



Yankee Dispatch

26th

Task Force Yankee Newsletter

Policing the Streets

Past and present, Task Force Yankee honors Veterans Day

Rugby forms unity on ISAF

Schützenschnur: guardsmen go for the gold



Yankee Dispatch

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

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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

On the Cover



Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Lombardi, a military policeman, with Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, and an Afghan National policeman discuss search techniques at one of the Ring of Steel police checkpoints 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)

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Happy Thanksgiving from Kabul!!!

We have once again watched the season change here in Afghanistan. As fall comes to a close and winter begins, we will begin to wind down our mission here in Kabul. We have had some challenging days through the fall at many of our locations and I know this has been difficult for both the Soldiers and our Families. The attack on our U.S. Embassy and the recent suicide bomb attack were both strong reminders that we must remain vigilant in our duties, as this remains a dangerous place. I can assure you that we take great care to ensure that we mitigate, to the greatest extent possible, any threats to the safety of your Soldier. I hope you can take some comfort in knowing that your Soldiers contribute daily to safety and security of more than 11,000 U.S. and Coalition Soldiers who live in Kabul.

I have received comments from General Petraeus, General Allen (his replacement) and nearly every General Officer and Senior Leader in Kabul, thanking me for the security work of this great organization. They realize that your Soldier's efforts, are all that stand between them and the insurgents each day and night. Your Yankee Troopers are either standing guard watching over the base while others sleep, building the walls that separate the good guys from the bad, patrolling the villages, advising the Afghan National Police so that we can pass the baton of security to them, or building schools, district centers and supporting orphanages so that future generations of Afghans realize that we can be friends and avoid future wars.

Task Force Yankee is now quite diverse. We have the great Soldiers of Task Force Americal (1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment) and the 26th Signal Company (who will depart here in December), who are joined by the 1165th Military Police Company, Alabama National Guard, the 866th Air Expeditionary Squadron (Security Forces), a Mongolian Expeditionary Force with Alaska National Guard mentors and more than 1,400 contract security forces. Your Soldiers provide the most important intelligence summary published in Kabul (with more than 1,000 daily subscribers) and they have broken up drug, prostitution and black market operations in conjunction with the Afghan National Police. They have greatly improved the operational efficiency and quality of life for the 11,000 residents of the Kabul Base Cluster Command by completing more than 500 construction



projects, preventing sexual assaults and improving the USO and morale activities. They have saved our government millions of dollars (which is critical these days) by reducing fraud and waste in contracting and accountability of our property. We have built water wells, schools and clinics and volunteer personal time to work with orphans. This Task Force has raised more than \$60,000 in cash and supplies to assist women, children and poor people who have nothing. These efforts have significantly enhanced the quality of life for more than 10,000 Kabul area children.

In short, your Soldiers have made a significant difference here in Afghanistan and have contributed greatly to the security of our nation by improving security here. I could not be more proud of their efforts and selfless service, and I could not be more appreciative of the support you provide us each day. Thank you once again for allowing me the privilege to serve with your Soldiers during this deployment.

"First to Fight – Yankee Pride!"

Brig. Gen. Jack Hammond

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(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jamse C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

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 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 email 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.”



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26th Yankee Brigade

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26th Yankee Brigade shared a link.



Afghanistan school dedicated to fallen Sgt. Robert Barrett www.heraldnews.com

In the land where he died last year, where the country remains at war, a grade school was named to honor Sgt. Robert J. Barrett. Smiling Afghan boys are shown holding up colorful drawings, and a UNICEF book sits on a desk inside a small school, which on Monday was dedicated to the young Army Natio...

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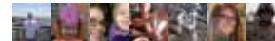
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COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

Hello from Camp Phoenix.

This month I wanted to do a follow on article about our second Medal of Honor recipient during World War I, Pfc. Michael J. Perkins. I found this article online written by Mr. Rick Winterson and took portions of it for this article. South Boston's busiest and most centrally located square is named for Pfc. Michael J. Perkins, a Medal of Honor recipient for his bravery during World War I. In a moment of supreme courage, Perkins – outnumbered more than 25 to one – single-handedly neutralized a “pill box” containing seven enemy machine guns. Although successful in his heroic endeavor, he sustained severe wounds during the encounter. He died the next day.

Perkins posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his courage in the World War I Battle of Belieu Woods. In gaining this honor, he joined the company of national heroes like Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker and Sgt. Alvin York. The most graphic description of Perkins is in the citation that accompanied his award.

Yet, even the citation fails to make it clear that he sacrificed his life for his unit – Company D, 101st Infantry Regiment, 26th Division (the famed “Yankee” Division).

The Yankee Division's assault on Belieu Woods began at 4 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, 1918. The Germans fought desperately and forced Company D to bog down as evening approached on Sunday, Oct. 27. A second night under steady fire would have meant the loss of his unit, so Perkins took action and although badly wounded, he was successful.

He barely survived that night and Perkins succumbed to his wounds the next morning, Monday, Oct. 28, 1918.

The Medal of Honor records state that Perkins was 19. Actually, he was born on Aug. 17, 1882, making him 26 at the time of his death. He died just 13 days short of Armistice Day (Veterans Day), when hostilities ceased for good on “the elevens” – Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. (the time in Paris). World War I soon became known as the “war to end all wars”.

Perkins was named after his father, an Irish immigrant who came to South Boston. He was known as Mickey to everyone; he graduated from the Bigelow School. Now, Legion Post # 67, the elementary school on Burke Way and South Boston's major square are named for him.

Perkins unit was historic as well. The 26th Division, the “Yankee Division,” was commanded by Maj. Gen. Clarence R. Edwards and fought for 210 days in most major Western Front engagements. The “YD” included the Irish-American



“Fighting Ninth” from the Civil War, which had been folded into the “Yankee’s” 101st Regiment. That regiment’s commander was South Boston’s Col. Edward J. Logan.

The Presidential Citation conferring the Medal of Honor upon Pfc. Michael J. Perkins reads as follows:

He voluntarily and alone, crawled to a German “pill box” machinegun emplacement, from which grenades were being thrown at his platoon. Awaiting his opportunity, when the door was again opened and another grenade thrown, he threw a bomb inside, bursting the door open, and then, drawing his trench knife, rushed into the emplacement. In a hand-to-hand struggle he killed or wounded several of the occupants and captured about 25 prisoners, at the same time silencing seven machineguns.

Thanks for all you do and the sacrifices you and your Families make for our mission to be so successful. As we draw near our redeployment, I share with you a quote that is posted in the New Kabul Compound Dinning Facility: “Don’t count the days, make the days count!”

Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Davidson

Yankee-7

PAST AND PRESENT



“A hero is someone
her life to something



TASK FORCE YANKEE HONORS VETERANS DAY



who has given his or
bigger than oneself”

-Joseph Campbell, author



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.



Members of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, part of team U.S.A., compete against coalition forces in a friendly game of rugby.

Rugby forms unity on ISAF

By U.S. Army Sgt. Tamika Dillard, HQ ISAF Public Affairs

15's.

KABUL, Afghanistan — While the sun gradually peaked out past bloated white clouds, teams from more than 12 nations hit the field for an electrified game of touch rugby.

To inexperienced eyes this game can be confused with American football or even a game of soccer. But if you ask the British to explain it, it would go something like this.

"Rugby is 'God's Sport'," said British Army Staff Sgt. Michael Lawrence. "Rugby is the only true team sport, in the world where individual skill is an added extra. No one man makes a team in rugby, unlike soccer."

The sheer physical nature of the sport tests every person's physical fitness, muscular endurance and above all, courage. Whether rugby 7's or rugby 15's, it's not a sport for the faint of heart.

Rugby 7's is a shorter version of the full game of 15's. The difference between the two are there are 7 players, not the normal 15, and the game is only 7 minutes each half not 40 as in the full game. It is however played on the same size pitch (or field) as

To avoid injury to the players, due to the high intensity of the sport, the multinational force players wrapped their arms around their opponent's legs or waist to stop progress.

"I love to play tackle rugby," said Afghan Rugby player Haroon Zadran. "This is my first time playing touch, but it still was fun and very physical."

The first game of the afternoon was played between the Afghanistan Rugby Team and the British Army's 21st Signal Regiment Air Support, that won last year's International Security Assistance Forces tournament.

Although this young Afghan team lost their first game to last year's British champs, these warriors are no stranger to continuing the fight, not giving up.

"We are warriors," said Zadran. "We have been fighting all our lives and now is not the time to give up and give in. We have a dream and that dream is to be in the Olympics to represent our country."

ISAF's rugby coaches, Michael Lawrence and Steve Weaver, played a large role in making this tournament



possible for dedicated rugby players as well as the local Afghan team.

"This Afghan team has trained with the ISAF team since July," said Lawrence. "They meet with us [ISAF Rugby Team] for about two to three hours every Friday. We wanted to give them the opportunity to play against sides they have never played before. We want them to realize their potential, continue to get better and make it to the next level."

Afghanistan will apply for membership in the Asian Rugby Football Union at a meeting in November. If all goes well, the young Afghanistan team can look forward to playing teams in India, Iran and possibly Pakistan.

While the majority of the teams in the tournament have been playing rugby for many years, a group of young American Soldiers showed their skills for the first time on the pitch.

"The first time my guys played rugby was a little over a week ago," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st. Class Paul M. Morrisette, a Massachusetts Army National Guardsman assigned to ISAF's movement control team. "They are very young and their level of physical fitness is off the charts."

Despite this being their first time playing, their athleticism and quick absorption of the game, lead these young guardsmen to shock a more seasoned Kabul Joint Support Unit team by denying their advancement to the finals.

Morrisette said the guys will take what they have

learned from their British counterparts home with them as they are set to redeploy later this year back to Boston, Mass.

After more than four hours of play, darkness fell upon the field. The game came down to its final minutes when the New Zealand team beat last year's champions to win the overall tournament and was crowned ISAF's 2011 Rugby ISAF Champions. Headquarters ISAF Joint Command B Team beat the Afghanistan Rugby Team to win the runner up plate finals.

Although the Afghan team lost the tournament, they expanded their relationships and gained more support.

"If this young Afghan team continues to play in the manner at which I've seen and receive the constant support of ISAF, I think it will take them very far," said Lawrence. "Maybe the Olympics will be for real and not a dream."

On behalf of the Irish Rugby Football Union(IRFU), Lawrence presented the Afghanistan Rugby Team 15 new rugby balls. The IRFU wanted to show their support by donating rugby kits to the young Afghan team.

"This rugby tournament was about building continuous relationships with all nations," said Lawrence. "It allowed rugby players from all over the world to play a sport they love, that I love so much. This game gave all who participated in the tournament an opportunity to express themselves for just a few hours."

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, 1st Battalion, 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



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)

sent overseas, with the help of many others.

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.

YD History

Soldier Spotlight

This Month in “Yankee” Division History

The 26th Infantry Division went on the offensive in Lorraine, France on Oct. 22, 1944. On Nov. 8 the division fought for a commune in Lorraine called Dieuze and by Nov. 20 had taken it. The YD kept advancing against a determined foe and advanced across the Saar River to Saar Union. After days of fierce house to house fighting the YD was able to take Saar Union on December 2.



Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond congratulates Staff Sgt. Jesse Medford, 26th Signal Company, Massachusetts National Guard, for being promoted to Sgt. 1st Class on Camp Phoenix Nov. 2, 2011. Medford is working as a battle noncommissioned officer in the Kabul Base Cluster Operations Center with the 26th “Yankee” Brigade. Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Medford said, “I had always wished my family could be present for my promotion, but unfortunately due to being promoted in Afghanistan, my wife Christie and children, 12-year-old Emma and 10-year-old Dave couldn’t be here. But without their support, I never could’ve reached the rank of Sgt. 1st Class.” (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, 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

Chaplain's Corner



Thanksgiving is special because it particularly reminds us of what we should be truly thankful for; our Family and friends and the ability to gather together in a free and democratic society. Here in Afghanistan, we are striving to help

the Afghan people know freedom from years of oppression. Afghan local nationals said to me how wonderful it was to gather in joy and freedom with their Families for their special holy days, such as the recent Eid Adha. Eid was filled with good and plentiful food, family, and prayers of thanksgiving. Our "Thanksgiving Day" whether home or on deployment, will be filled with good and plentiful food, Family & friends, and prayers of Thanksgiving.

I know this Thanksgiving Day, November 24th will be difficult on both sides of the world, but with our joint prayers for Thanksgiving for what we have, will intertwine on the way up to heaven as "as one voice of praise."

This Thanksgiving Day, take the time to give thanks for all you have around you at your dinner table. Thank the Divine for our United States of America, our ability and right to live, work, and play as free Americans, and thank God for God's continued sheltering presence for us here in Afghanistan. Next year, home for Thanksgiving!

On behalf of the Task Force Yankee Religious Support Team, I want to wish you all a joyous and special Thanksgiving.

Blessings,

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry Bazer

Task Force Yankee Command Chaplain

Family Readiness

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Find us on Facebook

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Around The Brigade



Sgt. 1st. Class Matthew Hitchins runs by the water point in Patriot Square on Camp Phoenix during the Army 10-Miler shadow run. Coalition service members and civilians participated in the shadow run on Oct. 2, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



Spc. Keith Botschafter, watches as the executive officer from the Afghan National Army, 6th Kandak breaks down and reassembles his ANA issued M16 rifle. Botschafter is from the 26th Signal Company, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard stationed at Camp Bala Hissar as part of the Task Force Yankee Base Support Group. (Photo courtesy of Bala Hissar BSG)

[See More photos on our Flickr page at http://www.flickr.com/photos/26thyankeebrigade](http://www.flickr.com/photos/26thyankeebrigade)



Female coalition service members and civilians who completed the Situational awareness, Mitigating the Risk, Alert mentality, Remaining focused and Targeting the strike areas, or S.M.A.R.T. self-defense class on Camp Phoenix, pose with their instructors Spc. Brandi Walsh and Sgt. 1st. Class Robert Leblanc, both with Task Force Yankee and three male volunteers after their final class. The three male volunteers put on full protective gear and let the students demonstrate the techniques learned during the class. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs) To learn more check out our video at <http://www.dvidshub.net/video/130043/getting-smart-self-defense>



Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Widberg, 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard, unveils a memorial wall dedicated to the memory of Massachusetts Army National Guard Soldiers who have died in Afghanistan Nov. 11, 2011 on Camp Phoenix here. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



Capt. David Dunphy, an explosive's ordnance disposal (EOD) advisor, with Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, and Capt. Mohammad Alim, an Afghan National policeman with the Kabul City Police Command, discuss advanced techniques for detecting homemade explosives at a police station on Oct. 23, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Philip J. Kucha, Task Force Yankee)



Soldiers from the Camp Bala Hissar Base Support Group, Task Force Yankee, stand in front of their new gym named the "Justice Gym." The gym was constructed using two maintenance tents. the gym has a cardio and weightlifting section. The "Justice Gym" was constructed by the Soldiers and civilians of the remote Bala Hissar to help improve physical fitness as well as morale on base. (Photo courtesy of Bala Hissar Base Support Group, Task Force Yankee)



(From left to right) 1st Lt. Gregory Walsh, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Amanda Tefft, Sgt. Josph Morini, a giant black cat, Spc. Melissa Vizena, Spc. Jessie Murray and Sgt. Amanda Coleman pose for a photo after the Halloween Fun Run held at Camp Phoenix on Oct. 31, 2011. In true Halloween spirit some Soldiers made additions to their PT uniforms. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

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!!