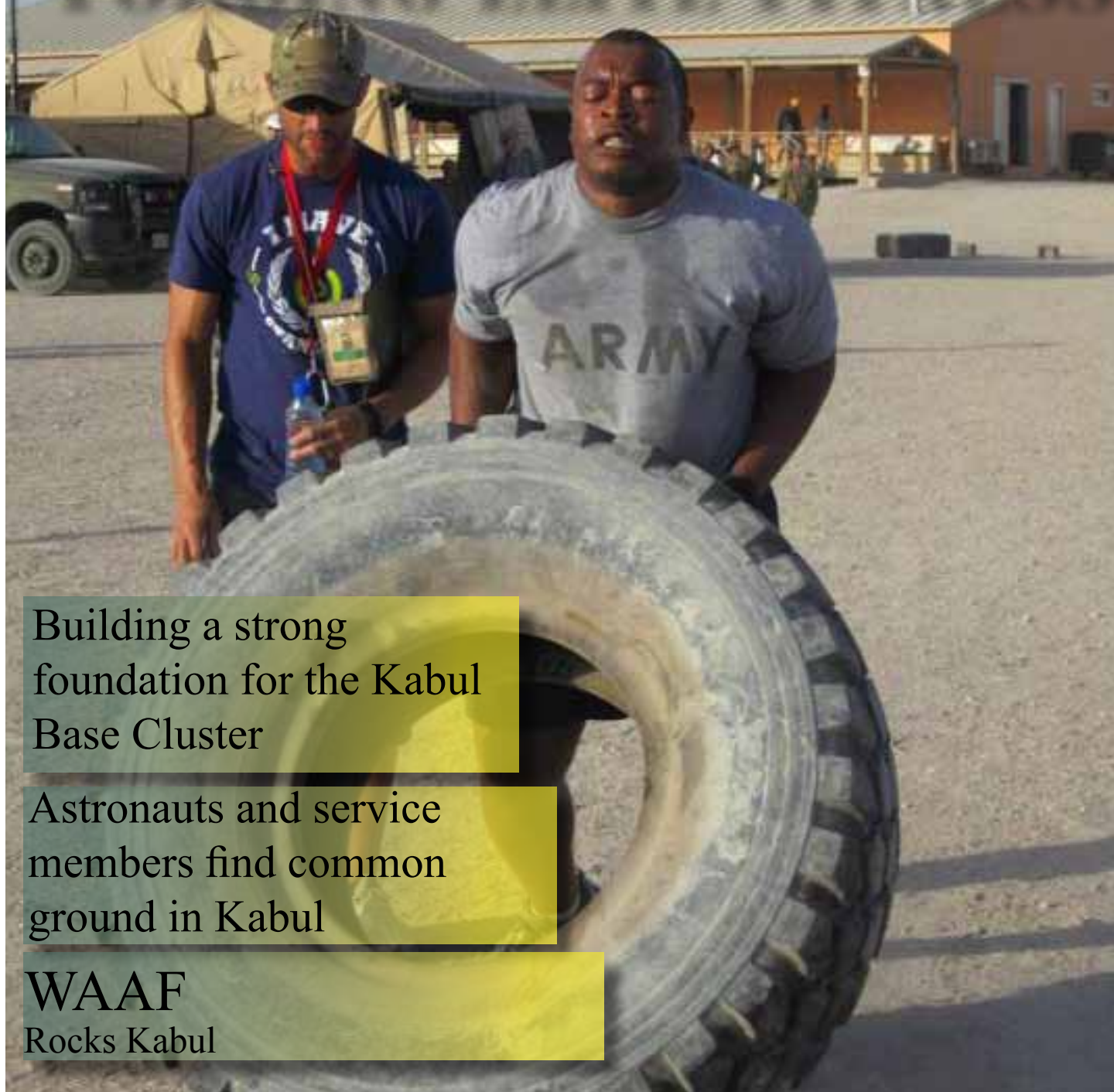




## FORGING ELITE FITNESS



Building a strong  
foundation for the Kabul  
Base Cluster

Astronauts and service  
members find common  
ground in Kabul

WAAF  
Rocks Kabul

# Yankee Dispatch

**Vol. 2 - Issue 4 - October 2011**

Task Force Yankee Public Affairs Office  
26th "Yankee" Brigade

Task Force Yankee Command  
Brig. Gen. John Hammond  
*Commander*  
Command Sgt. Maj. William Davidson  
*Command Sergeant Major*

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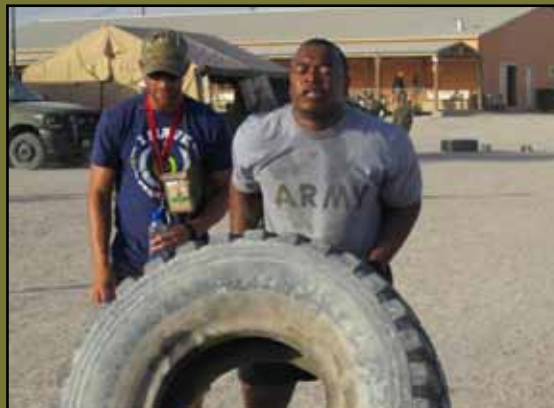
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Questions, comments or submissions for the Yankee Dispatch should be directed to the Task Force Yankee Public Affairs Office ATTN: 1st Lt. Kelly Souza, [kelly.s.souza@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:kelly.s.souza@afghan.swa.army.mil)

## On the Cover



Spc. Reggie Desir, a medic with the 26th Signal Company, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, participates in the tire flip portion of the Kandahar CrossFit Games.

## In This Edition

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# Deputy's Corner

Greetings from Afghanistan!

Autumn cool and the rainy season have arrived signaling the latter portion of our deployment. We are heartened by new arrivals to our expecting parents and wish everyone well throughout our ever expanding Task Force Yankee Family.

Task Force Yankee has become the "go to" command for getting things accomplished. Military and Afghan civilian government entities seek us out to render mission support in every arena of our Soldiers' expertise. The remarkable strength of your 26th Brigade personnel resides not only in performing well honed Soldier skills but our civilian occupation knowledge has made the difference time and again in expeditiously accomplishing operations that need some emphasis. We are extremely proud of the diversity in our Soldiers' ability to meet every challenge and there have been many.

This month Capt. Poindexter, 1st. Sgt. Groulx and the 26th Signal Company have joined us in Kabul shifting their mission which greatly enhances our ability to accomplish our mission in this province. We welcome them and appreciate the effort they always put forward.

Soldiers recently participated in the Army Ten-Miler shadow race on Camp Phoenix and many are closing in on Brig. Gen. Hammond's challenge to run 1,000 miles or kilometers while in theater ("The Kabul-K"). The collegial atmosphere of serving in a Coalition Forces environment offered another rewarding experience as more than 120 "Yankee" Brigade Soldiers competed for the weapons proficiency (Schützenschnur), decoration of the Bundeswehr: the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany. The decoration is awarded to German (and other nations) military personnel of all grades, but is only allowed to be worn by enlisted members. Soldiers engaged German issue P-8 pistol and MG3 Machine gun in a challenging target course where many earned the gold, silver or bronze level decoration. German Armed Forces Soldiers also competed to earn the United States Army's weapon marksmanship badge.

1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment Soldiers continue to make a significant impact here in Kabul. In addition, their 13 Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) security platoons operating across Afghanistan have engaged insurgent attacks with intrepid bravery and success.

Our Soldiers successfully execute vital missions throughout Kabul. We were selected to provide sniper teams and security forces to enhance security at several embassy neighborhoods and continue to conduct movement teams for senior theater commanders and their staffs. The security at our 11 bases continues to improve and the installation life support provided to more than 10,000 U.S. and Coalition Forces is among the best in all Afghanistan. Beyond more than \$90 million in contracts, 17 Commander's Emergency Response Program



projects underway that assist the local communities, our Project Outreach humanitarian assistance charitable program, which relies on school supply, clothing and donations from fellow Massachusetts citizens, has brought smiles, hope and appreciation to hundreds of children in poor neighborhoods and orphanages.

The 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (from Georgia), our replacement unit, accomplished their pre-deployment site visit which is a milestone signifying our rapidly approaching departure. Though our mission is past the halfway point, remember to remain in close contact with our Soldiers and Families and to request any assistance needed to keep our Families whole and healthy. Our talented support mechanisms stand by ready to assist. Please contact them for help in resolving or discussing any problems or difficult challenges. There are dedicated professions in place at your disposal!

As always, please keep our YD Soldiers, and all our service members and their Families in your thoughts and prayers.

"First to Fight, Yankee Pride!"

Col. Gerard Fridmann

Deputy Commander



Master Sgt. Robert A. Brown, 335th Signal Company, watches Afghan construction workers working on the foundation of his unit's new building on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan Sept. 27, 2011.

## Building a strong foundation for the Kabul Base Cluster

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

KABUL, Afghanistan — Massachusetts Army National Guard engineers supervised a building construction project on Camp Phoenix here Sept. 27, 2011.

Task Force Yankee's General Engineering Department (G-Eng.) was on-site to ensure that the 335th Signal Company's new building was being built on time and to standard.

As the command and control element for the 11 bases that make up the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC), Task Force Yankee provides security, service, support and policy guidance for more than 11,000 Coalition service members and civilians. More specifically, Task Force Yankee provides contract management and construction oversight.

The 26th's G-Eng., provides facility engineering services, master planning, construction expertise and billeting management throughout the KBC in order to improve the quality of life for Coalition Forces.

"Here in General Engineering we design and oversee the construction of projects throughout the Kabul Base Cluster. Currently, there are 531 projects totaling \$106 million that we oversee," said 1st Lt. Vikram Mittal, design engineer and construction officer-in-charge of the G-Eng., Section, Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade.

Mittal was on the scene to oversee the foundation being poured for a two-story relocatable building (RLB) made from shipping containers to improve the 335th Signal Company's office and housing space. The 335th has lacked the office space necessary for their mission.

Mittal is more than qualified to inspect cement footings. He earned an undergraduate degree in aeronautics from The California Institute of Technology, a master's in aerospace engineering from the University of Oxford, and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from The Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Back home in Massachusetts, Mittal is a senior mechanical engineer at Draper Laboratories in the vehicles and robotics group.



At the site Mittal discussed the status of the rest of the RLBs such as the actual containers and doors with the Afghan contractor. “The RLB concept allows a building to be constructed faster because while the foundation is being poured and dried, most of the rest of the work can be done simultaneously off-site,” Mittal said.

RLBs are a series of prefabricated metal containers that are placed on a concrete foundation and connected together. Doors and air conditioning units can be installed on-site to prevent damage during shipping.

Describing the overall progress of the project Mittal said, “It’s going pretty well. The contractor seems eager to get the job done and do a good job. It should be a nice building when it’s done.”



**Above:** Mark Watson, a requirements specialist who works with general engineering, Task Force Yankee, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, supervises an Afghan construction worker pouring a concrete footing that is part of a foundation for a new building on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan Sept. 27, 2011.

**Left:** 1st Lt. Vikram Mittal, design engineer and construction officer-in-charge for general engineering, Task Force Yankee, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, discusses the progress of a construction project with a contractor on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan Sept. 27, 2011.

# Forging Elite Fitness

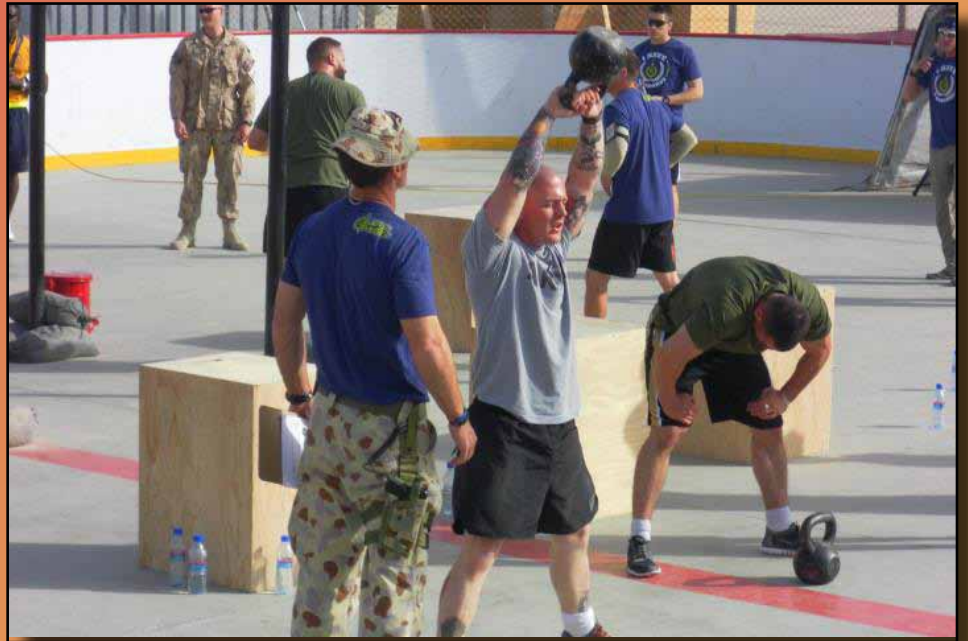
By 1st Lt. Brian Ubele, 26th Signal Company

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Members of the 26th Signal Company participated in the Kandahar CrossFit Games Sept. 10 and 11, 2011. The KAF games are a two day CrossFit competition in which Coalition service members competed in four events.

Spc. Ian Hickey and Spc. Reggie Desir of the 26th Signal Company, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard participated in the events. Hickey placed 30th and Desir 35th out of more than one hundred competitors

Kandahar CrossFit is a nonprofit organization that uses collection boxes to gather donations serving civilians and service members around the World. Kandahar CrossFit is operated and managed by members of the Canadian Forces and supported by the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agencies (CFPSA) – Personnel Support Plan (PSP) Division.

Kandahar CrossFit has members representing the people of Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, USA, India and Canada but once the timer starts, they represent CrossFit and together they are forging elite fitness in a time of war.



Spc. Ian Hickey, 26th Signal Company, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard performs the cowbell swing during the 2011 Kandahar CrossFit Games.



Coalition service members participating in the Kandahar CrossFit Games compete in the pull up portion of the event.



# COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

Hello from Camp Phoenix.

The 26th "Yankee" Brigade had another busy month here in Kabul, besides the tedious day-to-day operations that Task Force Yankee accomplishes, we also held some ceremonies and some visitors made their way to Camp Phoenix.

We also celebrated Hispanic American Heritage month with a great ceremony held at Camp Phoenix on the 30th of September. The guest speaker was Rear Adm. James Crawford, commander of the Rule of Law Field Support Mission - Afghanistan, who gave a meaningful speech which was followed by a Spanish dancing demonstration.

Mistress Carrie, a radio personality from a Boston radio station, WAAF visited the KBC. She spent three weeks visiting YD Soldiers all over Afghanistan. She also did live radio broadcasts from Afghanistan with several of our Soldiers getting on the air waves.

On Sept. 21 we had a special visit from Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, who is the Deputy Director of the Army National Guard. He held a town hall meeting where Soldiers could ask him questions regarding the National Guard and he also coined several YD Soldiers.

As some of you know there are two Soldiers from the Yankee Division that earned the Medal of Honor in World War I. This month I'd like to give you a brief summary of one of the recipients, Pfc. George Dilboy. Dilboy was born in the Greek settlement of Alatsata, which is today located in western Turkey. George Dilboy and his family immigrated to the United States in 1908 when he was 12. His family settled first in Keene, N.H. and then in Somerville, Mass. Dilboy volunteered to fight for the U.S. Army in the Border War with Mexico during 1916 and 1917. He was honorably discharged, but months later he rejoined the Army and served in the 26th Division in France during World War I.

Dilboy's Medal of Honor citation reads:

After his platoon had gained its objective along a railroad embankment, Pfc. Dilboy, accompanying his platoon leader to reconnoiter the ground beyond, was suddenly fired upon by an enemy machinegun from 100 yards. From a standing position on the railroad track, fully exposed to view, he opened fire at once, but failing to silence the gun, rushed forward with his bayonet fixed, through a wheat field toward the gun emplacement, falling within 25 yards of the gun with his right leg nearly severed above the knee and with several bullet holes in his body. With undaunted courage he continued to fire into the emplacement from a prone position, killing two of the enemy and dispersing the rest of the crew.

Dilboy was mortally wounded during the battle and became the first Greek-American to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Gen. John Pershing called Pfc. Dilboy one of the 10 greatest heroes of the war.



At his father's request, he was buried in his birthplace in Greece. After the funeral procession through the streets of his Alatsata his casket, draped with the American flag, was placed in the Greek Orthodox Church of the Presentation to lie in state. However this church fell into disrepair and Dilboy's grave was desecrated, during the Greco-Turkish War.

At the request of President Warren Harding, Dilboy's remains were returned to the United States in 1922. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 12, 1923. For those of you familiar with the Somerville, Mass. area, Dilboy Stadium was named after Pfc. Dilboy. You can find out more information about Pfc. Dilboy on the internet and on his Facebook page.

I want to thank all of you for the hard work that you're doing. I truly appreciate your service and the sacrifices you and your Families are making everyday to accomplish our mission. Keep up the great work!!!

"YANKEE PRIDE"

Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Davidson

Yankee-7

# Astronauts and service members find common ground in Kabul



Neil Armstrong and Jim Lovell share stories of traveling to the Moon with residents of Camp Dubs Aug. 17, 2011.

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

KABUL, Afghanistan — Armed Forces Entertainment and the USO brought some legendary American heroes to the Kabul Base Cluster for a visit with service members and Coalition Forces.

The Legends of Aerospace Tour with Neil Armstrong and Gene Cernan, the first and last astronauts to walk on the Moon and Apollo 13 commander Jim Lovell, along with former “Good Morning America” host David Hartman toured the KBC Aug. 15,

2011 through the 18th visiting Camps Eggers, New Kabul Compound, Phoenix, Black Horse, Dubs and Bala Hissar.



Former astronaut and commander of Apollo 17, Gene Cernan takes aim at a target during the Legends of Aerospace Tour Aug. 18, 2011.

The astronauts shared their stories of space travel and the history and political climate that motivated President John F. Kennedy during a speech to the 87th United States Congress to declare, “If we are to win the battle that is now going on around the world between freedom and tyranny, the dramatic achievements in space which occurred in recent weeks should have made clear to us all, as did the Sputnik in 1957, the impact of this adventure on the minds of men everywhere, who are attempting to make a determination of which road they should





Afghan Air Force 2nd Lt. Fatama Abteen greets former astronaut and commander of Apollo 17, Gene Cernan at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan Aug. 16, 2011. Abteen is undergoing training to become a pilot.

take,” said Kennedy.

After sharing their stories the astronauts typically answered questions from the audience, posed for pictures and signed autographs. After seeing the Legends, Army Pfc. William Hines, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-4 Infantry Battalion said, “It was great to see them. I’ve read their books, they’re a part of American history. I’m glad to be here and be able to put their names to faces.”

Discussing his impression of meeting the astronauts Navy Lt. Roland Guerra said, “It was dream come true, I loved it.”

During one visit the astronauts explored Tajbeg Palace, the former seat of the Afghan Royal Family until it was occupied by the Soviet military during the 1970s and 1980s.

The astronauts capped off their whirlwind-tour with a visit to an American Special Forces unit and were invited to shoot a wide array of rifles and hand guns. After the Legends were done firing weapons they joined Soldiers for an informal question and answer session. The astronauts described their experiences traveling in space and gave vivid descriptions of the Moon and the view of the Earth from outer space. During their time together, service members and astronauts seemed to find a

common ground discussing mission preparation and the mindset that it takes to face danger and uncertainty for a cause greater than themselves: serving their country.

Former astronaut Gene Cernan explained his mental preparation for his last mission to the Moon saying, “We didn’t go to the Moon to not come home ... and you didn’t come to Afghanistan to not come home — that’s what we have in common.”

Cernan also said, “Everyone on Apollo 17 who went to the Moon made it back. That is a testament to American leadership, teamwork and initiative, and you are continuing that tradition,” said Cernan.

Elaborating on the subjects of ingenuity and preparation, Cernan told a story about driving a lunar rover saying, “I was going a little too fast and dropped off the ledge damaging the fender. It was causing a problem so I had to fix it. Let me just say this: duct tape — don’t leave home without it,”



Former astronaut and commander of Apollo 13, Jim Lovell takes a picture in a Chinook helicopter while flying over Kabul Afghanistan during the Legends of Aerospace Tour Aug. 17, 2011. From left to right: Chief Warrant Officer 4 James M. Girard, morale welfare and recreation officer for the Kabul Base Cluster Command, Legends of Aerospace Gene Cernan, Jim Lovell and Neil Armstrong.



# Yankee Officer Spotlited in Boston Globe



Army General David H. Petraeus poses with Lt. Col. Robert Dwan of Westwood, Mass. The 23-year veteran, a Boston police officer, is serving as garrison commander of the New Kabul Compound. (Courtesy photo)

By Michele Morgan Bolton Boston Globe

Westwood resident Robert Dwan's love of hockey is almost as fervent as his loyalty to his country. So while the Boston Bruins battled for their Stanley Cup win this year, Dwan was cheering them on at 4:30 a.m. at a military installation in Afghanistan.

When he's living on this side of the hemisphere, Dwan, 47, is a Boston police lieutenant and shift commander in the anticorruption unit. In his off time, he's a husband, father of five, and an assistant varsity hockey coach at Catholic Memorial High School in West Roxbury, where he once played.

In his second tour of duty with the Army National Guard, though, the lieutenant colonel and 23-year veteran is the garrison commander - or mayor - of the New Kabul Compound.

He is serving with the 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade - the "Yankee Brigade," as it is known - at the sprawling US headquarters in Afghanistan.

A recent phone interview about life in the compound took place, as it turned out, just a day after dozens of

US military personnel were killed when their helicopter was shot down by the Taliban.

Dwan's comments were monitored and many subjects were off-limits in the interview, but he said he and everyone else deployed in Afghanistan is trained for risk.

"It's dangerous everywhere," he said. "But this is what you train for."

Dwan was upbeat about his work, and those he works with, despite the emotional and logistical strain of being far from home and in the middle of a war zone. That's part of his job description, too.

"I'm in charge of the base and the infrastructure, but also the quality of life, health and safety, emergency medicine, and humanitarian patrols outside the base," he said.

The unit also brings clothing and school supplies to area children, who are so thankful, he said, "they come running out and shake our hands."

Overall, he said, "the atmosphere here is very good."



Dwan oversees the housing and security of 1,200 military and civilian personnel and maintenance of all buildings.

He works with Afghan citizens, developed the Emergency Operations Center - similar to a 911 dispatch - and oversees a unified command comprising fire, medical, and police departments.

As a military police officer, Dwan is spending his year-long tour facilitating the transition of security responsibilities from the US military to the Afghanistan National Security Forces. He is scheduled to return home in January.

When he does, he will be welcomed with open arms, along with more than a dozen other Boston police officers currently deployed, said Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis.

Dwan began his training for the deployment in February at Texas' Fort Hood and arrived in Afghanistan in April. He misses his parents, Patricia and Daniel Dwan of Hyde Park, his sister and three brothers, and his wife, Catherine, and children: Allyson, 17, Brittany, 16, Madyson, 14, Robert, 13, and Christopher, 11.

"I'm in touch daily, though, and everyone is doing well," which helps, he said.

Loved ones send regular care packages packed with Tootsie Rolls, which are a favorite. And the compound is alive with activities to keep spirits up, he said.

Besides movies, dances, and other scheduled events, including a Humvee "push" contest, many at the

camp are participating in a 1,000-mile-run challenge. Dwan has logged 700 miles in five months, gaining ground toward his goal by running either around the camp in the cool hours of evening, or on a gym treadmill.

He is a member of the First Corps of Cadets, the Army National Guard Red Legs Hockey Team, the Army National Guard Association, and the Boston Police Emerald Society.



Dwan tries to net a goal against a Canadian goal tender during the final game of the "Kabul Cup" (Courtesy photo)

He earned a master's degree in criminal justice from Anna Maria College and a bachelor's degree in business management and marketing from Providence College, where his ROTC commander persuaded him to join the military.

Service, he said, runs in the family. Two brothers are also Boston police officers and an uncle was in the State Police. "We've always wanted to help our community," he said.

The days are long in Afghanistan and the work is hard. What gets him through is the support of friends and family, his bosses back home, the ever-available supply of candy, and the hope that the Red Sox and the New England Patriots will follow the Bruins' lead and bring home their own championships.

"Wouldn't it be great to have all three?" he said. "That's what I'm hoping for."

By: 1st Lt. George G. Gay, Task Force Americal Public Affairs Officer



**Above:** Carrie hands a peice of candy to a young Afghan girl during an Operation Outreach school visit with Task Force Yankee. (Photo by 1st. Lt. Kelly Sullivan, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

**Below:** Carrie poses for a photo at Camp Bala Hissar

(Photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



The Soldiers from the 26th “Yankee” Brigade and the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment who have been living and working in the Kabul Base Cluster for nearly six months got a small taste of home in September. Disc jockey and radio personality Mistress Carrie whose afternoon show on rock station WAAF is popular among Soldiers from the Boston area, visited Afghanistan from Sept. 4 through the 17 with WEEI producer Mike Saia.

Carrie and Mike sought to get the most authentic Soldier experience possible. As a result she decided to come to Afghanistan as a media embed and not on a USO style tour. The visitors were embedded with the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment at Camp Phoenix and spent time with troops performing different aspects of their base defense and support mission.

During their time in Afghanistan, Carrie and



Carrie enthusiastically sticks new rank to Staff Sgt. Peter Uliana’s uniform during his promotion ceremony on Camp Phoenix Sept. 16, 2011. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



# rocks Kabul

Mike also visited seven bases, conducted five mounted missions and broadcasted live in Boston several times a day. During the broadcasts Carrie attempted to explain the realities of Afghanistan to her audience and correct popular misconceptions about the conflict.

“It was great that she showed what we really do here,” said Spc. Curtis Tanguay, an infantryman with the Task Force Americal, 1-182nd Infantry Battalion, Massachusetts Army National Guard, Camp Phoenix Quick Reaction Force who spent time escorting Carrie and Mike. “She didn’t need to take the risk of coming here, but we are glad that she did.”

**Right:** Carrie poses with members of the Camp Eggers base support group, Task Force Yankee, in front of the “Green Monster” on Camp Eggers. (Photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

**Below:** Carrie poses with members of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, 1165th Military Police Battalion and 26th “Yankee” Brigade at Camp Bala Hissar. (Photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



# YD History

# Soldier Spotlight

## This Month in “Yankee” Division History

After landing in Normandy, France on Sept. 7, 1944 and maintaining a defensive position until the end of the campaign, the 26th Infantry Division went on the offensive in Loraine, France on Oct. 22, 1944. The YD kept advancing against a determined foe and endured some of the toughest fighting of the war. The YD broke off the offensive only to go join the fight of the Battle of the Buldge from Dec. 1944 to Jan. 1945. The YD would later reenter the Rhineland Campaign and advance in to Germany until Apr. 6 1945.



KABUL, Afghanistan — Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, deputy commander of support U.S. Forces Afghanistan, promotes Pvt. Shawn Merrill to Pfc. during a ceremony on Camp Phoenix on Sept. 18, 2011. Merrill works with Task Force Yankee G-Eng., section as a construction technician. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

## *Yankee Dispatch Submission Guidelines*

### Articles:

250-300 words for a half-page story;

600-800 words for a full-page article.

Include first and last names and verify spelling. Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference.

If there is a Unit Public Affairs Representative, ensure he or she reviews it.

### Photographs:

Highest resolution possible

No retouched photos

Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)

Credit (who took the photo)

Do not embed the photo in a Word.doc.

Email submissions to: [james.lally@us.army.mil](mailto:james.lally@us.army.mil)



# Chaplain's Corner



I want to look ahead for a moment to one important day for us serving here in Afghanistan and around the world on deployments: Nov. 11th Veterans Day.

Originally called Armistice Day, it marked the 11th Day, of the 11th Month, at

the 11th hour when the Armistice Agreement was signed between the Victorious Allied Forces and the defeated German armies at the end of World War I. The day actually wasn't officially designated as a holiday until 1938, when it was called, "Armistice Day." We know it as Veterans Day. Congress changed the name to encompass WWII and the Korean War in a way that would honor the heroic and dedicated service of hundreds of thousands of new veterans.

There is one more part of being a veteran on Veterans Day. One cannot be a veteran without the great and caring support of family and loved ones. Just like the Minuteman standing ready to defend the land with his family by his side, our modern day Minutemen and women wearing the "YD" here in Afghanistan have their families and loved one's by their side — stateside — standing proud, strong, and resilient. We here know that our strong "family trees" help brighten our spirits here every day.

On this upcoming Veterans Day, I want to salute not only the proud veterans of prior wars and service, but a special group of Americans with a sincere thank you to our veteran Families. The true pride of our National Guard, and our United States.

Blessings,

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry Bazer  
26th "Yankee" Brigade Chaplain

# Family Readiness

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Office: 888-301-3103 x 7444  
Cell: 781-771-5632

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/26th-Yankee-Brigade-Family-Support-Group/146042042126165>

# Around The Brigade



Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, deputy director, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, speaks to Massachusetts Army National guardsmen from the 26th "Yankee" Brigade at a town hall-styled meeting on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan Sept. 21, 2011. Kadavy took time to discuss mobilization training, pay and allowances with the guardsmen during his trip to Kabul. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



In typical Camp Eggers Base Support Group fashion, Spc. Daniel Lopez, of Upton, Mass., was surprised when Sgt. Maj. Edward Gingras called the room to attention, Maj. Luis Rodriguez read the orders and Lt. Col. James Yates pinned the sergeant rank on the newly minted noncommissioned officer. In addition to the long hours he puts in at the supply room, Lopez, a fire fighter back home, has also volunteered his time and expertise to the Camp Eggers voluntary fire brigade. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Erich Chapman-Goodman, Camp Eggers BSG)



Spc. William Bellacini raises his right hand as he swears to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Massachusetts," during a reenlistment ceremony Sept. 14, 2011. Bellacini reenlisted to serve in the Massachusetts Army National Guard for the next six years. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)





Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond, commander, Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, presents 1st Lt. Vikrim Mittal with the Army Commendation Medal. Members of Task Force Yankee who completed "The Kabul K" received the award for running at least 1,000 miles while deployed to Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kelly Sullivan, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Widberg, from Stoughton, Mass., of 1st Battalion, 182 Infantry Regiment, provides security during a mission in the Shib-e Koh District, Farah Province, Afghanistan, Oct. 10. Widberg visited 182nd Soldiers assigned as Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah's security force here recently. Members of the Army National Guard unit, based out of Braintree, Mass., are deployed to Afghanistan for nine months. (ISAF photo/ USAF SrA Alexandra Hoachlander)



Massachusetts National Guard Soldier 1st. Lt. Albert Man is promoted to the rank of captain by Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond during a ceremony on Camp Phoenix Sept. 23, 2011. Man, a Quincy, Mass., resident, works for the G-4 Logistics Section. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st. Lt. Kelly Sullivan, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



Army Lt. Col. Dore Gilbert, brigade surgeon for Task Force Yankee, poses for a photo with his son Marine Corps Cpl. Kevin Gilbert, with the First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of the Gilbert Family)

# 26th Yankee Brigade



M&P40-309300  
Caliber: .40 S&W  
Capacity: 15+1  
Barrel Length: 4.25"



M1911- 108482  
Caliber: .45 ACP  
Capacity: 8+1  
Barrel Length: 5"

## Commemorative Pistols

**More Information to Come!!**