



KBC INSIDER



VOL. 2 – ISSUE 5

NEWSLETTER OF THE KABUL BASE CLUSTER

November 2011

ANA's new Soldiers



In Afghanistan

the sun rises in the south

**A Very Yankee
Thanksgiving**

On Patrol

Albanian Soldiers and New Jersey
guardsmen head out with ANA

Ready for the challenge

KBC INSIDER ON THE INSIDE

VOL. 2 - ISSUE 5 - Nov. 2011

Task Force Yankee
Public Affairs Office

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ON THE COVER

Afghan National Army Pvt. Mohammad Ghamy, center right, of Kandahar province, goes eyes right with his fellow Soldiers as they pass by the reviewing stand during their graduation from basic training at the Kabul Military Training Center Oct. 20, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. April Campbell, International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan 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

November

Coalition service members and civilians who grew mustaches during the month of November in order to raise awareness for prostate cancer pose for a photo in Patriot Square Nov. 30, 2011. Known as Movember men around the world grow mustaches in order to raise awareness and money for prostate cancer research and treatment. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



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



Canadian coins

Sgt. Robert McCarthy (right) of the 1st. Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Michael Day, NTM-A Deputy Commanding General (ANSF Development), after receiving the Canadian Contribution Training Mission – Afghanistan Commander's coin at a coin presentation at Camp Eggers in Kabul. (Photo by Master Cpl. Rory Wilson, Canadian Forces)



A clean weapon is a good weapon

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)



Marines celebrate Corps Birthday

Four Marines escort the Marine Corps birthday cake into the Camp Phoenix dining facility on Nov. 10, 2011. Coalition service members and civilians helped celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday by playing the Marine Corps Hymn and enjoying some cake. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



School opening honors fallen

Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond, commander of Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, cuts a ribbon to symbolize opening a school in the Kabul Province Nov. 12, 2011. The school was dedicated to the memory of a Massachusetts Army National Guard Soldier, 1st Sgt. Kevin Dupont, 52, of Templeton, Mass. Dupont died June 17, 2009 at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas of wounds suffered March 8th of that year in Kandau, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Jessie A. Murray, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



Grand opening for womans shop

Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond, commander of Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, speaks to customers of a shop opened and operated by women before cutting the ceremonial ribbon on Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan Nov. 14, 2011. The shop is the first of its kind in the Kabul Base Cluster and Hammond hopes to expand women-owned and operated shops to all 11 bases in the Kabul Base Cluster. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



Afghan National Army Soldiers participate in vehicle checkpoint training at the Consolidated Fielding Centre in Kabul. (Photo by Master Cpl. Rory Wilson, Canadian Forces)

In Afghanistan the sun rises in the south

By Capt. Jake Irsag, Canadian Forces Consolidated Fielding Centre

KABUL, Afghanistan – It was early July 2011 and a new Afghan National Army Combat Support Kandak (or battalion) was beginning its nine-week training schedule at the Consolidated Fielding Center (CFC) in Kabul. While the officers were busy studying decision-making processes and leadership techniques, the remaining Soldiers who arrived early were occupying their time studying basic Soldier skills.

All training was conducted under the tutelage of ANA Training Team Two. I was the senior advisor for this team, so I was sitting in the classroom taking in the lectures when my interpreter turned to me and said, “I understand in your country the sun rises in the east but in Afghanistan the sun rises in the south.”

On that July day, I found myself, along with Sgt. Matthew Yaschuk and Cpl. Leander Volz, sitting in a sweltering, overcrowded tent and all of us were puzzled over what our interpreter had just said. We all gave each other a look, but thought nothing more of it for the moment. Thus began my introduction to navigation in Afghanistan.

The class seemed to be going well enough. The Afghan instructor was teaching field expedient methods of determining cardinal direction. I listened intently, but was interrupted periodically by the buzzing of persistent flies. This mild annoyance and the instructor’s foreign words occupied my attention until I overheard Sgt. Yaschuk ask Samay, our interpreter, whether or not Muslims buried their dead in a specific direction.

When Samay responded, “Yes, the head faces

north and the feet face west,” Sgt. Yaschuk and I exchanged the same quizzical look that we had exchanged just a few minutes earlier. However, we continued to follow the instructor and tried to catch the occasional question that came from an inquisitive student.

After demonstrating to the class the ‘stick in the ground’ method of determining north, the instructor dismissed the Soldiers for a 10-minute break. Having momentarily shooed away the flies, I collected my thoughts and decided to ask Samay which direction the sun rose to make sure that I had heard him correctly. Samay’s response was a definitive “south.”

As anyone who has been to Afghanistan before will tell you, some things are done differently here than elsewhere. Sometimes, the differences are superficial and immaterial to the task or mission at hand. But sometimes they are not, and this was clearly one of those instances.

I quickly and emphatically informed Samay that the sun without a doubt rises in the east, and Afghanistan was not an exception. Samay looked at me and seemed taken aback. He grimaced deeply, and refused to accept my assertion. He told me that regardless of where the sun rises in Canada, in Afghanistan it indeed rises in the south.

We went back and forth for some time, both bolder and surer of our correctness with each exchange.

I finally asked Samay to come outside and point out the cardinal directions for me. He immediately agreed, and gave me a satisfied smirk that I’m sure I was displaying as well. I stood with my hands on my hips and asked him to show me the cardinal directions. He took a second and looked around to ensure he was properly oriented and I did the same.

With confidence, Samay pointed north and identified it as such. I then asked him to point to the direction from which the sun rises, and was expecting him to perform a 180 degree turn and point in the opposite direction. Instead, he pointed directly east and exclaimed, “South!”

With the help of another interpreter we discovered

that Samay at some point had confused the English translation of the Dari cardinal points, and we had really been talking about the same thing all along.

Samay is one of over one hundred interpreters employed at the CFC. Many of the interpreters have been working at the CFC long before the Canadian Forces contingent arrived and many will remain after we leave. Add to that the fact that many of them have spent time ‘down range’ working in combat zones, and one starts to realize the wealth of experience these interpreters possess.

From providing advice to brand new Soldiers to acting as a cultural advisor by frankly answering our many questions about Islam and Afghan culture, Samay has been worth his weight in gold. The quality of our interpreters at CFC has played an enormous role over the past five months and has definitely proved to be a ‘force multiplier.’

But, the kind of confusion illustrated in the above story happens all too often here. In this case, it was regarding something trivial at the time, but many times small misunderstandings such as these have larger consequences. The point of this story is not to say that Samay is a bad interpreter – in fact he is quite the opposite – but to demonstrate how much we at CFC depend upon our interpreters and how easy it can be for simple misunderstandings to become larger issues and problems.

In many cases when we talk past one another, it is simply because of a misunderstanding or miscommunication that can be easily resolved. Without our interpreters we would simply not be able to do our jobs. I know all members of the Coalition appreciate what our interpreters have done for us, and what they have done for their country. By assisting us and our Afghan National Army partners, our interpreters have made a significant contribution. This fact is impossible to deny – no matter what direction you believe the sun rises in.

Taking ownership: Afghan government to amend land law



Afghan government ministers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the Ministry of Justice, the High Office of Oversight for Implementation of Anti-Corruption and the United States Aid for International Development spoke at a workshop to review proposed amendments to the national law governing land management at the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Oct. 25.

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

KABUL, Afghanistan – Second only to the Afghan people, land is a crucial resource for the Afghan government – they fight to secure it and work hard to develop it to bring economic stability to the nation.

Now, in an effort to further these causes, the Afghan government, partnered with the United States Aid for International Development's (USAID) Land Reform in Afghanistan Project (LARA) and members of the International Security Assistance Force, is taking steps to better manage the land for the Afghan people.

Members from various Afghan government ministries and departments, including the Afghan Land Authority, or Arazi, participated in a consultation workshop to review proposed amendments to the national law governing land management at the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Oct. 25-26, 2011.

"The land management law review workshop is an opportunity for stakeholders to participate in a consensus-based, inclusive process to amend land management law," said E. Jed Barton, the deputy director for USAID.

In Afghanistan, an estimated 89 percent of the land is owned by the government. As most of this land is rural, agricultural land, Afghanistan's MAIL is responsible for determining what land belongs to the government, how to lease that land to the private sector and what land belongs to individuals.

"The objective of identifying the land is not to obtain income from it, but how to obtain employment and better the economy for the Afghan people. How much employment will the lease create? In light of these issues, I urge all the participants to review the law," said Asif Rahimi, the Minister of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock.

As a directorate within MAIL, Arazi is responsible for managing government land. During the past year, the department has been working throughout

Afghanistan to improve the government's ability to manage their land through land leasing, land conflict resolution, land transfer and exchange, land protection, land inventory, land registry, land rights identification and land preparation.

"Our mission is to bring a very transparent entity to focus on all land management issues and also bring all land related issues, which may fall under other ministries or organizations, under one roof for management," said Haroon Zareef, the director for Arazi.

One way Arazi has done this is through the land rights identification process, or Tasfeya. Like many Afghan programs and procedures, Tasfeya, is a holistic process where a team of ministerial representatives goes to the local community, takes statements from the local people, and reviews the tax records, water rights registration, court documents and historical maps to determine land ownership.

"The Tasfeya team, consisting of three members of Arazi and MAIL and one representative each from the Ministries of Justice, Energy and Water, Finance and the local extension of the Ministry of Agriculture, analyze the information and issue a final decision. If either of the parties does not agree to the decision of the seven people, then we send the forms to the courts and they decide," Zareef said.

Working closely with Arazi, the USAID's LARA project members mentor the directorate to help them develop a system that incorporates traditional land practices and values and encourages the Afghans to cultivate and develop their land.

"Through the LARA project, we are trying to encourage the government to recognize customary deeds – some of the practices that are done locally to ensure that people have that security in their land – so that people can stay on the land they have spent years living on and investing in," said Angela Cardenas, a USAID land reform advisor and LARA project manager.

One of the recommended amendments to the Land Management Law reflects this incorporation of the customary deeds into the system. The suggested change, found in Article 5: Legally Valid Documents, gives the authorities directions on how to validate such deeds.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Underwood, of Missoula, Mont., would welcome such a change in the law to garner support for the Afghan government. As the

chief of ISAF's Public Administration Service Cell, Underwood advises and works closely with MAIL, Arazi, the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (Afghanistan's national mapping organization), and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance to help solve internal boundary issues.

"The government will be better connected with the people if it protects their rights to the land they live on," Underwood said.

While the amended law is still being reviewed, Cardenas, the LARA project team members and ISAF are furthering their efforts to work with the municipalities, where mayors largely control who owns the land.

"The LARA project is working to help the Afghan government formalize informal settlements in Jalalabad," Cardenas said. "These are people who do not have any recorded documentation of ownership, but have been living in places for, sometimes, up to 50 years. We want to work through the municipality to determine how those people can stay on their land."

While the official city limits used to be much smaller, local Afghan people have moved into six informal districts around this eastern Afghan city.

"The LARA team is working with the municipal government and the Ministry of Urban Development and Affairs to set up a system where the city of Jalalabad annexes these areas and provides the people city services, like streets, power and garbage collection," said Underwood. "The residents would pay taxes to the municipal government to fund these services and the people would receive some sort of formal deed to their land."

While these plans are ongoing at the local level, working within the context of different land laws from 1923 to the current law passed three years ago, the amended law will be the unified voice of the national government. Cardenas is hopeful the Afghan government can come to a consensus and use the democratic process to improve its ability to manage the Afghan land in a way that most benefits the Afghan people.

"Ultimately, we would like to see this legislation passed by Parliament," Cardenas said. "There is an existing land management law that was issued by President Karzai in 2008 while Parliament was out of session. So, we'd like for this amended law to go through the legislative process and be formally passed through parliament."

A very Yankee Thanksgiving



Left: Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond, commander, Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard, asks a young Afghan boy his name during an orphanage visit. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

Below: Members of the Task Force Yankee G6 sit down as a section for a Thanksgiving meal on Thursday Nov. 24, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



By U.S. Army Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs

Task Force Yankee's Commander Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond.

KABUL, Afghanistan – As families across America prepared dinners, got together with friends and relatives, ate pie, went shopping and slipped into a turkey coma, the service members of Task Force Yankee, 26th "Yankee" Brigade, and the Kabul Base Cluster Command (KBCC), had a bit of an untraditional holiday.

The festivities kicked off when service members stationed in the KBCC got a special visit, thanks to Armed Forces Entertainment, the USO and Task Force Yankee MWR. Famous comedians, Tommy Davidson and Dante Carter, traveled around Kabul to spread holiday laughs.

The comedic duo performed at Camp Phoenix, the New Kabul Compound, Camp Eggers, Black Horse, Alamo and Julian Dubs Nov. 21-23, 2011. Service members and civilians were in tears from laughter and Davidson, no relation to Task Force Yankee's senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. William Davidson, also cracked a few jokes at

On Thursday Nov. 24, 2011, service members were treated to a Thanksgiving meal. For lunch, senior officers and senior enlisted Soldiers from Camp Phoenix arrived at the dining facility (DFAC) a few minutes early. They donned paper hats and plastic gloves as they prepared to serve the service members lining up at the door. "That was a nice touch, it's a good tradition that should be maintained," said Staff Sgt. Nathan McNulty, the information management officer (IMO) noncommissioned officer for the Task Force Yankee G6.

The DFAC was decorated with ice sculptures, pumpkins, pilgrims and even a home setting complete with turkeys. "The meal was pretty good," said Spc. Brandi Walsh, a supply specialist with Task Force Yankee. "[And] the display was awesome."

Service members were served a fantastic meal in the company of their deployed family. Roast beef, turkey, ham and all the fixings were on the menu as well as an impressive dessert spread. Bottles of sparkling

Right Top: Spc. Melissa Vizona, an administrative specialist with Task Force Yankee G1, makes snowflakes with young Afghan girls during an orphanage visit on Nov. 26, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven C. Eaton, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

Right Bottom: Comedian Tommy Davidson performs for Coalition service members and civilians stationed on Black Horse. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)

Below: Comedian Dante Carter performs for Coalition service members and civilians at Camp Alamo during an Armed Forces Entertainment show. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, Task Force Yankee Public Affairs)



grape juice were on every table and smiles could be seen throughout the DFAC.

Although there were no lines at the Post Exchange or local national shops Thursday night, Soldiers were treated to a little Black Friday. Camp Phoenix had two local national bazaars on Friday Nov. 25. One was held in Patriot Square and, the other was held in the French quarter of Camp Phoenix, where traditional Afghan clothes, rugs and trinkets were sold at great prices.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving several members of Task Force Yankee were able to give back on Sunday, Nov. 27, by taking a trip to a local orphanage in Kabul. Over the last few months Task Force Yankee has been able to establish a great relationship with local orphanages. Service members spent the day playing volleyball, basketball, badminton, making arts and crafts, eating snacks and even putting on a little make up and doing hair. "I got to put make up on the girls

and play jump rope," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Janice Martin, the deputy G1 for Task Force Yankee. "It felt great being able to put a smile on their faces."

"Probably the most rewarding day I've had in Afghanistan," said Spc. Melissa Vizona, an admin specialist with Task Force Yankee's G1. Vizona, on her first trip to the orphanage, spent time with young girls making arts and crafts.

Although the Soldiers of Task Force Yankee and the KBCC were not able to be home for the holidays this year, they were able to have a special week and hopefully it made their time here a little better. "I enjoyed my Thanksgiving in Kabul, the chow hall staff and leadership did a great job setting up a perfect environment to have a good meal and forget, if only for a half of an hour, that we were thousands of miles from our families," said Spc. Adam Lever, a supply specialist with Task Force Yankee.

ANA's new Soldiers ready for the challenge

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

KABUL, Afghanistan – The graduates walked proudly across the stage that morning, not yet knowing where they would work, but certainly knowing for whom.

Dressed not in caps and gowns, but berets and their military uniforms, these 1,400 Afghan Soldiers from the 4th Basic Training Kandak at the Kabul Military Training Center had trained long and hard for this day.

For Afghan National Army Pvt. Mohammad Ghamy and Imran Hashmaei, Oct. 20, 2011 marked the culmination of an eight-week transition from civilian to Soldier.

“There has been a big change. When we first came, we were civilians, so we didn’t know anything. Now, after eight weeks we are in the frame of mind of the army,” said Ghamy.

As a civilian in Kandahar province, Ghamy had seen the affects of the Taliban on his community.

“There were no jobs and I saw so much fighting going on in my district, so I wanted to come and join the Ministry of Defense – come and serve my country,” Ghamy said. “My family encouraged me to join the military, serve the country, get the enemies out of our country and help rebuild it.”

Where Hashmaei lived in Kunduz province, the responsibility for security has transitioned largely into the hands of the Afghans. The sight of Afghan National Army Soldiers in the local media encouraged his decision to serve Afghanistan.

“When I saw the Afghan National Army training on the TV, I really liked the uniform. I talked to my family and said I wanted to join the military. My family supported me and said I could join,” Hashmaei said.

After signing up to join the ANA, Ghamy and Hashmaei made the journey to KMTC to join their peers from around the nation as they learned to be Soldiers.

“When the Soldiers come to KMTC, we tell them about their appearance and the way of living in the Army. We tell them how they need to be disciplined and how they need to appear as long as they are going to be Soldiers in the future,” said ANA Lt. Col. Habib Rahman Wardak, KMTC’s 4th Basic Training Kandak commander.

That new way of living only seemed to strengthen their desire to make it through training.



Afghan National Army Pvt. Mohammad Ghamy, center right, of Kandahar province, goes eyes right with his fellow Soldiers as they pass by the reviewing stand during their graduation from basic training at the Kabul Military Training Center, Oct. 20.

“I felt like my fellow countrymen were beside me,” said Ghamy. “They all spoke Dari and Pashtu. I didn’t feel nervous or scared.”

Donning the uniform for the first time inspired the Soldiers even more.

“When I wear my uniform, I don’t feel different, but I have the passion to serve my country,” said Hashmaei.

That courage and passion served these Soldiers well as they tackled the challenges of basic training. These challenges are greater than for many of their counterparts around the world, as these Soldiers must first learn to read and write.

“The majority of the United States Soldiers come in the military with a 12-year education, but the Afghan Soldiers come in with zero education. By the time they leave basic training, they will have received up to 60 hours, which will train them to read at a third grade level, so they can read, write and basically understand more than they could when they got here,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jaymon Bell, of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

Bell, of Lebanon, Tenn., advises the commander of the 1st Basic Training Kandak at KMTC.

"It helps them tremendously," Bell added, "when they can understand what's written on the signs here and what's written about Afghanistan and how Afghanistan is one nation."

This opportunity to read and write was the first for Ghamy.

"This is the first time I am getting literacy training," Ghamy said. "I was a desert boy, a country boy, and I'd never seen it until I came into the ANA."

He hopes the education he receives in the military will help give him the opportunity to offer the children he will one day have a better future.

"I did not have an education, so I joined the service as an enlisted Soldier," he said. "If my children become educated, they will be doctors or engineers and be able to serve Afghanistan that way."

Following their initial reading and writing lessons, the Soldiers were able to move on to the more tactical side of basic training. With the International Security Assistance Force service members primarily filling an advisory role, ANA drill instructors, like 1st Sgt. Hammidullah Hamad, conducted their training.

"This training is very useful in the field after the recruits become part of the regular army," Hamad said. "When they graduate, these tactics are useful against the enemy."

And, his recruits seemed to be paying attention.

"We have learned everything they have taught us completely – the basic fundamentals of marksmanship, assembling and reassembling weapons, the grenade range, a ten-kilometer ruck march and live shooting with the M16," Ghamy said.

Of course, each Soldier finds some parts of basic training more interesting than others.

"The urban training, and the live fire were the most interesting for me," said Ghamy. "And, I will remember them forever."

As for Hashmaei, the novelty of the weapons range has yet to wear off.

"Everything I've learned here is interesting to me because I want to be a Soldier, but the most interesting part was shooting the M240B automatic rifle and the M249 squad automatic weapon," Hashmaei said. "When I got here I had not shot a weapon. The first time I got a weapon,

I became more encouraged and I get braver every day."

Upon their graduation, the Soldiers were told where they will serve and employ their new skills. Ghamy will serve with the Capital Division in Kabul, where he will be able to use the urban training that so intrigued him. Hashmaei will move on to become an infantry soldier with the ANA's 201st Corps in Nangarhar province.

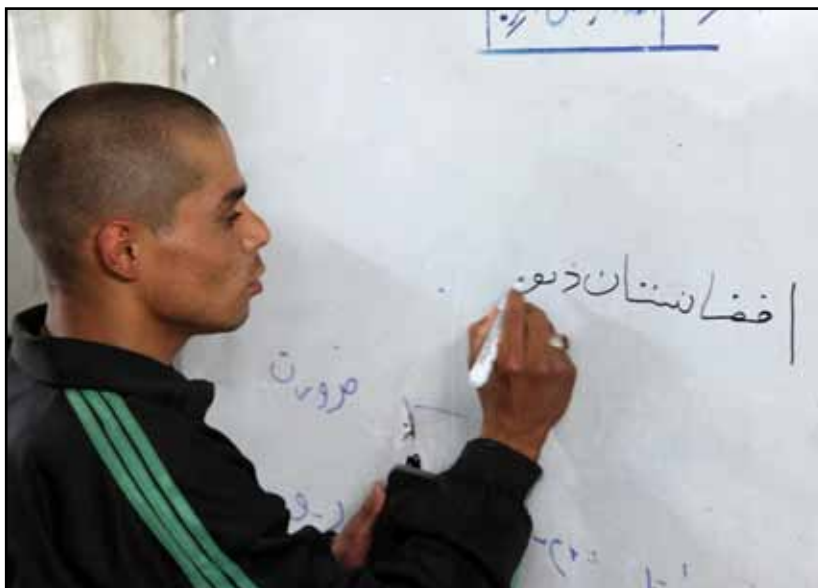
"I am really proud of them," said Wardak. "On the first day when they came here, they were villagers who didn't know how to read, how to write or how to shoot the weapons. Since they've been at basic training, there have been a lot of changes in their lives."

The Soldiers also appreciate these changes in themselves.

"I am much different," said Ghamy. "I have been through two months of training and I have learned a lot. I can use this training to save my life and save my country."

With that salvation, these Afghan Soldiers who have trained well to fight the enemy today, hope to see a lasting peace in Afghanistan's future.

"The people are tired of war and I don't want war anymore either, so I will serve my country to solve that problem," Hashmaei said. "There will be no more fighting in my country and I will do my best to make sure of that."



Afghan National Army Pvt. Mohammad Ghamy, of Kandahar province, writes "Afghanistan is our home" in Pashtu on the white board during the literacy portion of basic training at the Kabul Military Training Center, Aug. 27. The literacy training has been incorporated into the ANA's basic training due to the high illiteracy rate of the new recruits.

On Patrol, Albanian Soldiers and New Jersey guardsmen head out with ANA

By U.S. Army Capt. Ian A. Cairns, Pol E Charki OMLT

KABUL, Afghanistan – Soldiers from the first Albanian and New Jersey National Guard Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT), known as the Striking Eagles, have recently patrolled through a village outside Forward Operating Base Black Horse to connect with their Afghan National Army Kandak. This was the first time the OMLT has traveled out to this area and the first encounter with the local population outside the Afghan National Army.



The OMLT has been advising 4th Combat Support Kandak since their arrival in Afghanistan in late summer 2011. The Striking Eagles have been preparing the Kandak by setting up classes in Dari, aiding in all aspects of training, straightening out kinks in the supply chain and assisting the the planning process, ensuring the Kandak is fully mission capable. Through weekly evaluations and by working closely with chain of command, the OMLT has fixed many of the major problems that have plagued the unit.

When the order to deploy to the village and surrounding area of Tangi Kelay was received, 4th Kandak had full confidence for they knew the Albanian and U.S. OMLT would be right out there with them giving support. Their mission was to observe and monitor the area which includes a main highway from Jalalabad to Kabul for any signs of a threat.

This mission took place during the Loya Jirga, a national meeting held in Kabul amongst powerful tribal elders and top politicians to discuss important issues affecting Afghanistan, a prime target for the insurgency. Security for this high profile meeting was of great concern for both the Afghan government and International Security Forces and the Kandak's piece of this puzzle was critical due to their area of operations along the main thruway. It would be a direct test for the Kandak on their abilities to function in an operational environment, as well as testing the OMLT's performance as advisers.

Upon arriving, the Striking Eagles set up a tight security base and certain personnel dismounted to link up with their respective counterparts. After a short hike, team members met with their ANA chain of command and discussed the current mission, security threats and the reaction of the local populace. ANA reported the friendly bond they created with the locals in the village but an emphasized a concern across the battalion of operating at night amongst the frigid weather.

Fortunately the OMLT team was able to provide cold

weather training and pushed the brigade supply system to provide additional sleeping bags in the weeks leading up to the mission. After discussing issues and concerns the ANA leadership and the OMLT together traveled to each observation post and worked on position improvement and inquired on troop morale.

As some of the mentors were busy meeting with the ANA, other members of the team stayed busy engaging the locals. After seeing military vehicles driving through their small off-road village, citizens of Tangi Kelay curiously approached the Albanian and U.S. troops to greet and introduce themselves. Some inquired about the mission near their village, about the team's involvement with the ANA and a few locals even asked about what they could do to help.

The most apparent and arguably the most important members of Tangi Kelay came out in full force to greet the Striking Eagles. Swarms of children dropped their balls and toys and took off in a frenzy to catch a glimpse and possibly interact with the foreigners who've made an appearance in their village.

In an instant there was nearly 50 children circled around a group of soldiers, waving, talking putting out a hand to shake. Though interacting with the villagers was not the team's primary concern, the ANA and the OMLT was able to make a positive first impression and created a plan to return in the near future to engage community elders and possibly provide food, clothing and medical aid through Humanitarian Aid resources.

Fourth Kandak's mission success will be an absolute result of the training and preparation of which the Albanian and New Jersey advisers directly influenced. After the mission concludes, the ANA along with their mentors will go back to training on individual Soldier skills, specialty skills and diligently preparing for the next assignment.



KABUL BASE CLUSTER COMMAND MILITARY POLICE BLOTTER



An Enlisted Soldier was charged with Article 92 for possessing and consuming alcohol, General Order #1 Violation at the New Kabul Compound. The Soldier was reduced by one grade and will forfeit \$495 and given seven days extra duty. The reduction was suspended.

An Enlisted Soldier was processed for separation from military service for use and distribution of illegal drugs, Chapter 14-12 (c)(2).

An Enlisted Soldier was processed for separation from military service for patterns of misconduct, Chapter 14-12 (c)(2) for the following offenses:

Article 134- Disparaging racial remarks to another Soldier

Article 89- Disrespect to an officer

Article 91- Disrespect to a noncommissioned officer

Article 86- Absent without Leave

Two Contractors were barred from the Kabul Base Cluster for Larceny of personal property.

Three Contractors were barred from the Kabul Base Cluster for Violations of General Order #1. Inside opposite sex barracks behind closed doors.

Speeding in vehicles and the use of ground guides

All personnel operating vehicles on a Kabul Base Cluster Command base must obey the speed limits and wear the appropriate safety gear. This applies to the "Gators." These small vehicles can be a danger to personnel walking around the bases because they are small and relatively quiet. Personnel walking on roads are looking out for vehicles (plus there are ground guides) but they may not be watching out for Gators that can slip in and around B-huts and the narrow walkways. That's why it is important for vehicles to obey the speed limit. Operators of Gators are also reminded that they must wear head protection when operating these vehicles. The use of ground guides are also mandatory, except for certain specially designated vehicles.

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.



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

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 15’s.

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."

Taking care of business

By Erika Stetson, USFOR-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan – The compound's walls and gate are nondescript, indistinguishable from every other barrier in this city of fortresses.

Inside, however, is an airy, windowed business facility with white-painted walls, polished stone and ceilings and pillars decorated with understated carvings.

There, one man, Naeem Yassin, president of the Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), is working to reconstruct his war-torn nation's economy with the help of a handful of allies and partners.

It's a task the U.S. government, Coalition military and other organizations have acknowledged only can be done from within.

"ABA is very important in the construction sector in Afghanistan," said Yassin, who added that "from zero" during the Taliban era, Afghan companies now have begun to compete internationally, with one working in Haiti, another in Pakistan and another seeking projects in Libya.

"Now Afghan construction companies are successful," he said. "That they are going overseas is good news."

He estimated \$20 billion to \$30 billion has been spent on construction in Afghanistan over the last nine years, calling the sector potentially the Afghan economy's largest. The ABA has more than 500 member companies, with sizes ranging from about 100 employees to more than 3,000. About six member companies are women-owned.

"We're happy and we're proud," Yassin said.

In the absence of a national network of trade schools for electricians, plumbers, carpenters, masons and other industry workers, and in a nation without building codes or much regulatory oversight, the ABA is one of the key sources of professional certifications and efforts to standardize industry practices so Afghan companies operate on the same level as their global peers.

The ABA offers classes on financial and personnel



Pictured, from the left, are: Naeem Yassin, Afghanistan Builders Association president; and Mohammed Ehsan, president of Woodbury International. The men met at ABA headquarters in Kabul on Oct. 30, 2011 to discuss Afghanistan's economy.

management, proposal writing, contracting, safety, quality control and computer use in addition to assisting with certifications. ABA also arranges conferences for corporate matchmaking to facilitate international projects and so Afghan construction companies can interact with businesses from elsewhere to compare industry practices.

"That also is very helpful for the Afghan construction company," he said.

The next such conference, in partnership with the Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce, is set for Nov. 13-15, 2011 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

ABA, a nonprofit trade group similar to those in western countries, was formed in 2004, in part with financial support from USAID. The organization has a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to promote industry-wide certifications and quality assurance practices.

Aside from that initial help, however, ABA is self-sustaining and has few non-Afghan backers to help it achieve its goals.

Among the ABA's American partners is retired Marine Lt. Col. Rich Diddams, of Teng & Associates, a contracted project manager for Task Force Power, a Kabul-based fire and electrical safety and inspection organization for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. In his off time he volunteers to teach classes at the ABA, primarily in proposal writing, as well as participating in discussions on standards compliance and contract reviews in keeping with U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations.

He said while such mentorship is generally "the right thing to do," it also "puts teeth" into America's counterinsurgency strategy and compliments the international community's overall goals in Afghanistan.

He acknowledged that it also was a "mutually beneficial" networking opportunity for his company.

"It's not hard to understand how a little bit of effort can have tremendous benefits, not only for your company, but the country that's working to get on its feet after decades of war," he said.

He called proposal writing a particularly important topic, given that it's a key way by which companies secure contracts in developed economies.

"A lot of these guys can do the work," he said, "but they don't know how to package their skills."

He added that the ABA also is building a database of Afghan companies to help with vetting.

The program helps evaluate "Afghanistan's companies based on their past performance, which gives them the opportunity to perform work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," Diddams said. "This benefits U.S. companies in being able to establish a profile on companies we can partner with."

Diddams is the only American construction company representative to interact regularly with the ABA. He is accompanying Yassin to the upcoming D.C. conference. Speakers there will include U.S. and Afghan government officials as well as industry figures.

The increased health of the Afghan business community is creating room for other firms to operate, including those like Woodbury International, a government relations and legal firm with offices in the U.S., Britain and Kabul. Its president and client relations director, the father and son team of Mohammed and Milad Ehsan, also enjoy a close working relationship with Diddams and Yassin and will be attending the D.C. conference.

They employ lawyers and other professionals in several countries and help companies establish a presence in Afghanistan by obtaining visas, vetting prospective local business partners and navigating the legal framework

to begin operations. They also offer services such as proposal writing.

"We are Afghans; we know the culture, the laws, the rules," said Mohammed Ehsan. "But for the Americans, it's very tough."

Milad Ehsan said the company has added several clients in just the last few months and overall, business has been very good, "especially with the proposal writing aspects."

He noted that the nation had been at war for the last 30 years, and not all of its businesses have the internal capacity to handle transactions in the same manner as Western firms.

"They're not used to writing 100-page proposals or 50-page contracts," he said.

He added that there was great commercial potential in Afghanistan.

"It's just a matter of getting international companies here and comfortable with doing business," he said.

The businessmen agreed there's a lot the U.S. can do to help. For example, obtaining U.S. visas and handling other legal needs related to building international partnerships can be difficult for Afghan firms trying to win American business.

One Afghan company trying to attend a conference in the U.S. last year didn't get a visa until four months after the event had ended, they said.

Afghan companies also have been urging the international community to focus more on the economic elements of transition, including arranging for maintenance of already-built facilities, and made some progress at a recent conference, said the ABA's Yassin.

"They have a lot of projects for military police, road construction," he said. "If they leave, it's maybe the collapse of the sector."

Diddams urged the international community to more closely support efforts like the ABA's to normalize and professionalize Afghanistan's economy and help make the nation's companies globally competitive.

"Really the way to get ahead is to treat the Afghans like our partners," he said. "They want work – not handouts."

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 دیذابار



Step 6: Allow slide/ bolt to go forward

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



Step 7: Insert the magazine

دیانبب مرابودارروجاش. ۷. هلسا

Do Not Squeeze The Trigger

RETIRE T

ΑΦΑ
ΓΕ

rel Procedures



ALWAYS



DROP THE MAGAZINE!!!

TON CHARGEUR ПЪРВО ОТДЕЛЕНТЕ ПЪЛНИТЕЛЯ

ΑΙΡΕΣΗ ΤΗΣ
ΜΙΣΤΗΡΑΣ

دوش چراخ دی ابرو جاش. ۲۰۰۰ حرم



Happy Holidays
from
Task Force Yankee