



KBC INSIDER



VOL. 2 – ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE KABUL BASE CLUSTER

JUNE 2011

Operation Out Reach

Helping Afghanistan One Box at A Time



HOME RUN

Camp Phoenix Crosses Home Plate

Afghan Night Ops

Soldiers Train ANA to Operate at Night

AIR FORCE LAW & ORDER

AF Sec. Forces Keeping the KBC Safe

KBC INSIDER ON THE INSIDE

VOL. 2 - ISSUE 1- June 2011

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Submissions are subject to editing.



ON THE COVER

Navy Lt. Denise L. Romeo, a Staff Judge Advocate with Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435 oversees a collection table for Operation Outreach Afghanistan on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan May 26, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally)

4 Around the KBC

6 Firehouse construction on Camp Dubs



7 Fighting the insurgency job by job



8 Building business relationships

9 Sen. Kerry visits Mass. troops



10 Servicemembers prepare donations for Operation Outreach Afghanistan

12 Air Force law and order

14 ANA detention ops graduate phase 1



16 Camp Phoenix crosses home plate



18 Operation night watchmen

20 Coalition forces honor fallen law enforcement officers



SOCIAL MEDIA

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE LOGGING IN

The Internet has fundamentally changed the way the military communicates in the 21st century. Increasingly, individuals are looking to the web and social networking sites to communicate with family, friends and the world.

Social media is an excellent way to stay in touch with those you care about back home and to share with them your experiences. However, all military personnel have a responsibility to know the risks and rewards of using social media. Those who wear the military uniform must always remember to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, and be cognizant of others on the web who wish to exploit the information you share and use it to cause harm.

Read the following DOs and DON'Ts to help protect yourself, your families and your fellow servicemembers.



DOs

- DO use social networking sites to communicate the military story; you are our best spokesperson.
- DO be cognizant of how you represent yourself; reconsider posting comments that reflect poorly on the organization.
- DO keep your tone professional.
- DO ensure content posted is appropriate to good order and discipline to the military.
- DO treat social media sites like the newspaper. If you don't want to see it in print, don't say it!
- DO protect classified, sensitive, or need-to-know information and report violations.
- DO remember violators of Operational Security (OPSEC) may be subject to UCMJ action.
- DO make it more difficult for an adversary to identify and exploit vulnerabilities.
- DO mitigate the risk of using social media by educating servicemembers, not by stopping the dialogue.



twitter

flickr

facebook

YouTube

Blogger

DON'Ts

- DON'T post inappropriate statements. Users have the right to voice their opinions. However, they do not have the right to post vulgar or obscene comments that degrade morale or unit cohesion.
- DON'T post distasteful photos or video that depict any form of obscenity.
- DON'T post sensitive or classified information that could compromise OPSEC. Release of this information could result in lost lives:
 - Policies, Rules of Engagement and Rules of Force
 - Vulnerabilities of defensive dispositions, capabilities of units, weapons systems
 - Doctrine for using various weapons
 - New weapons available, or are being employed
 - Unit strength, exact numbers or composition
 - Troop movements: dates, times and locations
- DON'T post any photos or videos that could compromise OPSEC: Entry Control Points, Vehicle Battle Damage, Sensitive Communication or Force Protection Equipment.
- DON'T post personally identifiable information: information to distinguish or track your identity, employment history, home address, exact school your kids go to.

AROUND THE KBC



Eggers Fire Fighter Awarded

Spc. Daniel Lopez was named the Firefighter of the Month, here on Camp Eggers, May 21, 2011. Lopez, an Upton, Mass., resident, is a volunteer firefighter on Camp Eggers and was awarded for his leadership, dedication, personal courage and duty to the Camp Eggers community by Col. Brian Prosser, chief of staff, Camp Eggers and Master Sgt. Dane Crocker, fire chief NCO.

Cookies

Spc. Justin Sousa, an operations technician in the Department of Public Works, Camp Phoenix, hands out cookies sent to members of the 26th "Yankee" Brigade by the students at Camp Auxilium, Newton New Jersey.



McHale's Coins

Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, deputy commander for support, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, presented members of the 26th "Yankee" Brigade and 1-181 Infantry Battalion with coins in order to congratulate them on exceeding the standard.



Valor

Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of International Security Assistance Forces and commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, congratulates Pfc. Kevin F. Nieves, HHC, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard after awarding him a Bronze Star Medal for Valor June 4, 2011 on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Nieves was also awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained while defending Camp Phoenix from an attack on April 2, 2011.



Eggers Women's Bazaar

On April 29, 2011 Camp Eggers hosted its first women's bazaar. The women's bazaar was filled with handmade jewelry, rugs, clothes and hand carved wooden boxes among many other local treasures.



Canadian Forces begin Operation Attention

A Canadian Soldier prepares to install cable on a pole at Camp Phoenix, Kabul. A 75-person Theatre Activation Team is in Kabul temporarily to prepare infrastructure and support services for the stand-up of Operation Attention – the Canadian Forces training mission in Afghanistan.

A Very Special Promotion

During a visit to Camp Phoenix Sen. John Kerry took time out of his schedule to promote Sgt. Tiffany Lever to the rank of Staff Sgt. Lever is a contracting specialist with the Department of Logistics with Task Force Yankee.

Firehouse construction on Camp Dubs



Staff Sgt. Ryan Buckert, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, garrison supply sergeant for Camp Dubs uses his experience as a civilian contractor to establish a new multi-use facility to augment the fire station at their sister camp Julien March 29, 2011. (U.S. Army photos by Spc. Michael Broughey, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment Public Affairs)



Story by Capt. John Quinn and Spc. Michael Broughey
1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment Public Affairs)

KABUL, Afghanistan – Julien and Dubs, two U.S.-led camps on the western outskirts of Kabul share many things, from borders to personnel to facilities, but thanks to many eager Afghan workers and a few skilled U.S. servicemembers, Dubs has a fire station of its own. Staff Sgt. Ryan Buckert, Garrison Supply NCOIC for Camp Dubs and member of the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment said, "The new building will house firefighting equipment in the main area and have a large room in the back to be used as a classroom area for training or as a movie theater."

Maj. Mark Kalin, Base Support Group Commander for Julien and Dubs, and executive officer for the 181st said, "The multi-use facility (MUF) will augment coverage against fires on both camps provided by the full-time fire station on Camp Julien."

Buckert said, "Because Camp Dubs didn't have enough space for a full-fledged fire station the project was redesigned as a MUF." Putting his

construction skills to use from his experience as contractor, Buckert organized the project while providing his expertise in leading the Afghan laborers hired to assist with the daily construction.

Currently Buckert said he also has two Croatian nationals as well as four Afghan National Army Department of Public Works members assisting him. "The biggest accomplishment is working with Afghans," Buckert said, adding that while the local workers are eager, they don't have a lot of construction skills and different Afghans come to help each day," said Buckert.

Buckert said the local workers were provided modern tools, but have not used them before. The equivalent to a master carpenter in Afghanistan is someone who builds mud walls or can use tape measure, not a power saw, he added. Nonetheless, Afghan workers are meticulous and often made several cuts to a board or piece of wood to ensure it's the correct length for the job, Buckert said, adding he relishes their enthusiasm to learn.

Fighting the insurgency job by job



Local Kabul citizens prepare clothing for the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police.

By Maj. Chadwick Steipp, Defense Contracting Management Agency (DCMA)

KABUL, Afghanistan – Of all counter insurgency activities supporting the economic lines of operations in Afghanistan, none are considered more important than those that provide a viable means of employment. In the Kabul area, Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) contracts provide local nationals with the opportunity to acquire a skill and maintain employment while directly supporting their own Army and Police force. The Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (CSTC-A) Security Assistance Office (SAO) team leads the charge for OCIE management in Kabul with administrative contracting and quality assurance support from DCMA. By mentoring and encouraging these businesses to produce quality products the SAO/DCMA teams hopes to create an enduring industry within the Afghan economy that can eventually compete internationally.



Building business relationships



KABUL, Afghanistan – Local Business owners met with members of the Phoenix Regional Contracting Center here on Sunday May 22, 2011. Meetings like this are an important step to building good relationships and getting a local business a blank purchase agreement. A blank purchase agreement or BPA allows coalition forces to purchase necessary items such as lumber, gravel, furniture and mattresses quickly and easily. It also gives local Afghan business owners the opportunity to better themselves and the economy. “What’s important is that (our business) goes to an Afghan business,” said 2nd Lt. Mathew Fleharty, the commodities flight chief for the Phoenix Regional Contracting Center. Fostering good business relationships with local businesses is a key part to the Counter Insurgency Mission. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Steven Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

U.S. Sen. John Kerry visits Massachusetts Guard Soldiers in Afghanistan



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven Eaton)

KABUL, Afghanistan – U.S. Sen. John Kerry visited Camp Phoenix May 15, 2011. Kerry stopped by Phoenix while on official business in Afghanistan to eat dinner and speak with Massachusetts Soldiers from the 26th “Yankee” Brigade and 1-181 Infantry Battalion.

Both units from the Massachusetts Army National Guard, are deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Kerry spoke about the issues facing Soldiers deployed and stateside. The 26th “Yankee” Brigade provides command and control, security and support operations for the nearly 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces operating in the capital region.



U.S. Sen. John Kerry laughs with Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Jasinskis and Sgt. 1st Class Robert LeBlanc, Department of Emergency Services, Task Force Yankee, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard here at Camp Phoenix on May 15, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven Eaton)

Servicemembers prepare donations for Operation Outreach Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — Servicemembers from the Kabul Base Cluster sorted and packaged donated items for Operation Outreach Afghanistan (OOA) on Camp Phoenix here May 26, 2011.

On Camp Phoenix, volunteers have been collecting donations for this organization. OOA is an organization located in Afghanistan made up of volunteers from the U.S. Military, International Security Assistance Force, NATO and several civilians that help Afghan children and families.

Army Lt. Col. George J. Harrington, Executive Officer, Task Force Yankee, Massachusetts Army National Guard, and Chairman and President for OOA on Camp Phoenix said, "Task Force Yankee works in partnership with OOA within the Kabul Base Cluster to provide humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people."

"This important work facilitates the Commander's counter insurgency philosophy. OOA is designed to facilitate donations from friends, family and others from the States, and repackage them into individual packets for distribution by Coalition and Afghan security forces," said Harrington. By providing such basic needs as school supplies, Task Force Yankee and OOA



Servicemembers from the Kabul Base Cluster sorted and packaged donated items for Operation Outreach Afghanistan (OOA) on Camp Phoenix here May 26, 2011.

help the Afghan people learn to better trust Coalition and Afghan forces. Ultimately this reduces the ability of the insurgency to influence the local population.

Volunteers on Camp Phoenix hold meetings to collect, sort and distribute donations. One volunteer, Navy Lt. Denise L. Romeo, a Staff Judge Advocate with Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435 posted a message on a social networking site asking for plastic bags for OOA. The bags are used to individually package school supplies for Afghan children. Romeo described her efforts

to obtain donations for outreach saying, "I put up a post on Facebook asking for the plastic bags we use for school supplies and my family went out into the community and asked for donations."

OOA provides assistance to the Afghan people in the form of non-perishable food, clothing, toys, school supplies and other household items. The majority of items are obtained via donations.

One of the organization's goals is to empower the Afghan people through compassionate humanitarian assistance. For information on Operation Outreach go to:

<http://opoutreach.org/>



Navy Lt. Denise L. Romeo, a Staff Judge Advocate with Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435 oversees a collection table for Operation Outreach Afghanistan on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan May 26, 2011. Operation Outreach Afghanistan is a group of deployed U.S. Service Members and Civilians working to bring relief and aid to the Afghan people. They volunteer their off-duty time to help provide commonly needed items to those in need.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jered J. Dauterman from Patrick AFB, FL, 45th Security Forces Squadron, conducts a security patrol during a battle drill on Camp Phoenix here. Dauterman works at the Provost Marshall's Office, which provides law and order services as well as customs agents to Phoenix. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Steven Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

Maintaining Law and Order

Air Force Cops Help Keep The KBC Safe

By Maj. John Newton, KBC Provost Marshall's Office

KABUL, Afghanistan — Since arriving in Afghanistan in March 2011, the 20 members of the Air Force's Security Forces (SF) have remained quite busy. They are a part of the joint expeditionary tasking of maintaining law and order for all four U.S. military services and more than 30 NATO countries located at 15 forward operating bases and camps within Kabul, Afghanistan.

Led by the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) Provost Marshal, Maj. John Newton and the KBC Provost Sergeant Major, Chief Master Sgt. Mike Chambers, these SF members are not only busy rounding up "criminals" but are also

intricately involved in protecting their camps against insurgent attacks and insider threats.

This became true on April 2, 2011 when Camp Phoenix was attacked by insurgents who had suicide vests, rocket propelled grenades, and small arms fire. During the attack, the SF stationed on Camp Phoenix responded as a back-up force for the Soldiers working the perimeter. The SF teams moved toward the fire and coordinated search and clear operations within the camp to ensure insurgents did not infiltrate sensitive areas.

The Camp Phoenix Provost non-commissioned officer in charge, Master Sgt. Chuck Desaulniers from Dover AFB, Delaware explained, "The SF mission has

always been to defend air bases from attack," he said. "Therefore, our sweep and clear teams expertly moved out and cleared their assigned areas ensuring no enemy penetrations."

The SF actions during this potentially deadly attack aided in the prevention of friendly forces casualties and the disruption of the camp's mission. "We are here to enforce the UCMJ and force protection issues for a safer and a combat ready Camp Phoenix. So minimal crime and incidents means a safer and more effective Camp," said Senior Airman Justin J. Patterson a security forces airman for Camp Phoenix.

As for their law and order mission, in the first two months of their

deployment, these KBC Provost Marshall's Office members have seized over 2.5 kilograms of methamphetamine-laced substances, 24 grams of heroin, and nine vials of steroids.

Maj. Newton explained, "These dangerous drugs are being brought onto our bases and introduced to our military members," he said. "Our mission, therefore, is to stem the flow of illicit drugs and to identify those who may seek to traffic, sell, possess, or use these illegal substances. It's a daunting task since we are in the middle of the largest opium producing country in the world."

Illicit drug cases are not the only issues these Air Force cops are dealing with.

On a daily basis, the SF are also handling negligent weapons discharges, lost weapons, alcohol cases, larcenies, motor vehicle accidents, and assault cases. "We get calls of incidents from larceny to assaults. We also respond to incidents involving local nationals at the entry control points for suspicious items, drugs, and other force protection issues," said Patterson.

In addition, SF members perform U.S. customs inspections for all re-deploying units within the KBC and for various items being sent back to the United States via the U.S. Postal Service. So far, the customs inspectors have cleared approximately seven thousand items worth more than \$6 million.

Staying busy does have its benefits in that the time these Air Force members are away from their home stations and their families seems to be flying by. "(Being busy) helps time go by quick, if we get bored it's good too though, because then we know crime is at a minimum," said Senior Airman Christopher Averill, a security forces airman on Camp Phoenix.

The midpoint of their six-month tour is fast approaching and all of them are looking forward to the day they step back onto U.S. soil to greet their friends and family.

"The troops are doing a fantastic job and are very motivated," Maj. Newton said. "But as anyone could guess, we are all looking forward to going home to be with our friends and families."



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jered J. Dauterman from Patrick AFB, FL, 45th Security Forces Squadron(left) and Senior Airman Justin J. Patterson (right) from Lockport, New York, conduct a security patrol during a battle drill on Camp Phoenix here. Dauterman and Patterson work at the Provost Marshall's Office, which provides law and order services as well as customs agents to Phoenix. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Steven Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

Afghan MP's Graduate



Ninth Cohort of Afghan National Army Military Police Soldiers Graduate

By Spc. Timothy J. Cordeiro, Task Force Protector

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The ninth cohort of Afghan National Army (ANA) military police Soldiers graduated from the phase one of the Detention Operations Transition Course May 19, 2011.

ANA military police Soldiers must complete two phases of instruction before they can serve as military police in the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP).

ANA Brig. Gen. Safiullah Safi, commanding general of Parwan and Pol-e-Charki Military Police Brigade, thanked the 63 graduates for their service to Afghanistan and commended them for demonstrated dedication to their training. Safiullah said he is very proud and grateful for the graduates' hard work and service to their great country.

"The whole world is watching," said Safiullah. "Your hard work is vital to the success of the overall mission and the transition of the control of the Detention Facility in Parwan."

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charles E. Petrarca Jr., commander of 43d Military Police Brigade/Task Force Protector, also attended the ceremony and said he is very impressed with the manner and professionalism the Soldiers maintain while working in the DFIP.

During the ceremony top graduates were invited to the head of the formation to accept their certificates from brigade leaders. Upon receipt, each ANA Soldier hoisted his certificate in the air and exclaimed, "I am proud to serve Afghanistan."

The Parwan and Pol-E-Charki Military Police Brigade is responsible for the confinement of detainees, prisoners and national security threats. As part of the conditions-based transition of detention operations from U.S. to Afghan control, more than 1,600 ANA military police will be trained and assigned as guard force and headquarters staff at the DFIP.

Cohort 9 students arrived at the ANA Logistical Support Area in Parwan earlier this spring to begin the advanced individual training required for service in the DFIP. Prior to that, the Soldiers completed ANA basic military training and basic military police training in Kabul.

This first phase of training included six weeks of classroom instruction on standards of conduct for duty, and emphasized safe, secure, humane care and custody of detainees and prisoners in accordance with international standards and Afghan law.

Soldiers also received training in daily housing unit operations, including manning over watch stations, searching cells for contraband, escorting prisoners to and from appointments and overseeing recreation, and daily hygiene and meal service for prisoners.

The second and final phase of training consists of gaining on-the-job experience in the DFIP, where the new graduates will be matched with an experienced guard force member for additional training and evaluation.

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.



Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Safiullah Safi, commanding general of Parwan and Pol-e-Charki Military Police Brigade, gives a speech during a graduation ceremony for the Detention Operations Transition Course, Thursday, May 19, 2011. More than 60 students completed a six-week course of advanced individual instruction that emphasizes safe, secure, humane care and custody of detainees and prisoners in accordance with international standards and Afghan law; the first of two phases of instruction required to serve as military police in the Detention Facility in Parwan.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charles E. Petrarca Jr., commander of Task Force Protector/43d Military Police Brigade, congratulates a top student during the Cohort 9 Detention Operations Transition Course graduation May 19, 2011.

RUNNING TO HOME

Camp Phoenix Crosses Home Plate



Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, coalition forces and civilians took part in the Boston Red Sox Run to Home Base here on May 22nd 2011. Although the runners couldn't be in Boston to run the race members of the 26th "Yankee" Brigade set up a shadow run for the fundraiser. The runners ran three laps around Camp Phoenix to complete the 9k race, which took place at the same time as the race in Boston. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

**By Task Force Yankee Public Affairs
and Lt. Col. John Lee**

KABUL, Afghanistan — Running in Walpole, Mass is something Lt. Col. John Lee has done all his life. This year, he will be running in Afghanistan with the Massachusetts Army National Guard during his deployment to Kabul with the 26th "Yankee" Brigade.

On May 22nd, Lee and 80 plus Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, coalition forces and civilians participated in the Run to Home Base at Camp Phoenix. This Shadow run, as it is commonly known, mirrors the Run To Home Base 9K race sponsored by the

Red Sox Foundation and the Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program.

Funds raised for the Home Base Program provide clinical care, education, research and community outreach to the many veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with combat stress and/or traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and their families.

In Boston, runners began the race at 8:00 a.m. Because of the eight and a half hour time difference, the runners in Afghanistan began their race at 4:30 in the afternoon.

Beginning in Patriot Square, the center of Camp Phoenix, runners

trekked through the base and ran most of the perimeter past their living areas, tents, running track, guard towers and vehicle storage areas.

Much of the route is gravel and at an elevation of 6800 feet above sea level, the air is thin and running is challenging. "Most of the runners from Massachusetts run in Boston or nearby where the altitude does not have a negative effect," Lee said.

Running three laps at Camp Phoenix, the runners completed their 9K just as the runners in Boston were doing the same. Crossing the finish line in Boston involves running across home plate in Fenway Park.

The Red Sox Foundation provided an authentic home plate to Dave Frazer, of Bellingham, a retired Major from the Massachusetts Army National Guard who had the plate autographed by Senator Scott Brown. Frazer then sent the home plate to the 26th "Yankee" Brigade in Kabul, Afghanistan for the race.

With full support of the Red Sox organization, and the Run to Home Base Program, the race was a success for all those involved. Frazer ran the race in Boston with other team members, who together helped raise more than \$10,000 for the Home Base Program.

The winner of the race at Camp Phoenix was Vikram Mittal of Boston.

Last year, he ran the Run for Home Base in Boston where he finished in fourth place. 1st Lt. Mittal said of this year's race, "last year's race was amazing and this year's race had significant meaning to me as I ran along with fellow Soldiers."

The funds raised from the race provide much needed care and services to local veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. This fact was not lost on those who ran in Afghanistan.

"We greatly appreciate the time and energy people at Fenway have given to raise money supporting the returning veterans," said Chief Warrant Officer Amanda Tefft, of Sutton, Massachusetts, who helped coordinate this race.

Tefft wanted to run the event in Boston this year, but being deployed made her dream impossible. She decided to raise money as a virtual runner this year and hopes to run in Boston next year as member of the Frazer team.



Malden Massachusetts resident, Spc. Adam Lever, a supply specialist with the 26th "Yankee" Brigade crosses home plate after completing the Boston Red Sox Run to Home Base satellite run. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



OPERATION NIGHT WATCHMEN

By Spc. William Devine, Task Force Fury

MUSAHI DISTRICT, Afghanistan – Staff Sgt. Cody Trindle, leader of the 6/1/111 Kandak (battalion) mentor team took his mentorship training to the next level by setting up an overnight observation post in the Musahi Mountain range along a known insurgent infiltration route on March 29th and again on April 5th.

Staff Sgt. Trindle said, “The Kandak commander was eager to take on some more advanced mission sets. You always have some doubts whether the Afghan National Army will be ready or not, but all in all I feel as though they were capable.”

After an influx of recent attacks in the Kabul Province and Northern Afghanistan, Staff Sgt. Trindle and the Squadron switched their mentoring focus from logistical and administrative to operational mentoring for both the Afghan National Police (ANP) and the Afghan National Army (ANA).

The goal is to prevent any and all insurgent activity before they have a chance to attack.

Some of the difficulties encountered in a joint operation such as this is to know when to inform the ANA counterpart that the operation is going to take place. “The Kandak Commander and some senior staff officer were informed of the mission ahead of time to allow for adequate preparation.

Trindle’s has been training his Kandak on various battle drills such as, detainee operations, squad and platoon tactical movement formations, react various battle drills such as detainee operations, squad and platoon tactical movement formations, react to contact and actions on an objective since January. This was the Kandak’s first opportunity to practice what they have learned in an operational environment. Trindle said, “We knew we wanted to start doing these types of operations to increase the ANA’s Intel Section. Sgt Robert Brewer worked closely with the recon platoon leader and recon platoon during a six week recon and surveillance program to train the ANA in specific tasks that were used in this mission.”

Trindle continued, “The recon and surveillance program paid dividends and you could really see the increase level of expertise in the ANA.”

Trindle's Embedded Training Team (ETT) arrived at the Kandak's forward operating base in the Musahi District of Kabul Province the day of the operation to brief the Kandak Soldiers the operation that was to take place only a few hours later.

Trindle circled the ANA Soldiers around their elaborate sand table to brief the operation to them and figure out who was going to the observation post with Trindle and who was staying at Quick Reactionary Force (QRF) site at the base of the mountain with Sgt. Aaron Fiala.

Prior to movement not only did Staff Sgt. Trindle have the Kandak Soldiers rehearse any possible action to take place on the mission, the ETT conducted a final rehearsal with them so everyone was prepared for the mission.

Trindle had a treat in store for the ANA Soldiers before moving out. Trindle educated the ANA Soldiers how to properly apply camouflage face paint and allow them to use the paint for the mission. Additionally Trindle provided night vision goggles for the ANA Soldiers that were assigned to the observation post. For most this was the first time the ANA Soldiers from this Kandak had used night vision goggles.

During the movement to the insertion point on March 29th, the weather did not cooperate causing Trindle to have to cancel the operation. However this was not the end of the operation. On April 5th they went out again and this time made it to the observation post and completed the mission.

Even though no insurgent activity was spotted, the mission was still a success because it allowed the Kandak the opportunity to practice all the training they have received and move the Kandak forward towards not requiring U.S. or Coalition Forces mentoring. "Obviously we cannot say what we are or are not seeing out there, but the ANA has increased their operational ability, they are getting off their base at night which shows a level of progression that really gives me hope in the future for at least this Kandak in the ANA," said Trindle.



Afghan National Army Soldiers rehearse detainee operations with Sgt. Jesse Daberkow to prepare for a night operation in the Musahi Mountain Range on March 29th, 2011. (U.S. Army Photo by: 2nd Lt. Sean Polson, Task Force Fury)

Coalition Forces Honor Fallen Law Enforcement Officers



By 1st Lt. Kelly Souza, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan – Massachusetts Soldiers honor fallen law enforcement officers during a ceremony here on Camp Phoenix on May 15, 2011.

The Camp Phoenix law Enforcement Council held the First Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony to recognize those law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of others. Maj. James Blake, Chief, Department of Emergency Services, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Task Force Yankee noted the significance of this event by saying, "This was the Law Enforcement Council's way of honoring law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty," Blake said. "We were happy to see such a great turn out."

Task Force Yankee, along with other Coalition and U.S. Forces held a ceremony in memoriam for the more than 19,000 American law enforcement officers lost since the 1700's.

During the ceremony Brig. Gen. Mark Martins,

Commander of the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan, Col. John A. Hammond, Commander 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Task Force Yankee, and Blake, who is also a sergeant in the Boston Police laid a memorial wreath in Patriot Square on Camp Phoenix.

Addressing the Coalition and U.S. Forces and Law Enforcement civilians in attendance at the event Col. Hammond said, "Today we came together in Kabul to extend this recognition to our international family of law enforcement professionals."

This ceremony shadowed National Police Officer Memorial Day, an event that began nearly a half century ago when President Kennedy, proclaimed May 15th as a day to recognize the selfless service of the men and women of U.S. Law Enforcement.

"There is a major ceremony at the sight of the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial at Judiciary Square in Washington D.C. just like this one," Brig. Gen. Martins said. "This is our way to honor these officers, to express our awe and humble

gratitude for the sacrifices of their surviving families and friends."

Martins added that Afghanistan's efforts to establish the rule of law and justice are consistent with many United States and international law enforcement officers and military troops. Together, he said, they demonstrate the courage, strength, dedication and compassion that define one of America's and the world's finest and noblest traditions.

"While we can never repay the debt of gratitude that we owe these courageous public servants. We will never forget nor fail to be inspired by their example," said Martins.



(Above) Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coalition Forces and civilians signed the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Banner

(Below) Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, Commander of the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan, Col. John A. Hammond, Commander 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Task Force Yankee, and Maj. James M. Blake, Officer in Charge of the Department of Emergency Services and Sergeant in the Boston Police Department, lay a wreath in Patriot Square on Camp Phoenix to honor the more than 19,000 American law enforcement officers lost since the 1700's.



Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

環太平洋アジア系アメリカ人伝統文化月間

Pagkakaiba Pamumuno Pagbibigay
ng Kapangyarihan at Lampas Pa

keanekaragaman

kepemimpinan

pemberdayaan

dan luar

विविधिता

नेतृत्व

सशक्तकिरण

और पेरे

ĐA DẠNG

TIÊN PHONG

CHỦ ĐỘNG

VA HƠN THỂ NỮA

เดือนที่ระลึกชาวอเมริกันเชื้อสายเอเชียแปซิฟิก

다양성 지도력 역량강화 그리고 그 이상

O tagata soifua
uma i le saoloto le
latou fananau
mai, ma e tutusa
o latou ulaga
aloha faafoa
a latou aia vavau

All human beings are
born free and equal
in dignity and rights.

**Diversity
Leadership
Empowerment
and Beyond**

多样性
领导
权
力
和
超
越