



Keeping Track Of Our Own

By Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger Commander, NTM-A/CSTC-A

I will never leave a fallen comrade. The U.S. Army's Warrior Ethos includes this important directive, always highlighted. It is important that we get this right. Cohesion and trust depend on it.

In a perfect world, we would bring home every one of us safe and sound. But this is war, and the enemy gets his shots, too. So we affirm to each other that we'll all come back, one way or another. Those of us over here understand that this is a pledge we'll guarantee in blood. Everyone comes home, every time.

We have done a pretty good job of this in the current war. There has been a hard cost, as we knew there would be. We don't leave our own behind, and we'll fight and suffer to get our folks out. There have been significant clashes as our people struggled to recover our separated team mates, whether at Roberts Ridge in Afghanistan in March 2002, in the shattered streets of Fallujah, Iraq in November 2004, or in the action in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan in October 2007 in which Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta earned the Medal of Honor. If you have seen the movie Black Hawk Down, about the fighting in Somalia in October of 1993, you will hear the fateful words: "leave no one behind." That is our standard. It's one we are teaching to our Afghan partners.

In our present war, we have two American Soldiers missing: Staff Sergeant Ahmed Altaie in Iraq and Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl here in Afghanistan. Our forces continue to search for them. There have been firefights and raids as this effort continues. We'll stay at it until both are found.

An Army fights the way it trains, and we teach the Afghans by example and by instruction. This sense of accounting for our own starts in day to day activities in our Afghan training centers. In combat, our sergeants, petty officers, chiefs, and warrant officers keep track of all of us, day or night, even under fire. We teach the Afghans to do likewise, to account for their Soldiers and Police in camp and in the field.

Yet sometimes, our counterparts struggle with this idea. They don't understand why we're so concerned that a private has wandered off from class, or that a police patrolman sent to sick call can't be found later in the day. You may get excuses, or silence, or the "penguin salute." But what we need to get is full accountability by our Afghan comrades for our Afghan comrades. The chain runs all the way from a rifle squad in western Paktika to the ministry in Kabul. We need every Afghan in uniform in the fight, contributing. And step one is to ensure that they keep track of their guys.

We speak of Afghan desertions as "attrition." Afghans leave the ranks for a lot of reasons, but the number one cause is lack of caring by their chain of command. Good leaders keep track of their people. We do. It's on us to help the Afghans to do the same.

None of us will leave a fallen comrade in battle. But that begins by looking after each other in training. Set the example. Always know where your fellow Coalition subordinates are. Strive to know where your Afghan counterparts are, and insist that they do so as well. I'll be asking. You should, too.



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Photo - Front Cover: Dutch police women from the Netherlands show female Afghan Uniform Police a proper knealing position for shooting a pistol. (Photo by Capt. Ashley Norris)

Photo - Top: Task Force Spartan 3 Truck Commander Army Sgt. Chester Tolbert helps an Afghan National Police officer detect vehicle threat indicators at Freedom Circle in downtown Kabul. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Fahey)

Photo - Back Cover: Task Force Spartan 3 Team Leader Army Staff Sgt. Mark Moon supervises a routine vehicle inspection conducted by an Afghan National Police officer at Freedom Circle in downtown Kabul. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Fahey)



A quick response, or "QR" code, is a 2-D electronic barcode that can be scanned by a smart phone and used as a link to additional online content and information. In this and future issues of SbS, we will begin utilizing QR codes to link content in the magazine to online material related to the story, including videos or additional images, to enhance the reader experience. If you do not already have a QR code reader for your phone or electronic device, simply search your applications for the free add-on.



Task Force Spartan 3 Mentors Afghan Police

Story and photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Fahey NTM-A Public Affairs Office

uring the recent four-day Loya Jirga, members of Task Force Spartan 3 conducted more than 10 intelligence-led high-risk advisory missions to help Afghan National Police protect their country's 2,000 tribal leaders.

The jirga, or grand council, allowed elders to discuss national issues with President Hamid Karzai – a long-standing Afghan practice – and was publicaly condemned by insurgent leaders who pressed their fighters to disrupt by any means possible.

"The Afghan National Army, Police and Directorate of National Security units did an outstanding job protecting their people," said Commander, NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger. "Despite attempts, insurgents failed to disrupt this process thanks to the outstanding performance of our Afghan counterparts and their coalition combat advisors."

Stood up in early September, Task Force Spartan 3 was

charged by Commander, Task Force Yankee Brig. Gen. John A. Hammond to serve as combat advisors to ANP officials at more than 50 different checkpoints within five Afghan police districts spread out across the densely populated city of more than 3.9 million people.

Spartan 3 mentors work shoulder to shoulder with ANP officers, demonstrating ways to identify possible vehicle born improvised explosive devices, vehicle and personnel searches and how to set up traffic control points.

"We continue to see constant improvement," said Spartan 3 Team Leader Army Staff Sgt. Mark Moon. "They search people and vehicles better without us having to point out which vehicles they should pull over. They are able to pick out the targets and secure threats themselves."

Due to the culture, men are not authorized to search Afghan women. The action would be considered an of-



Spartan 3 Team Leader Army Staff Sgt. Mark Moon is welcomed by an Afghan National Police officer before assisting the ANP with vehicle and personnel searches along a busy road near Afghanistan's "Loya Jirga" Sunday.

fense to men or womens honor. Female Soldiers assigned to Spartan 3 advise female ANP officers on how to thoroughly search other women. A job Spartan 3 women find incredibly rewarding.

"Our job is simple – we teach the female Afghan police officers how to better search women suspected of carrying contraband or weapons," said Spartan 3 Gunner Army Specialist Lori Sorrells. "Personally, this is an amazing job. To interact with the ANP, get a grasp on their culture and to be in a position to help is a great honor."

Activated in 2009, NTM-A is a coalition of 37 contributing nations charged with assisting the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in generating a capable and sustainable Afghan National Security Force ready to take lead of their country's security by 2014.



Afghan Patrolman Applies Training, Defeats Insurgents

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Paul Hughes Regional Support Command-South/NTM-A Public Affairs

hursday, Oct. 27 started out like any other in Kandahar.

Afghan National Police Special Forces Patrolman Abdul Rahim was at the Kandahar Training Center at Camp Nathan Smith, a student in the Advanced Police Tactical Skills course.

Rahim had no idea that later that day, he'd be putting the skills he'd learned during the four-and-a-half week course into action.

Heavily armed insurgents had taken over a building across the street from the KTC. Using 82-mm rockets and other heavy weapons, the insurgents attacked Kandahar City and Camp Nathan Smith.

A rocket hit the KTC tower at 2:14 pm.

ANSF officials called on Rahim's unit, the Provincial Response Company.

Within minutes, the 80-member PRC, including Rahim, squared off against the insurgents.

"All the tactics we were taught here, we used," said Rahim through an interpreter.

During the APTS course, Rahim and his classmates learned entry procedures, patrolling techniques, advanced firearms, shoot-and-move operations and other advanced policing practices.

His attitude and discipline caught the attention of both Afghan and coalition leaders including ANP acad-

emy adviser, U.S. Army Master Sgt. Roger Smith.

"Abdul Rahim is just a patrolman but has the leadership skills and the knowledge of a sergeant," said Smith.

Rahim was in the last week of the course, just four days away from graduating.

"We were under attack for more than six hours," he said. Using DShK - a Russian-made 12.7 mm heavy-machine gun, rocket propelled grenades and other weapons, the PRC killed four insurgents.

Some others, according to Rahim, may have escaped, but he is not sure.



Afghan National Police Special Forces Patrolman Abdul Rahim displays the battle rattle he wore while confronting insurgents with his colleagues in Kandahar.

"If they did not get killed, they would have fought for three days," said Rahim. "They had just opened a container of 300 or 400 grenades and used two."

The best news, Rahim's unit did not suffer a single casualty.

"We were very lucky."

Monday morning, Oct. 31, Rahim and his five classmates received their graduation certificates from the Advanced Police Tactical Skills course.

"We are doing our best to destroy the enemies of Afghanistan," said Rahim.



Policewomen Graduate Kunduz Security Course

Story and Photo by Capt. Ashley Norris, DCOM-Police Public Affairs Officer

leven women from the Afghan Uniform Police graduated from a two-week Security Awareness Course taught at the German Police Training Center in Kunduz Province, Afghanistan.

The Afghan Ministry of Interior approved class provided the women with the essential skills needed to perform

their job.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Liset, a Netherlands trainer, students received training in handcuffing, and vehicle searching, self-defense, and first aid. The first aid course also covered maintaining an open performairway, the Heimlich ing maneuver, stopping bleeding, giving CPR, and treating bullet wounds.

"It's important to train these females, to make them feel good and competent in their jobs," said Liset. "This training will give them the same knowledge as the male officers."

In the Muslim culture, it is unacceptable for men to touch or search women. Searching females at checkpoints is one of

Dutch police women from the Netherlands show female Afghan uniform police a proper handcuffing technique.

the primary functions of Kunduz policewomen.

The leader of the female class, whose name is withheld due to safety concerns, has been a police officer for nine years. She said there are a lot of male police officers but because Afghanistan is a Muslim country it needs female police officers. She said she is a daughter of Afghanistan, so she joined the police to support Afghanistan and its people.

Men that are going through the various training at Kunduz PTC courses are given scenarios to show them the value of having female police officers. With this training

the men learn to have more respect for the female police officers, said Liset.

"You need female colleagues," said Captain Monica. " I think they are starting to realize it."

She said that the female students are very willing to learn and they enjoy it because it helps them in their duties.

"They wish that the course was longer than 14 days," said Monica. "They enjoy it."

"It's a police officers' job to learn all the time so that they may serve the people," said the class leader.

According to Monica, there is a change happening in Afghan society. Women want to be recognized as human beings that are as strong and as smart as men. That is why many of them have made the decision to be police officers.

"Our goal is that they feel themselves fit enough to do their duty, to take over more responsibility in their duty," added Monica.

Construction is ongoing at the GPTC in Kunduz to sup-

port more training classes, students and Afghan instructors. The current authorizing document, Tashkil 1390, increased the Afghan trainers from eight to 51 and the training capacity will grow from 100 to 528 students.

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ANA Commandos, AAF Strengthen Capabilities

Story and Photo by Sgt. Dayan Neely, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force

or the first time, Afghan National Army commandos partnered with the Afghan Air Force to conduct joint operations training outside a coalition forces camp in Herat province, Oct. 29.

The purpose of the training between the AAF and the Afghan National Army's 2nd Company, 9th Commando Kandak was to rehearse battle drills such as requesting air assets. The exercise also helped to improve the working

relationship between the two elite branches of the Afghan National Security Forces.

During the training, the AAF used MI-17 helicopters to transport commandos to and from a landing zone, based on information given to them by the Kandak, while the commandos practiced air and ground operations.

The MI-17s circled above the landing zone outside the near-



Green smoke signals a landing spot for a helicopter to land and pick up Afghan National Army commandos during joint operations training.

by coalition camp, communicating over the radio with the commandos on the ground, so they could determine a time and location for troop drop-off.

"Not only were the aircraft crewed and piloted by members of the [AAF], but the coordination from the ground was also done by the [ANA commandos]," said a coalition special operations forces team member. "That's a huge step and, although there were advisors on both sides, everything was done by Afghans."

Once the helicopters touched down, the commandos on board charged out the back hatch and set up a 360 degree security bubble around the landing zone. Once security was established, the helicopters departed the site and the commandos formed into patrol formations to carry out their ground exercise.

The ground movements were more focused on missions the commandos normally carry out throughout the province while providing security to Afghan citizens.

"The security and protection provided by the 9th Com-

mando Kandak comes entirely from the men within it," said the coalition SOF team member. "The 9th Commando Kandak is a highly professional force that all of Afghanistan should take pride in."

Following their patrol, the commandos came together to critique the exercise. This was the only point where coalition SOF members actively intervened, giving the commando leadership a better understanding of how they

can improve their skills.

The final phase of training was the re-board and exit exercise, where commandos marked the landing zone for incoming MI-17s with colored smoke then boarded the aircraft and headed back to the camp.

The 2nd Company commander, Capt. Mohammad Bakar, stated he was very pleased with the training, pointing out that this was their first time performing such training.

"The more we do this training, the more it will help to prevent casualties," Bakar said.

Once the commandos and air crews have the tactical aspects mastered, the planning and coordination of operations will keep progressing to higher levels, lending to more complex and challenging missions.

"Eventually, we would like to see them progress enough, where requests for air circulate from the Kandak to the aircrew entirely through Afghan channels," said the coalition SOF team member.

The Afghan government, with coalition force assistance, is providing training for their air and ground forces, enabling them to eventually take over security throughout the country. While air power is not an abundant asset at this time, this day's training established a foundation for continued growth of the AAF by giving the 2nd Company commandos the knowledge and capabilities to employ helicopter missions as soon as they become more available.

"By conducting this training more frequently, the commandos will be better prepared when they take over from the [coalition]," Bakar stated.



ANA Completes 1st Medical Acquisition

Story and photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Elizabeth Thompson NTM-A Public Affairs

n audience of eager Afghan doctors and warehouse workers at the Kabul National Supply Depot congregate in front of their massive facility waiting for three men who potentially hold the key to the Afghan National Army's pharmaceutical future.

According to ANA logistics' law, MoD Decree 4.0, representatives from ANA Medical Command, ANA Logistics Command and Acquisitions Technology and Logistics are required to be present at every shipment to insure ac-

to pile up in the Kabul National Supply Depot. The investigation also showed no medical supplies were shipped from the warehouse on any ANA convoy over the calendar year.

"It was evident to everyone that it (medical logistics) was broken," commented Martin. "But no one really seemed to understand fully how broken and where it was broken and so what they (NTM-A/CSTC-A) were looking for was an expert to fix it."

Within a month, Martin and NTM-A Medical Training Assistance Group worked with the Afghan warehouse crew to organize the numerous pallets and receive approval to ship 419 lines of supplies out to the regional depots who in turn distributed out to hospitals. A line can be various quantities of one type of pharmaceutical, medical supply item or piece of equipment. Over the last six months, five officers received a 10 day course in Core



Warehouse workers, at the Kabul National Supply Depot, inventory boxes of prescription medicine before loading them onto an ANA convoy headed to one of the regional depots.

countability of the supplies they order.

"I think that it is critical that MEDCOM, LOGCOM and AT&L across the board understand what their responsibilities are," said NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan's strategist for medical logistics, Air Force Maj. Chester Martin. "Not just what they are going to be but what they are right now."

According to Martin, over the last year, ANA's medical supply transformation has been night and day.

In May 2011, an investigation by the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General showed that over 350 unaccounted pallets of medical supplies were beginning

and receiving.

"The last three years we have learned a lot from the mentors that have been working with us side by side," said Kabul National Supply Depot Commander, Dr. Faizullah Saber. "Once my personnel learn then they can train others and we can progress."

Information

ment System for online acquisitions ordering by NTM-A. Also 20, officers and non-commissioned officers continue to receive daily on-the-job

training from the MTAG

on warehouse shipping

Manage-

From June to August, MTAG supervised the Afghan staff at LOGCOM and MEDCOM to create their first annual requirements list for the entire ANA, find and negotiate contracts with 11 supply vendors, and complete a 518 line medical order.

"This is the first year they had to build a requirement list



and it's probably not perfect but Afghans are very intolerant of waste, so what they will find from that requirement's list is they bought too much of one thing and not enough of another which is fine because they will adjust," said Martin.

So far the warehouse has received and shipped out 61 lines of their 518 line order without major complications.

"My mentors, they work shoulder to shoulder with me all the time and if we had a problem they would help me," said Saber.

In October, Kandahar Air Wing administered vaccines to over 400 airmen, giving them immunizations against polio, hepatitis B, mumps, measles and rubella over a six week time period. Their vaccines came through the ANA supply system in Kabul.

"We are happy to be able to make our people healthy and to better fight disease," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Fazal Rahman, head doctor for the AAF at KAW.

The MTAG unit will start ongoing audits with the regional supply depots this month to insure the supply sys-

tem is working.

Back at the Kabul National Supply Depot, the three representatives from MEDCOM, LOGCOM and AT&L closely examine today's shipment of saline bags, each paying specific detail to expiration dates and the certificates of authenticity from the vendor.

A coordinated buzz of activity can be viewed outside, as one group of warehouse staff unpack a delivery truck of incoming supplies and another loads a small pick-up truck with outgoing boxes of various prescriptions. Everyone works together to meticulously inventory the supplies coming and going from the warehouse.

The MTAG observes the operation from inside the warehouse, ready to assist or step in if needed.

"The majority of the regions understand they are getting their support from LOGCOM and we are building trust...they are starting to see results and build up their confidence," said Phil Holguin, Medical Logistics Advisor for DYNCORP and one of the auditors for MTAG. "As long as they continue to gain confidence in their system, I think in the long run the real benefit will be the patient."



Representatives from ANA Medical Command ANA Logistics Command and Acquisitions Technology and Logistics examine vendor documents during a medical supply delivery at the Kabul National Supply Depot.



Afghan Airmen Begin Law Enforcement Patrols

By Capt. Jamie Humphries 438th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

fghan Air Force security forces recently initiated the first-ever law enforcement patrols on the AAF compound in Kandahar.

Working with advisers from the 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group and with a goal of providing security on the AAF compound, the patrolman began the routine law enforcement consisting of a two-man Afghan military police team.

Officials indicate the patrols were initiated by base leadership and explained the unit is rapidly closing in on be-

coming the first fully operational security force unit in the AAF.

Not only will the patrol units be responsible for enforcing **AAF** rules and regulations, they are also enforcing and correcting **AAF** uniform standards providing and corrective actions said security forces advisers.

Currently, there are nine law enforcement soldiers with a company non-commissioned officer and one officer in charge of operations.

"This event is a huge step in the

KAW security forces becoming the first fully operational security forces unit in the Afghan Air Force. The law enforcement section was planned, coordinated and implemented almost entirely independently," said Master Sgt. Terry Gilbert of the 738th AEAG. "KAW security forces leadership knew what their squadron was lacking, found a way to make it happen and executed the mission once they had the plan in place. The fact that they have created a culture where they identify a problem, establish a solution and execute without involvement from advisers is a testament to their ever-growing ability to take on the security of their nation."

Initial patrols took place on the AAF compound at KAW

but officials say they are currently working a plan with the commander of Kandahar Airfield to implement a partnered patrol on the rest of the installation.

Before implementing a plan that will team AAF patrolman with other seasoned security forces professionals, officials say the airmen will continue to perfect their law enforcement skills through training and day-to-day operations.

"The future for the KAW SF law enforcement is in their hands," said Gilbert. "As they work to acquire equipment,



Afghan Air Force security forces members respond to the scene of a mass casualty exercise held at the 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group at Kandahar Air Wing, Kandahar, Afghanistan. Photo by Senior Airman Corey Hook

knowledge and so forth they will continue to become a complete, professional security force."

Although patrols have begun, experts explained teams will continue to train together in an effort to provide a safe environment for both AAF airmen and advisers assigned to the group.

"I am very happy that we were able to implement this huge step in becoming a fully functional, independent Air Force," said Maj. Sher Afzal, KAW Security Forces Commander. "We now have a Afghan force responsible for enforcing laws, rules and regulations on Kandahar Air Wing and this is very important, not only for security forces, but for the Afghan Air Force in general."



INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Lithuania

Population: 3,535,547

Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Capital: Vilnius

Language: Lithuanian

National Anthem: Tautiska Giesme

National Holiday: Independence Day 16 Feb

he future of a free and independent Afghanistan depends on the effective development of the Afghan National Security Forces capable of defeating internal threats.

Lithuania, with its small but highly professional and well-trained armed forces, is having a big impact on training the ANSF.

With a population about 1/10th that of Afghanistan's, Lithuania's current contribution of eight trainers is building a key capability in the Afghan Air Force. Lithuania will deploy an additional 21 police trainers in early 2012 to assist in building a more capable Afghan National Police.

Lithuania currently supports NATO Air Training Command-Afghanistan with its leadership of the Mi-17 Air Advisor Team at Kandahar Air Field. Lithuania contributes eight service members to the team, including the team's commander, while the remainder of the team is manned by Latvians, Ukrainians, and Belgians. Together with its Afghan counterparts, the AAT is helping to build an important capability within the ANSF. The Mi-17 helicopter gives the ANSF a significant mobility and firepower advantage over the enemy.

The Air Advisor Team at Kandahar focuses on training Afghan air crew on the combat employment of the Mi-17; to include flying daylight tactical formations, utilizing defensive weapons, cargo sling loading, and conducting armed escort operations. The AAT flies 1-2 missions each week with their Afghan counterparts. The Commander of the AAT, Lithuanian Lieutenant Colonel Viktoras Krivobokas, notes that the Afghans fly most of the missions they are tasked with minimal

coalition assistance.

The average day for the AAT includes teaching ground training courses to Afghan crewmembers, conducting aircraft maintenance, and performing maintenance test flights. The AAT also advises their Afghan counterparts on mission planning, to include the integration of intelligence. Finally, the AAT focuses on the logistics planning necessary to keep the helicopters in the air.

In addition to the Mi-17 AAT in Kandahar, Lithuania will be deploying 21 police trainers from the Public Security Service of the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior to the Kandahar Regional Police Training Center in support of the Combined Training and Assistance Group-Police (CTAG-P) early in 2012. This new training site is currently under construction at a site south of Kandahar. Once complete, the site will have the capacity to train thousands of new Afghan police officers each year.

Lithuania, Latvia, and Ukraine know all too well what it means to struggle for independence, freedom, and stability. Who better to train the Afghans than the representatives of these countries, whose own independence from the Soviet Union is only 20 short years old? The experience of these now free and stable countries represents one possible future for Afghanistan.

In the end, the excellent work of coalition soldiers such as the Mi-17 helicopter AAT in Kandahar will facilitate the success of the Afghan state. The capabilities that coalition countries, such as Lithuania, are helping to build within the ANSF will allow the Afghans to take responsibility for security throughout the country by 2014, and provide a secure environment for the Afghan people into the future.

