

Note from the Staff Officer:

Greetings 30NCR friends and family!

As the days continue to tick by and we pass the “Over the Hump” midway marker on this deployment, I am continually reminded how fortunate we are to be working and serving with such a great crew of your loved ones here in Afghanistan. Every day I see the smiling faces, words of encouragement, and infectious positive attitudes that keep me working harder and harder to keep up with all the great things our folks are doing here. You would be proud to see the fruits of their labor!

What is life like here on Kandahar Airfield (KAF)? There is an incredibly diverse blend of cultures and countries, both military and civilian. The NATO Afghanistan mission is represented by approximately 35 nations from around the world, and it is not unusual to see uniforms representing Canada, Bulgaria, Afghanistan, Romania, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, the Czech Republic, and many others. It is truly a league of nations!

While we all stay quite busy with our work and mission, some of the crew here are able to find the time to venture out from the workspaces to experience a little more of the broader life on KAF. What do our folks do on their off time? First of all, everyone is working out and losing weight...you'll be impressed when you see us in February! Besides the gyms, between MWR and the USO there are computers, game stations,



find TGI Fridays, pizza, stir fry, and one of our favorites...ice cream! Dirty clothes? No problem...just drop them off at the laundry and two days later you've got a clean uniform.

All in all, life is pretty good here on KAF. While we'd certainly prefer to be home with you, we are proud to be carrying on with the mission that our nation calls us to and that all of us in uniform have volunteered to execute.

Thanks for all your thoughts, prayers, and encouraging care packages...and Happy Thanksgiving!

CDR Erik Karlson
Chief Staff Officer

ping pong tables, pool tables, aerobics classes, a theater, and there are always planned events like line dancing, texas hold 'em tournaments, dominoes, and various holiday events. There is an active chapel program with services and bible studies throughout the week, and don't forget the 5K fun runs which occur just about once a week to benefit any number of worthwhile charities. There have even been some folks participate in 10 mile and half marathon runs. Finally, there are periodic volleyball challenge matches between officers, chiefs, and first classes within 30 NCR. I'll let you guess who the current reigning champions are, but their average age is a little older and their hair (what's left of it) is a little grayer than everyone else's.

The five Dining Facilities keep us filled up, but if you get tired of that food there is always the boardwalk where you can

