Cunningham. "After filling up we go back to the motor pool, wipe down weapons and do another look over our trucks to make sure everything is serviceable for the next day."

Finishing out the day, the team settles down and quite a few spend their nights hanging out together.

"Several members of the Movement Team participate in a MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) volleyball team, which helps to build the camaraderie between the team," said Cunningham. "We are a pretty tight group and we don't mind hanging out with each other. A lot of people at the end of the day just want to get away from their other co-workers, we're not like that – we all hang out together."

Keeping personnel safe while traveling from point to point is the ultimate goal of the Movement Team, but watching these Soldiers grow as a team and look out for one another has been an invaluable experience, ended Cunningham.



Shoulder to Shoulder

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