



Schützenschnur: guardsmen go for the gold

Building a strong foundation
for the Kabul Base Cluster

Afghanistan downs America, 76-73
in basketball scrimmage

Rabbinical surge
to serve troops, civilians in Afghanistan

KBC INSIDER

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Submissions are subject to editing.



ON THE COVER

Spc. Joshua E. Reinke, an Armed Forces Network Manager with Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard shoots the Heckler & Koch P8 pistol at the Kabul Military Training Center Oct. 10, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

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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

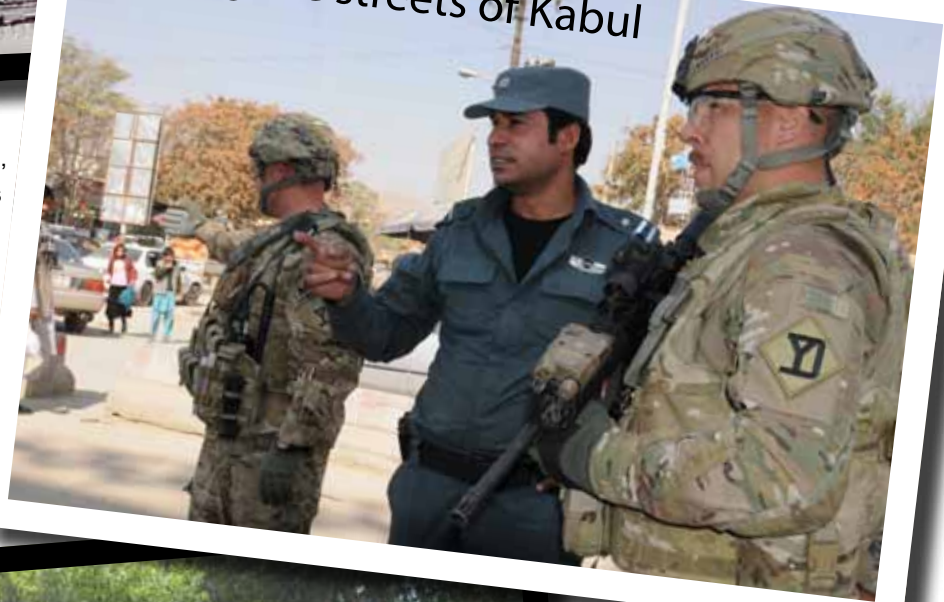
Happy Birthday Navy

U.S. Sailors enjoy cake following a Navy birthday ceremony at International Security Assistance Force Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, Oct. 13, 2011. In addition to specialized units like the Navy Seals and Seabees, nearly 2,300 U.S. Sailors are serving in Afghanistan in individual slots alongside their sister service members and international counterparts. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. April Campbell, International Security Assistance Force Public Affairs)



Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Lombardi, a military policeman with Task Force Yankee, and an Afghan National policeman discuss search techniques at one of the Ring of Steel police checkpoints here Oct. 25, 2011. Lombardi is part of a team that coordinates with and advises Afghan National Police to improve security in Kabul and to interdict the flow of insurgent weapons and supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

Policing the streets of Kabul



Transfer of Authority

Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force service members stand in formation during the Mongolian Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Camp Eggers. (Photo by Spc. Kenneth Hickey, Task Force Yankee Camp Eggers Base Support Group)



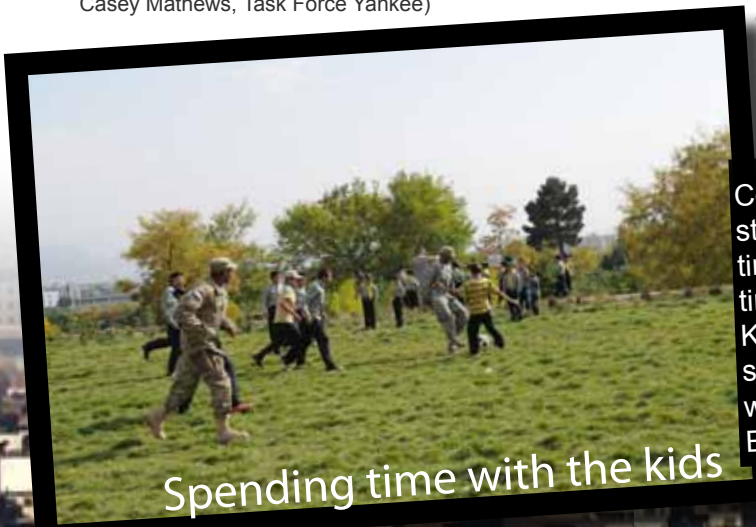
Eggers women's bazaar

U.S. Navy mentor Information System Technician 1st Class Danielle Church assigned to NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan helps local Kabul artist Tamila Abid set up an artwork presentation for the Woman's Bazaar at Camp Eggers. Abid is one of many Afghan women benefitting from the Camp Eggers mentorship program. Camp Eggers established the mentorship program to provide positive role models for the bazaar's Afghan women. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Orrin Batiste)



Army 10-miler shadow run

Coalition service members and civilians participated in the Army 10-Miler shadow run on Camp Phoenix on Oct. 2, 2011. Runners came from across the KBC to participate in the annual Army run. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Casey Mathews, Task Force Yankee)



Spending time with the kids



Spanish National Day

Spanish Legion Soldiers serving in Kabul, Afghanistan, raise the Spanish flag during a ceremony honoring Spanish National Day at the International Security Assistance Force Headquarters, Oct. 13, 2011. Nearly 50 Spanish service members along with ISAF throughout of their international counterparts serving with ISAF throughout Kabul attended the ceremony to remember the day Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. April Campbell, International Security Assistance Force Public Affairs)

Coalition service members stationed at Camp Phoenix, took time out of their day to spend some time with the children at an orphanage in Kabul Oct. 23, 2011. Service members played soccer, painted, gave first aid lessons and spent time with the children. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



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 U.S. Army 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 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.

Afghanistan downs America, 76-73, in basketball scrimmage



A member of the Kabul Club Team for the Afghan National Basketball Team, foreground, leaps into the air to go for a layup, passing a defender for U.S. Forces Afghanistan during a scrimmage at Ghazi stadium on Sept. 22. Afghanistan won, 76-73. (Photo by Army Sgt. Catherine Threat, USFOR-A Public Affairs)

By Erika R. Stetson, USFOR-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — Consistent three-point shooting led an Afghan basketball team to a 76-73 victory against a team of U.S. troops and contractors in a scrimmage at Ghazi Stadium on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011.

The game was played during the week when former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani, who led national efforts to make peace with the Taliban, was assassinated, and about a week after insurgents attacked international and Afghan government targets in Kabul, sparking a 20-hour gun battle.

Players and organizers praised the game as a chance to look forward and show resilience and solidarity after Rabbani's assassination as well as in the face of Afghanistan's ongoing struggles to establish peace and security.

"Everyone forgot about the Taliban and everything else and just enjoyed sports," said Col. Richard

Unda, the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan deputy director for civil-military operations and one of the American team's players. "There was a sense of normalcy. That's what this country needs."

Afghanistan's players were from the Kabul Club Team for Afghanistan's National Basketball Team. America's players were from various USFOR-A agencies.

Afghanistan opened the scoring with two baskets and two foul shots before the U.S. rallied to tie, 6-6, the last two of those points on a fast break. But Afghanistan then went up 8-6 on a layup that capped a solo drive into a packed key and followed with a three-pointer on the next possession to pull ahead 11-6.

America fought back against a steady rain of Afghan 3-pointers with a series of fast breaks, battling to a lead of 1 in the second quarter, their first time at the top of the scoreboard. It was short-lived, however, as Afghanistan soon re-exerted itself, at times pulling



A member of the Kabul Club Team for the Afghan National Basketball Team, left, charges past a player for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan during a scrimmage at Ghazi stadium on Sept. 22, 2011. Afghanistan won, 76-73. (Photo by Army Sgt. Catherine Threat, USFOR-A Public Affairs)

ahead by as many as 7 points, and ending the half up, 37-34.

After the whistle, America's Willis Jenkins, an EPS Corp. senior systems engineer with USFOR-A acknowledged that "we need to tighten up on defense. A lot of open shots were allowed in the half."

America pushed to a 40-40 tie in the third quarter before Afghanistan began to pull away, opening up an 11 point lead, 53-42, before the final quarter. In a determined surge relying on quick passing and fast breaks, along with redoubled defensive efforts, the U.S. eroded the Afghan lead throughout the fourth quarter, again eventually edging ahead by a 1-point margin, 64-63, as the clock wore down.

Afghanistan, however, rallied, going basket for basket, then pulling ahead by five points, 66-71, in part with a foul shot and a 3-pointer. The U.S. team then surged, closing the deficit to 72-72 with nine seconds left, then again pulled ahead by 1 point, 73-72, on a foul shot.

But in a final burst of coordinated teamwork, the Afghan team on their last possession drew American defenders to the outside of the key, opening a lane for a layup that recaptured the advantage, 74-73, and drawing a foul. A rebound from that shot gave Afghanistan its final 76-73 score.

Players shook hands after the competition and congratulated each other on a hard-fought game.

"Everybody played hard," said Navy Petty Officer

3rd Class Wilmer Fiapai, an awards specialist with USFOR-A. "They just got that last shot off."

Shikaeb Rahi Soratgur, an Afghan player and an event organizer, said the game was a rare chance for the team to face off against new competition.

"I want to have different teams to play with us," he said. "We don't have tournaments here. We want new teams, new players. This is a great day for improving our skills and improving basketball for Afghanistan."

Ghazi Stadium is a multipurpose athletic complex where the Taliban formerly held executions before an international coalition swept the Taliban from power. The court where the game was played was decorated with pictures of Rabbani, as were Kabul's public areas as the nation observed a mourning period. Rabbani's funeral was observed the next day.



A member of the Kabul Club Team for the Afghan National Basketball Team, left, charges past a player for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan during a scrimmage at Ghazi stadium on Sept. 22. Afghanistan won, 76-73. (Photo by Army Sgt. Catherine Threat, USFOR-A Public Affairs)



U.S. Army Chaplain (Maj.) Ephraim Garcia, left, of New York City, helps an Afghan woman hold her bag open while British Royal Navy Capt. Jim Higham, right, of Plymouth, England, gives her a hygiene kit at an internally displaced people's camp in Kabul, Afghanistan, Oct. 7. A group of American and British servicemembers from ISAF Headquarters traveled to the nearby camp to donate two truckloads of much needed clothes, shoes, blankets, hygiene kits and toys. The British troops reached out to friends and family members back home to put together the hygiene kits for the needy families. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. April Campbell, International Security Assistance Force Public Affairs)

American, British troops team up, bring donations to Afghans in need

By U.S. Army Sgt. April Campbell, International Security Assistance Force Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — For the service members in Afghanistan who coordinate the partnership with Afghan government and national security force leaders, lasting results can take days, weeks and sometimes even months to fully realize.

Sometimes, however, a mission gives the International Security Assistance Force troops an opportunity to have a more direct and immediate effect on the Afghan people.

A group of American and British service members from ISAF Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, were given just such an opportunity when they traveled to a nearby internally displaced people's camp, Oct. 7, 2011 to donate two truckloads of much needed clothes, shoes, blankets, hygiene kits and toys.

The mission was the second of a series of volunteer community relations missions coordinated

through the ISAF Chaplain's Office. The donations themselves, came from a variety of contributors across the U.S. and Great Britain.

"The Daughters of the American Revolution in Arvada, Colo., and Broomfield, Colo., contacted me and let me know they wanted to help out in Afghanistan. That spurred me to find a way for them to contribute," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Marc Adair, who serves with the United States Forces – Afghanistan Joint Visitors Bureau at ISAF Headquarters.

Adair, an Arvada native, spoke to the ISAF Headquarters chaplain, U.S. Army Chaplain (Maj.) Ephraim Garcia, who was enthusiastic about the plan.

"The folks here at ISAF are very generous and this gives them an opportunity to actually go out there experience the Afghan people, the Afghan nation, and have a hands on experience where they hand off these donations to people they actually see have a real need," said Garcia, a New York City native

deployed from the 77th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Dix Army Reserve.

Expanding upon the initial generosity of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Adair reached out to family and friends in Denver, Houston, Arizona, Washington, D.C., and Virginia.

"The donations are coming from more places than I ever thought they would. Two different dental clinics that really wanted to contribute heard through the grape-vine we were doing this and sent dental hygiene supplies," Adair said.

For their part, British service members have reached out to their friends and families back home who have donated a variety of items including hygiene kits that were given to children at a hospital during the previous mission and to families at the IDP camp.

With the donations coming from good Samaritans overseas, the British and American troops found

a good Samaritan inside Afghanistan to help them coordinate the mission and work with the needy families.

Afghan citizen Abdul Wakil works with the charity organization Sozo International and helps Garcia and the other volunteers find the locations in Kabul where Afghans most need their donations. He and five other Afghans he works with also help organize the donation process so that the items go to those who most need them. Wakil's generosity is, in no small part, driven by the connection he feels to the Afghan families at the camp.

"There are about 80 families that we will be able to help today," Wakil said. "It makes me really happy that we were able to help these poor, internally displaced people since I was raised in a refugee camp in Pakistan. I remember how we lived, and, now, with help from friends from the U.S., Great Britain and all over the world, I can help these people."

British Royal Navy Capt. Jim Higham, of Plymouth, England, smiles as he offers a toy to an Afghan mother and baby at an internally displaced people's camp in Kabul, Afghanistan, Oct. 7, 2011. A group of American and British service members from ISAF Headquarters traveled to the nearby camp to donate two truckloads of much needed clothes, shoes, blankets, hygiene kits and toys. Higham and his wife regularly donate their children's old toys to local charities in England, but rarely does he have the opportunity, like this one, to see the excited children who receive the toys. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. April Campbell, International Security Assistance Force Public Affairs)



These efforts did not go unnoticed and were greatly appreciated by Rogul, the camp elder who is displaced from Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan.

"We are very glad to have the Coalition forces here and we appreciate the clothes and all of the supplies," Rogul said. "The children love the notebooks, crayons and toys, and the women need the clothes. The donations will help us a lot for the winter."

This appreciation was expressed in the faces of many camp residents, despite the language barrier between themselves and the ISAF service members.

"I enjoy being able to see the children's faces light up just because they are getting pink pencils," Adair said. "Hearing them laugh and play with new school supplies is just awesome."

For some of the troops, the mission offered both a change from their normal day-to-day jobs and a more well-rounded view of Afghan life.

British Royal Navy Capt. Jim Higham, of Plymouth, England, who serves with the strategic planning cell of ISAF Headquarters, normally helps to plan for ISAF engagements with key Afghan leaders, but, during this mission, he enjoyed passing out toys to the Afghan

children. Higham and his wife regularly donate their children's old toys to local charities in England, but rarely does he have the opportunity, like this one, to see the excited children who receive the toys.

"With the toys, invariably, someone smiles at you, and, if you exchange smiles, then all the cultural and language barriers seem to melt away. It's a universal connection," Higham said.

Perhaps fellow ISAF service members will be greeted with similar smiles during the next volunteer community relations mission when Garcia plans to go to an Afghan school.

Even though Adair is in the process of returning home to serve at the Pentagon, he has been able to put the Daughters of the American Revolution and other American donors in contact with Garcia, who plans to hand the program off to the chaplain who replaces him in March 2012.

"I think the missions give people at ISAF Headquarters a better perspective on everyday challenges that Afghans have and an understanding of how important it is to help them and to see them be able to build their country and build a nation," said Adair, "You can't do it without the Afghans."



U.S. Army Chaplain (Maj.) Ephraim Garcia, of New York City, gives a little girl winter clothes donated by individuals and organizations throughout the U.S. and Great Britain at an internally displaced people's camp in Kabul, Afghanistan, Oct. 7, 2011. A group of American and British service members from International Security Assistance Force Headquarters traveled to the nearby camp to donate two truckloads of much needed clothes, shoes, blankets, hygiene kits and toys. With the coming winter, 80 families at the camp will benefit from the warm clothes. Garcia, out of the 77th Sustainment Brigade with the Fort Dix Army Reserve, serves as the chaplain for servicemembers at ISAF Headquarters. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. April Campbell, International Security Assistance Force Public Affairs)



Kabul Base Cluster Command

Military Police Blotter



A specialist was charged with Article 91 for disrespect to a noncommissioned officer; two counts of Article 86, absent without leave; Article 92, failure to display identification and failure to maintain positive control of assigned weapon. The Soldier was reduced by one grade and will forfeit \$445 and given seven days extra duty. The forfeiture of pay and extra duty were suspended.

A specialist was charged with Article 86, absent without leave and Article 92, for failing to maintain a living area in a clean and orderly manner, per base support group guidance. The Soldier was reduced by one grade and will forfeit \$445. The forfeiture of pay was suspended.

A specialist was charged with Article 86, absent without leave and Article 92 for failure to maintain positive control of a CAC card, failing to maintain a living area in a clean and orderly manner per base support group guidance and failure to maintain positive control of assigned weapon. The Soldier was reduced by one grade and will forfeit \$439. The forfeiture of pay was suspended.

A specialist was charged with Article 91 for disrespect to a noncommissioned officer. The Soldier was reduced by one grade and will forfeit \$445, given seven days extra duty and seven days restriction. The forfeiture of pay, extra duty and restriction were suspended.

CONCERN OF THE MONTH:

Please send questions, concerns and comments to Capt. Peter Moores, Task Force Yankee CJA.

It is a MANDATORY requirement for all personnel to wear and properly display Military ID card (CAC/ISAF) or KBC Command issued ID on their person when not in a military duty uniform. Military personnel authorized to wear civilian clothes MUST display their ID as well. The wear of physical fitness uniforms also requires the ID to be displayed. This is an ISAF, USFOR-A and Task Force Yankee requirement and it is spelled out in the Task Force Yankee Access Control/Badging Policy. The ONLY two places that the ID may be worn are on the left arm or around the neck at chest level. The ID must also be visible, not backwards, upside down or covered. Military Police personnel will question the offender and their information and offense will be reviewed by the Task Force Yankee Commanding General. Failure to adhere to this order will result in administrative and/or disciplinary actions taken against the offender.

The KBCC MP Blotter is a command information product published weekly by the Kabul Base Cluster Command. The KBCC MP Blotter is published to inform the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen of the Kabul Base Cluster in the Regional Command - Capital about UCMJ actions. Questions, concerns and comments regarding the KBCC MP Blotter should be directed to the KBCC Command Judge Advocate.

Coalition engineers teach ANA troops at training centre in Kabul

By Sgt. Daniel Daerendinger, Consolidated Fielding Centre Canadian Forces

KABUL, Afghanistan — After a short transition and handover from our U.S. Army predecessors this past June, Training Mentor Team 7 jumped into the breach at the Consolidated Fielding Centre (CFC). This engineer training team includes a captain, two warrant officers, a sergeant and a corporal.

Between the five of us, we have ten years of combined instructional time at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering in Gagetown, New Brunswick and nine operational deployments. Lacking an instructor on heavy equipment, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Roderick Carter augmented our team.

A veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Carter was a welcome addition to the team. Our pooled skills and knowledge have proven valuable considering the challenges we have faced so far. During our time here, we have helped field two company-sized engineer units of the Afghan National Army (ANA).

Our role at CFC is slightly different than the role of others who advise ANA staff at training institutions as part of the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan. When we arrived in Kabul, we learned that we were the only Training Mentor Team at CFC with no ANA instructors as counterparts - we would be training ANA Soldiers directly.

We quickly adapted the team's primary focus from advising to instructing. We also learned that the ANA engineer companies that rotated through CFC for training would include troops with little or no experience as engineers. These factors meant that we had to train the ANA troops ourselves – in both individual engineer skills and tasks that involve engineer sections working together.

We created a training plan that focused on four main tasks - demolition, route clearance, force protection and heavy equipment operations. The plan emphasized counter-improvised explosive device (IED) drills throughout.



An Afghan National Army Soldier uses a metal detector during engineer training at the Consolidated Fielding Centre. (Photo by Master Cpl. Rory Wilson, Canadian Forces)

To permit the most realistic training possible, we set up a location in CFC's large training area where engineer-specific activities could be done. This was a first for CFC.

With only seven weeks of training scheduled for each close support unit that rotates through CFC, our program had to focus on the basics while incorporating ANA doctrine, capabilities and equipment. During the short lead-time before the first training cycle, the team constructed a complete set of training aids including demolition stores and accessories and simulated IED devices.

Working with the ANA is challenging under the best of circumstances. Tented classrooms, language and cultural differences, Ramadan fasting, harsh elements and constricted time frames have all contributed to the challenge of helping ANA Soldiers

become trained engineers in effective and deployable units. We have worked through these challenges to validate and deploy two ANA engineer companies as part of separate close support kandaks (ANA battalions).

These are units that have successfully completed their training at CFC and now serve in Afghanistan alongside other units to clear roads of IEDs and fight the insurgency.

Engineer company mentoring and instruction will evolve over the duration of our time here. We look forward to the arrival of ANA engineer instructors, which will allow our team to focus on our original task of being training advisors. Until then we will be hard at work providing engineer knowledge and expertise that is so necessary for ANA units.

Engineer training conducted at the Consolidated Fielding Centre:

Route clearance

Route clearance training focuses on clearing lanes through roads and other areas using metal detectors. ANA Soldiers quickly adapted to using the equipment and progressed to section and platoon-sized sweeping drills. Using simulated IEDs, the ANA engineers quickly learned to identify, react and respond to IED indicators, finds and incidents. While many mistakes were made, the scenario-based training allowed for debriefs that enabled ANA Soldiers and junior leaders to improve their drills and command and control.

Demolition

Demolition skills are essential for any engineer. The demolition training we designed for units at CFC includes theory on explosives, and practical training on different types of charges. Unexploded ordnance disposal is also introduced, along with the use of improvised charges. Training culminates in a demolition range that allows ANA Soldiers to experience the thrill of using explosives, while also ensuring that they understand their effects.

Force Protection

Engineer units are responsible for constructing defenses, whether around a dismounted unit holding a piece of ground or around a base or other installation. Engineers training at CFC learn – and practice – how to construct field defenses and build sand and concrete barriers.

Heavy Equipment

For each engineer training cycle at CFC, 15 Soldiers learn how to operate bulldozers, front-end loaders and other road construction equipment. Training begins with basic equipment operation, then moves to maintenance and driving. Engineers then deploy to the training area to conduct earth-moving operations and more complex road repair and force protection tasks.



Warrant Officer Martin Stymiest explains the operation of an IED pressure plate to ANA Soldiers at the Consolidated Fielding Centre. (Photo by Warrant Officer Tim MacCormac, Canadian Forces)



U.S. Army Capt. Natasja K. Allen, a native of Port Orchard, Wash., potentially set a world record for the women's military open 181 pounds class bench press with a lift of 185 pounds Oct. 7, 2011 at the ISAF gymnasium. For the first time in Powerlifting history, Allen had the opportunity to compete in the 2011 AAU World Bench, Deadlift and Push/Pull Championships via the Internet. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Tamika Dillard/HQ ISAF PAO)

Powerlifting World Championship invades ISAF

By U.S. Army Sgt. Tamika Dillard, HQ ISAF PAO

KABUL, Afghanistan — Powerlifters from the U.S. and several other countries were in Las Vegas for the 2011 Amateur Athletic Union World Bench Press, Deadlift and Push/Pull Powerlifting Championships. The Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino was host to the hundreds of AAU members flocking to the strip for the Oct. 7-9, 2011 event.

For the first time in Powerlifting history, this year's event was global. Seven International Security Assistance Forces military personnel in Afghanistan had the opportunity to compete in the championships Oct. 7, 2011 in ISAF's gymnasium via the internet.

"It is a good feeling to be competing in Afghanistan," said U.S. Army Spc. Anthony Murray Jr., ISAF video production specialist and a native of Baltimore, Maryland. "This competition was the first to be done for our deployed service members and I am proud to

be a part of this. It shows that even though we are in a war zone, we can still be a part of life in the United States."

Powerlifting originated in the United States in the 1950s. It consists of three lifts – the squat, bench press and deadlift to test the lifters' overall body strength.

"Powerlifting is a speed-strength sport," said U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Hal Pittman, ISAF's Deputy Chief of Staff of Communication and Powerlifting team captain. "On Fridays, our team works on heavy bench presses and upper body and on Sundays, we work on squats, deadlifts and assistance exercises for those lifts. I encourage our lifters to do other training and cardio during the rest of the week."

While Powerlifting is portrayed as just a sport, some lifters feel there is much more to it than that.

"Opportunities like these are a great morale booster," said U.S. Army Capt. Natasja K. Allen, a native of Port Orchard, Wash. "It gives us something to work towards and look forward to. I've started measuring my deployments in competitions; it makes the time go by so much faster."

Though many power lifters will set personal bests, some may also set AAU World Records in the military division.

"I have only been Powerlifting for a month and a half now," said Murray. "When I first started I tried weights that I had used before but as our training continued and the competition got closer, I decided to go with a much heavier weight, 460 pounds. I have never tried this much weight before, but I had a lot of confidence in myself and my training. I am glad that I did it because now I am going to lift more."

In order for the ISAF Powerlifting team to compete in the bench press and deadlift competitions, six members of the powerlifting team went through training and certification to become AAU National powerlifting referees. The referees rotated during the two flights of lifting, and all of them also lifted in the competition.

"Our team competed under full AAU Powerlifting rules and guidelines in the bench press and deadlift competitions," said Pittman. "Our refs worked hard, and we videotaped the potential world record lifts for review and certification by international referees back in the states."

A total of 14 potential military division record lifts were videotaped and uploaded for judging by an AAU-qualified panel of international referees in the U.S. Results of the competition will be released next week. Participants were broken down according to event, age and weight class.

Bench Press event

Once the competitor rests his/her back on the bench, the lifter takes the loaded bar at arm's length. The lifter lowers the bar to the chest. When the bar becomes motionless on the chest, the referee gives a press command. Then the referee will call 'Rack' and the lift is completed as the weight is returned to the rack.

First up to start the women's bench press competition was U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Jeannie Deveau. This was Deveau's first competition in the women's

military submaster (35-39 years) 148 pounds class bench press division. Though small in frame and short in stature, she potentially achieved world records in her class with lifts of 115, 125 and 135 pounds.

U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Angela Skehan, a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., started powerlifting two months ago and already has a potential military world record bench press and deadlift of 105 and 300 pounds.

Also competing in the women's division was U.S. Army Capt. Natasja K. Allen, a native of Port Orchard, Wash. Although she has powerlifted before, this was her first international competition, and she also set a potential world record for the women's military open 181 pounds class bench press with lifts of 175 and 185 pounds.

Deadlift Event

To successfully complete a deadlift competitors must grasp the loaded bar which is resting on the platform floor. The lifter pulls the weights off the floor and assumes an erect position. The knees must be locked and the shoulders back, with the weight held in the lifters' grip. At the referees command the bar is lowered to the floor under the control of the lifter.

Several outstanding deadlifts had the crowd on its feet. U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Angela Skehan, a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., easily achieved all three of her deadlifts – establishing a record at 250, and then breaking it on each successive lift. U.S. Army Spc. Anthony Murray, Jr., a native of Baltimore, Maryland, deadlifted 460 pounds. U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr Matthew Galan, a native of Lynchburg, Virginia set a potential world record in his class by deadlifting 428 pounds.

"I most definitely do plan on continuing to compete," said Skehan. "I am proud of my accomplishments in this competition. It makes me want to train harder and push myself further than I ever imagined."



Rabbinical surge to serve troops, civilians in Afghanistan

By Erika Stetson, USFOR-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — Four rabbis – roughly 15 percent of the military's Jewish chaplaincy visited Afghanistan, including several remote military installations, to help troops and civilian employees mark the High Holidays in Oct. 2011.

The rabbis gathered in Kabul before Rosh Hashanah in late September to review schedules, discuss services and mark the occasion together.

"It probably hasn't happened in Kabul history for hundreds of years that three rabbis were here to celebrate our Sabbath together," said Rabbi Laurence Bazer, a lieutenant colonel and the U.S. Army command chaplain for the Kabul area. "That was very powerful."

The four Rabbis are Bazer, Army Col. Jacob Goldstein, Army Lt. Col. Avi Weiss and Navy Lt. Josh Sherwin. They are planning several services in the Kabul area and are splitting up to visit military sites throughout the nation during the holiday season.

"We'll be circuit riding, like the good old days," Goldstein said. "...Or as I say, have kit, will travel."

Services included three marking Yom Kippur on Oct. 7-8 at the ISAF and Camp Eggers chapels as well as Sukkot on Oct. 12-13 at Camp Phoenix, followed by observances at several facilities Oct. 16-19 and an observance to mark the end of Sukkot on Oct. 20 at the ISAF chapel. For more information about services, or for resources such as kosher meals, contact a local chaplain or Bazer at Laurence.j.bazer@afghan.swa.

army.mil.

Weiss said the visits were about outreach for Jews and non-Jews as much as they were about services.

"When you're out in an area, people come out," he said. "We're going to be going around and having a Jewish presence, and to be honest, it's not just for Jews. It's for people who are interested in Judaism, have questions or concerns."

Bazer agreed, adding that all military chaplains serve troops of all faiths, and information the rabbis gather during their visits will help them plan for Jewish and other holidays.

"I think overall it is wonderful coverage," Bazer said of the High Holiday planning. "We'll be able to see afterward where we need

to look forward to plan for future holidays. ... We're thinking about that for Hanukkah."

It was evident the chaplaincy needed to ensure a Rabbinical presence during the season, Goldstein said.

"I have e-mail from people who are in theater," he said. "They were distressed over the fact that they didn't know there were going to be services."

Chaplains also said people can reconnect with their roots by reconnecting with their faith, Jewish or otherwise.

"Being able to touch individual lives and open doors is great," Bazer said.

Weiss agreed, stressing that seeing a chaplain can be particularly beneficial for people "facing issues of life and death on a regular basis."

The High Holiday visits, broadly, demonstrate the extent to which the military is committed to serving the spiritual needs of troops, Goldstein said.

"At the end of the day, it tells them a lot," he added. "It tells them somebody cares about you."



Salvaged comfort



Jail to clean blankets, sheets for Afghan orphans

Army Sgt. Paul Atkinson, a maintenance sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, poses for a picture in front of a stack of mattresses in a warehouse on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan Oct. 24, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

By Ethan Forman, Staff writer, Salem News.com

Blankets and sheets from the former Beverly High civil defense shelter may someday be used to tuck in orphans in Afghanistan, thanks to resourceful volunteers both here and abroad.

Yesterday, Mark and Janet Brings and their daughter, Erin, brought about 300 sheets and blankets to be laundered at no cost at Middleton Jail.

The sheets and blankets are destined to go to two orphanages outside Kabul, where corrections officer Paul Atkinson of Marblehead is stationed as a sergeant in charge of maintenance at Camp Phoenix with the Massachusetts National Guard, 1-182nd Infantry Regiment. Atkinson has worked for the jail for 10 years.

At Camp Phoenix, he was ordered to dispose of 300 mattresses and bed frames, said his wife, Maria. They were married just six days before Atkinson shipped out in June.

Atkinson decided that instead of throwing out or burning the beds, they would better serve two Afghan orphanages, one with 400 girls and another with 300 boys, not far from the base.

The salvaged beds were delivered to the orphanages on a military flatbed truck, but they lacked bedding.

The sheets and blankets for them are being provided by the Brings family of Marblehead, who run the grass-roots Calling All Patriots Troop Support organization out of the living room in their Overlook Road home. The group periodically sends care packages to troops.

Mark Brings, a union carpenter, wound up with the sheets after salvaging them from the former Beverly shelter where he worked on a job, but he did not know what to do with them.

It was Maria Atkinson who arranged for the sheets to be sent overseas, with the help of many others.



A young Afghan orphan poses for a photo during a coalition visit to an orphanage. Orphans like this young boy benefit from the generosity and support of coalition forces and their families back home. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

She first became acquainted with Calling All Patriots Troop Support after Atkinson began getting packages from the organization.

How the sheets wound up being laundered at Middleton Jail is another story.

Maria Atkinson put out word on her Facebook page about the need for sheets for Afghan orphans, and her plea wound up on the "All Marblehead" Facebook page maintained by Jack Attridge.

Missy Donahue, a Marblehead resident who works at Middleton Jail and knows Paul Atkinson, read the post and drew the connection between Atkinson's need for sheets for orphans with the Brings family's efforts to help the troops.

Donahue happened to drop off some old cell phones at the Brings home, an official site for the Cellphone for Soldiers program, which recycles old cellphones and uses the proceeds to buy phone cards for soldiers. She

mentioned to the Bringses that Atkinson needed sheets for orphanages in Kabul.

"When she talked to Janet, Janet is the one who put things together," Maria Atkinson said.

"I bet we could get the jail to wash these," Maria said, quoting Janet Brings. Others around town have also donated some sheets to the cause.

Atkinson plans to come home for two weeks in a few weeks, then head back to Afghanistan and come home at the end of March, said Maria Atkinson, who is thankful for what the Bringses have done for her husband.

"They are just caring, giving people," she said.

Schützenschnur: guardsmen go for the gold

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

KABUL, Afghanistan — Massachusetts Army National Guardsmen earned the prestigious German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency (German: Schützenschnur) at the Kabul Military Training Center here Oct. 10, 2011.

The coveted German Schützenschnur is a badge that can be earned by officers and enlisted but only enlisted Soldiers can wear the distinctive award on their service uniforms. Normally Guardsmen do not get the chance to qualify for the honor.

To earn the award Soldiers fired pistols and machine guns under a strict timeline enforced by their hosts and counterparts from the German Federal Defence Force (Bundeswehr).

To let the Soldiers know when to prepare to fire Bundeswehr 1st Sgt. Gero Riedling yelled, “*Get ready for combat!*”

“Get ready for combat!”

Riedling and his Soldiers must qualify for the Schützenschnur annually. “We do this once a year. We shoot the pistol, rifle and machine gun,” said Riedling. “Each person has three chances at each event.”



Spc. Joshua E. Reinke, an Armed Forces Network Manager with Task Force Yankee, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard shoots the Heckler & Koch P8 pistol at the Kabul Military Training Center Oct. 10, 2011.

Before the Soldiers could go onto the firing line German Federal Defence Force Pfc. Tobias Werning demonstrated how to use the Heckler & Koch P8, a 9mm pistol similar to the U.S. 9mm M9 – Beretta that U.S. Soldiers use.

Similar to the American service pistol, the first time the trigger is squeezed there is a lot of tension but then it gets easier. “I liked it; it was easy after the first shot, kind of like the clutch on a rice rocket as opposed to a Harley,” said Master Sgt. Kimberly Alberico, G1 noncommissioned officer-in-charge for Task Force Yankee, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard.

Soldiers also had to shoot the MG3 machine gun accurately at some pretty small targets to qualify for the gold badge that signifies the highest proficiency. There are also silver and bronze versions of the award.

“This was the greatest day I’ve had since I’ve been in Afghanistan. It was really nice of them [German Soldiers] to host us,” said Pfc. Shawn Merrill, a construction technician with Task Force Yankee’s General Engineering Department after qualifying for the silver badge.



Spc. Steven C. Eaton, a public affairs sergeant with Task Force Yankee, 26th “Yankee” Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard shoots the MG3 machine gun while qualifying for the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency (German: Schützenschnur)



Above: German Federal Defence Force 1st Sgt. Gero Riedling observes American Soldiers shooting to earn the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency (Schützenschnur)

Left: German Federal Defence Force Pfc. Tobias Werning shows Soldiers from Task Force Yankee how to use the Heckler & Koch P8 pistol.

Clearing Barrel



Step 1: Ensure weapon is on safe and place muzzle in the clearing barrel

فهرط هلسا لیو دشاب دیق تلایح رد دیاب هلسا. ۱. هلسا
دوش مدادرارقرلب



Step 2: Drop the Magazine

دوش جرایح دیابروجاش. ۲. هلسا



Step 3: Hand the magazine to your buddy/ supervisor

لیوات پورگرس هب ایراکمه هبروجاش. ۳. هلسا
دوش مداد



Step 4: Charge the slide/ bolt to the rear 3 times, ensure no rounds eject

هلسا ندکشک تیگراپ (۳) هس. ۴. هلسا



Step 5: Lock the bolt to the rear, visually inspect the chamber, verify clear

هلسا هاگباوخ نات پورگرسایوامش. ۵. هلسا
دیامن دیزابار



Step 6: Allow slide/ bolt to go forward

هب ات هدز شیپ هبار تیگ. ۶. هلسا
درگبرارق یداع تلایح



Step 7: Insert the magazine

دیدن بب مرابودارروجاش. ۷. هلسا

Do Not Squeeze The Trigger

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ALWAYS



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ΜΙΣΤΗΡΑΣ

دوش چراخ دی ابرو جاش. ۲۰۰۰ حرم

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