

141 Logistics Task Force

5 & 25



MAJ Nathan K. Potter
Commander

CSM Steven Gates
Command Sergeant Major

Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V | Kabul | Mazar-e-Sharif | Herat | Kandahar | Gardez | Afghanistan

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Alpha's Workday at Allahoddin

By LTJG (USN) Ed Cimbalik, A Company Executive Officer

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - This past week soldiers from A Co. were able to travel to downtown Kabul and visit a local orphanage, the Allahoddin orphanage. The orphanage is home to right now approximately 450 children ranging in age from 5 to 15 years. The children come from all over the country; with a majority of them from the local area. The orphanage has everything from dormitories to dining facility to a school house to a playground. The purpose of our mission was twofold: one we wanted to fix a large hole in the center of the basketball court (one child had recently been injured while playing) and secondly provide everyone an opportunity to meet and visit with the children and teachers.

upset that one got a ball and another did not.

While the other soldiers were busy fixing the hole several of us enjoyed "chi", or tea, with the local doctor, having tea is an Afghanistan tradition.



Everyone loved the chi and with the help of an interpreter we were able to learn a little bit about the doctor, his education, and the facility. He was educated here at Kabul Medical University which prior to all the war had a fellowship with American medical schools. Prior to leaving his office we gave him a dozen blankets that he could use. He was very grateful and repeatedly told us "tashakur" or thank you.

After all the work was done it was time for some fun and interaction with the children, this is what we were all looking forward to. The children were amazing; they all loved getting their pictures taken then looking at it on the screen. SPC Julie Cavinee and her pictures of her family were a huge hit with all the girls. After everyone had a chance to visit with the students on their recess break we took a moment to meet with the head of the orphanage in

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"How do you say "STOP" in Dari!"

SPC Erik Stromvall, A Company

Controlling Afghans has been a futile exercise for foreign invaders crisscrossing this strategic part of Central Asia. The misfortune this country has experienced historically is due to its location between ancient seats of power and trade, Persian and Mongol, Arabic and Chinese, English and Russian, European and Asian. The Macedonians labored across its inhospitable deserts and mountains only to conquer and then expire after Alexander the Great's death. Ironically the U.S. led coalition is here now because Afghanistan in modern times has become one of the world's most isolated places, a perfect haven for terrorists in a world hard pressed to find it on a map before the events of 9/11. Persian monarchs referred to this land as, *Yaghestan*, the land of the rebellious and un-

governable. The Russian Army died slowly here from "a death by a thousand cuts" and the experience helped bring down the Communist regime after ten years of frustration.

When I was recently asked to assist the 201st RCAG in training Afghan soldiers to drive M916A3 / M870A3 (heavy equipment transporters), I jumped at the opportunity! The ANA 201st Corps is located on the eastern edge of Kabul. I have traveled to many foreign places in some of the world's trouble spots but really outside of Sub-Saharan Africa, what area is more troubled? This was my chance to teach and also learn, to build context for all that I had read about this country. Can we graft onto Afghans the culture of the world's most powerful military? I was about to find out.

The M916A3 / M870A3 is a medium heavy vehicle transporter. It can't haul tanks but it can pull engineering equipment and armored personnel carriers weighing up to 40 tons. The tractor (M916A3) has an automatic transmission (7 speed) pulling a three axle trailer with hydraulic controls. It detaches from the tractor so that equipment can be driven on it, recoupled, chained down, and transported over primary or secondary roads. The tractor is manufactured in Portland, Oregon, by Freight-

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141 Logistics Task Force
Camp Phoenix
Kabul, Afghanistan

Contact Us @
CPT Dennis Lindsay 141st LTF PAO
dennis.r.lindsay@afghan.swa.army.mil
dennis.lindsay1@us.army.mil

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her office. She was very grateful that we had fixed the basketball court and requested that we visit again to fix a fence and to help start a flower garden. She said that they had done work on the inside, re-carpeting and painting, but the girls were a little embarrassed that the outside didn't look pretty and really wanted to plant some flowers. So needless to say we

out candy to the children SGT Vincent Jennings, PV2 Michael Wright, SPC Glen Mokisang, and LT Sweatman were providing security and playing with the children. With a couple of



tennis balls and some candy they were able to keep the children occupied while SFC Charles Williams visited with a local Afghanistan National Police, ANP, officer who was guarding the orphanage.

All in all it was an adventure that none of us will forget. It was both rewarding and relaxing; an opportunity to “escape” the war and help the future of the children here in Afghani-



have set these as top priority for our next visit.

Next we were off to the classrooms to meet the teachers and give the kids some candy and toys, it was like Halloween all over. Most of the students were very well behaved and several were even able to say hi and thank-you in English.

While we were busy giving



ISAF

By LTC Leah Sundquist, 41st BCT ISAF LNO



ISAF's Role ISAF's role is to assist the Government of Afghanistan and the International Community in maintaining security within its area of operations. ISAF supports the Government of Afghanistan in extending its authority to the rest of the country, and in providing a safe and secure environment conducive to stronger democratic governance, the spread of the rule of law, and the reconstruction of the country.

ISAF's Main Tasks ISAF conducts security presence patrols throughout Kabul and its surrounding areas and within the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) areas of operation. ISAF conducts approximately 600 patrols each

week - around 100 of which are conducted jointly with the Afghan National Police (ANP) and the Afghan National Army (ANA). Operations in support of National Security Forces can also involve the clearance and destruction of unexploded ordnance or material, which could be used for improvised explosive devices. This is essential for the long-term security of Afghanistan

ISAF coordinates Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects throughout its areas of operation. CIMIC objectives are to assist Commander ISAF and the commanders of ISAF's PRTs in their efforts to support the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in maintaining and expanding security throughout the country, to support stabilization, reconstruction and nation-building activities, and to co-operate with the International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

CIMIC teams work in close

co-operation with the local population and authorities to assess the situation concerning education, health, water, sanitation and internally displaced persons and returnees. CIMIC teams also initiate and monitor projects funded by either national or international donors.

On a political level, ISAF works closely with the Afghan authorities, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), UN agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and US-led Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan (CFC-A). ISAF has Liaison Teams that coordinate issues directly with the GoA, UNAMA and other international players. ISAF also supports the GoA in its security sector reform efforts.

Also of note: This will be the First LNO cell at ISAF for the TF Phoenix mission. It is staffed under the ISAF CJ7 cell which is responsible for coordination,

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A Word from the Chaplain

By 1LT (CH) Dennis Stahlnecker

In my time working in church ministry, I have been reminded of the hilarious things kids say. There is a story of a boy who was watching his pastor-father struggle with writing a sermon. The boy asked, “Hey dad, how do you know what to say in your sermons?” The father replied, “The Lord tells me what to say”. The son scratches his head, and then asks, “Oh. Then why do you keep crossing things out?” Another time, a little girl became restless as a

sermon dragged on and on. The girl asks her mother, “Mother, if we give the pastor the money now, will he let us go?”

Even though children sometimes do embarrassing things, their innocence truly is a blessing. I have heard many LTF soldiers talk about their interactions with Afghan children. A lot of great work is being done to support orphanages and schools. The soldiers tell me of the enthusiasm of the children, and that they are happy to

“Matthew 18, Therefore, whoever humbles themselves like this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.”

see Americans bearing gifts. These children have seen a lot of heartache in their lives, and it is up to us to bring them hope.

I am reminded of a Bible story in the Gospel of Mark 10:13-16. A group of children had gathered near where Jesus was teaching, and they became loud and silly (as children are). The disciples began yelling at them and chasing them off. But Jesus got up and said, “Let the little children come unto me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” He took the children in his arms and blessed them. Jesus also said in Matthew 18, “Therefore, whoever humbles themselves like this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom

of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me”.

We are here to help the nation of Afghanistan recover from all its wars, and develop national stability. I think it is important that we continue to provide mercy and help to the children of Afghanistan. I also believe in the importance of seeing the value God places on children. The children of Afghanistan are precious resources that we should all



WARRIOR ETHOS

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Alpha Co Supply Platoon Does it ALL-*“The Best Support the Rest”*

By 1LT Dendra L. Haeckler, Supply Platoon Leader

GOT ammo? Need ink cartridges? How about Sappi plates for your IBA? Need tires for your M1114? Need a place to build a shelf for the TV in your hooch? If you do, you are in luck because A-CO/ 141 LTF Supply Platoon has it all, and if we don't we'll do our best to get it for you. Supply Platoon soldiers have got what it takes not only to support and sustain the regional commands around the country but Camp Phoenix as well. The soldiers of the Supply Platoon are the most technically proficient group of soldiers on the ground that are committed to supporting the logistical needs and mission of this Task Force.

the region. This ammunition is not only used for security of the ANA forces, but also to train the ANA in the use of their weapons. Class V has done a tremendous job of ensuring that all of our ANA forces have all the necessary ammunition to carry out their missions. In addition to 22 Bunkers, SSG Wojcik and his crew runs our ASP (AHA) here on Camp Phoenix. Their technical skills and knowledge ensure that all of us soldiers receive the ammunition not only to support our force protection mission, but also any additional training ammunition we require to increase our proficiency with our as-

pull or drag your vehicle over to B-CO and get it repaired. If you had to compare their daily operations to something to better understand it think of NAPA or Advanced Auto Parts.

SFC Trube and the team at SSA manage the Class II items. Think of SSA as a whole sale warehouse for various supplies. The soldiers who work this warehouse are constantly busy receiving trucks and stocking their shelves with much

and her crew are the ones that keep you in printer cartridges, paper and pens. As the stockage runs low, their computer skills and knowledge utilizing the programs necessary to order and requisition supplies



that will enhance their quality of life here at Camp Phoenix. In addition to giving classes and helping soldiers, the Self-Help team has been tasked with building benches, building signage, storage boxes at the gym, and building information boards. They have done a phenomenal job.



keeps these soldiers busy. Their effort in ensuring that supplies are available at all times ensures the Task Force can continue on in the workplace.

And last but not least, when you have a little time on your hands...and you feel creative (or bored) head on down to Self-Help to take advantage of the program which provides you with the materials to build just about anything you can imagine. SPC Huddleston and his crew can either assist you in this endeavor or give classes on wood-working to assist in your project. With little or no assistance, soldiers have built shelves, entertainment centers and other items



needed items to distribute to soldiers throughout the country. SSA is also the one stop shop for 4K, 6K, and 10K forklift licensing. These forklift skills come in handy, as there are at least 3-5 times a week the Task Force is requesting forklift assistance.

SGT Luna is the "office depot" NCOIC. Okay, it's really SSSC but we jokingly call ourselves the "Office Depot" of the desert. She



signed weapons.

SSG Love manages and runs the Class IX section here at Camp Phoenix. He and his crew ensure that parts are ordered and distributed so you can push,

SSG Blakney, Class V NCOIC and his crew at 22 Bunkers, labor intensively to ensure that the Afghan National Army (ANA) requests for ammo are filled and distributed throughout



“Bravo takes on Afghanistan Flood Waters”

CPT Eric Christensen, B Co Commander

In Afghanistan, there is no such thing as a routine mission. This became painfully clear when the Bravo Company recovery section was sent into action on Sunday September 03, 2006. Approximately 20 miles east of Camp Phoenix, an Air Force HUMVEE had broken down and was requesting assistance. Utilizing a ten digit grid coordinate, the vehicle's exact location was plotted on the map. Unfortunately, the vehicle was on the other side of a narrow canyon with treacherous drop-offs at every turn. It was decided that the HEMTT wrecker was too big and cumbersome to navigate

through such terrain. Instead, a 5 ton truck would be converted into a temporary wrecker. Around 1 PM, SFC Ed Loomis led a group of five soldiers, with additional security provided by Task Force security forces, to recover the stranded vehicle. When they arrived at the scene, it became apparent that the 5 ton truck was not going to

be able to get the job done leaving the HEMTT to be

the only option. A call was placed to Phoenix to get another team ready

As the second recovery team began their Pre-Comb at Inspections, dark clouds began to gather in the distance. Soon the winds began to pick-up and the air became filled with dust and sand. By the time the first recovery team was inside the wire, the skies had opened up with a massive volley of rain and hail.

With hoots and hollers the second team sped out the gate with no idea of what lay ahead. The convoy consisted of SPC Shawn Brooks, PV2 Mathew White, SPC Glen Krawczyk, SGT Aaron Barth, and the Convoy Commander SGT Michael Benninger. SGT Benninger is a veteran of countless recovery missions in Bagdad during his one year tour of duty in Iraq.

Even by Oregon standards, this was an intense rain storm complete with thunder, lightning, and strong winds. The high desert of Afghanistan was soon



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communication and acting of tasks for OMLTs, ETTs and regional Commands working with the ANA and ANP elements across the CJOA. Currently the CJ7 cell has German, UK, Danish, and US personnel working action items in support of the overarching mission of a Safe and Secure environment for Afghanistan. Development of the PHX cell will include automation, communication between US and International secure means, number of PAX required to accomplish the mission and actioning tasks from both Phoenix for ISAF and from ISAF to Phoenix. Building a relationship with ISAF.



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saturated with water and flash floods rushing out of the mountains. The team had left the gate at around 3 PM and all expected to be back in time for dinner. When they reached the canyon there was a three foot deep river of water running across the road. The team found a suitable place to cross and began their trip into the canyon only to find a landslide blocking their path. “We had made it too far to turn back,” said SPC Krawczyk “so we geared down and crept over the huge pile of dirt and rocks.”

With the landslide in their rearview mirror, the convoy was again on their way. “The canyon was a mess,” said SGT Barth. “There were washouts and small landslides everywhere.” There were also countless “Jingle Trucks” stuck in the canyon. As the convoy weaved in and out of the overloaded Jingle Trucks they encountered their next obstacle. A bridge had washed out and they were facing yet another river crossing. Before they could get to the river, however,

they would have to dig out the embankment which was far too steep for any of the vehicles to cross. With the HUMVEE’s getting low on fuel it was decided that they would send a couple vehicles back to Camp Blackhorse to get fuel while another team worked on the embankment. Eventually enough dirt was moved and the two teams were reunited and ready for the river crossing. As they entered the river, they quickly made a ninety degree turn and headed downstream. A short distance later they found a good spot to exit the river and all made it back to the road safely.

Now the road was turning into a goat trail. “It was a 200 foot drop to the bottom and we were right on the edge, not an inch to spare,” said SGT Benninger. At the end of a sheer 200 foot ledge was their prize. Now they had to get the wrecker turned around, so they could pick-up the HUMVEE. Once they got the HEMTT in place, they picked-up the HUMVEE and turned it around 180 degrees so the rear wheels

would be off the ground.

Accompanied by the driver and co-driver of the disabled vehicle, the convoy began to the long trip back over everything they had already crossed. At 1 a.m. the next morning the convoy made it back to the Company Maintenance Shop. “It was unbelievable,” both Airmen agreed. “We can’t believe that they went through all that, twice! Fortunately everyone was safe and there was only minor damage to a couple vehicles. After a few hours sleep, the recovery section was back at work. This time a 5 ton had broke down on its way to Baghram Airfield. “There were no rivers or landslides this time,” joked the soldiers.



SPOTLIGHT: “ROAD TRIPPIN’ With the PAO”

By 1LT Dendra L. Haeckler. A Co, Supply Platoon Leader



to the future of Afghanistan. BG Wardak emphasized the appreciation of the Afghan people for all that we do for them. Seeing the children and the environment in which they are pressed to learn, and hearing that this is an improvement makes me very proud to be a part of what we are doing here.

On a personal note, this trip caused me to deeply reflect from a female perspective on being in Jr. High back in the late 80’s and playing soccer, and being pushed to my limits



academically, the pressure to succeed and be the best at whatever I chose to do was paramount. I owe my parents for this! However, when 2LT Straub and I walked down the rows of classrooms and came to the very end it was very sobering to see the females, separated by their gender in their respective classroom. It saddened me that females in this country certainly do not have the same opportunities. Albeit most of this is cultural, and the fact that these young ladies are

even in school is progress, I anxiously await the day that true equality shows its face and this changes for the young girls, and women of Afghanistan.

I also had the unexpected pleasure of attending an OTB graduation in the KMTC auditorium prior to our main mission at Family Village School. It was good to participate in an important cultural event and milestone for the ANA.

I have always been a big fan of “road trips” but this is perhaps the best road trip I have ever had the opportunity to take. I would deeply recommend volunteering for humanitarian missions while in country, it is an additional primary function of this task force, why else would



our motto be: “Da mihi locum standi et terra movebo”. - Give me a place to stand and I will move the world! Perhaps that is why I am an Oregonian by choice!

All of the photos used in this article were taken by 2LT Amanda Straub 41st BCT PAO

“Cooperative Medical Assistance: Aiding Afghans”

By 2LT Hannah L. Coombe, Medical Platoon Leader, C Co (MED) 141 LTF



vides medical aid to the Local Nationals in locations which are relatively secure and safe to stage for a few hours. The broad picture is to get a group of medical providers, medics, Security Force (SECFOR) Soldiers, interpreters, and village elders to congregate in one building or location borrowed from a generous Afghan, a school, or otherwise. After the SECFOR soldiers clear the locals to go through the gate or door, which is a mess in itself, as many as possible are evaluated and treated with our medical equipment and



some brought their lame, chronic illnesses, birth defects, mental retardations and expected us to heal them with our American medications.



The transition in progress includes local Afghan doctor's helping treat patients, medications being mainly Afghan, giving referral slips for a nearby local hospital, and the mentality being to re-install faith in the local doctors. The hope is to get

Afghan doctors out in the public eye showing how qualified they are, their willingness to help their people, and that we support them. Maybe someday the doctor's who work on Camp Phoenix as interpreters will be able to return to the medical field. Side by side we work, even in the medical realm.

The CMA is a Cooperative Medical Assistance program previously known as a MEDCAP. As almost everything in the military can be considered a work in progress, this program does not escape. The focus is changing to fit the drive of our soldiers in Afghanistan: to work ourselves out of a job.



medicines. Previously it was a project which made Americans and Coalition alike feel good about themselves, as well as showing our good will towards Afghans. Perhaps it did more harm than good. We prescribed Benadryl, multivitamins, antacids, rash creams, blood pressure medications, antibiotics, eye/ear drops, Tylenol and Ibuprofen. Unfortunately,



The program itself pro-

“September 11th: A Moment of Reflection”

By SPC Sheryl Koch, HHC, PBO



those who have passed in its service. Today we are the ones who are serving as we have trained to long and hard to do. Today, five years later, we fly our colors to those that we

homeland was violated. The sense of safety that we all enjoyed was taken from us much like the people of Afghanistan who we are now aiding to stand on their own.



in this world. It is our turn to serve with pride. I hope that not one day will pass that in the hearts of my brothers and sisters in uniform in this place is that we don't take to heart the fact that we are giving the greatest gift to our children, family, friends and to all of those who dream and hope for the ability to do so.

The sounds of our boots as we step up the marble stairs in the Plaza, knowing that we are taking part in a time honored tradition of setting our colors a flight. On this day it takes new meaning for us all. It is not like putting up a flag back home on the days we all honor our country and

respect, love and honor. To those who stand by us as we serve, and in memory of those we love, and to those who have fallen before us at the hands of those who live by causing fear, pain and loss to so many.

These people like us in some respects, on and after that day have felt what they once enjoyed taken away from them as we did.

Lastly we are bringing peace to the hearts of the loved ones who all lost someone they love on this day. For them we are doing what most of them cannot on bringing justice to the wrong that has been done to all.

Today marks for us a time of pain, a day that our

Our colors fly this day not just for our loved ones, not just for the memories of those who have fallen at the hands of those who have us all living under the yoke of fear, but in this country for the same reason we fly them proudly at home, for freedom.

seek to instill in the children in lands like this one. The same ability that our children enjoy the ability to dream in a world that lets them be free.



With in our colors is the symbol of our ability to dream and the hope that we

Just remember that we are the ones that now are seeking to make the difference



Photos from around Afghanistan

Photographs taken by 141 LTF Soldiers located throughout Afghanistan



LTF BBQ on 9-11-2006



Mechanics at the 205th RCAG



SPC Cavinee with new friend



Chief Willis instructs SPC Koch on the M-2



MAJ Deckert and SGT Pelet with new friends in Kandahar.



MAJ Potter strikes back...



Sunset at Kandahar Airfield.



Kandahar International Airport Terminal on KAF

Ramadan

This month marks the beginning of Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is



a "month of blessing" marked by prayer, fasting, and charity. Muslims believe that during the month of Ramadan, Allah revealed the first verses of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam. Around 610 A.D., a caravan trader named Muhammad took to

wandering the desert near Mecca (in today's Saudi Arabia) while thinking about his faith. One night a voice called to him from the night sky. It was the angel Gabriel, who told Muhammad he had been chosen to receive the word of Allah. In the days that followed, Muhammad found himself speaking the verses that would be transcribed as the Qur'an.

At many mosques during Ramadan, about one thirtieth of the Qur'an is recited each night in prayers known as *tarawih*. In this way, by the end of the month the complete scripture will have been recited.

Muslims practice *sawm*, or fasting, for the entire month of Ramadan. This means that they may eat

or drink nothing, including water, while the sun shines. This is one of the *Five Pillars* of Islam.

Fasting serves many purposes. While they are hungry and thirsty, Muslims are reminded of the suffering of the poor. Fasting is also an opportunity to practice self-control and to cleanse the body and mind. And in this most sacred month, fasting helps Muslims feel the peace that comes from spiritual devotion as well as kinship with fellow believers.

Ramadan ends with the festival of *Eid al-Fitr*, which translates literally as the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," *Eid al-Fitr* is one of the

two most important Islamic celebrations, the other occurs after the *Hajj*, or pilgrimage to Mecca. At *Eid al-Fitr* people dress in their finest clothes, adorn their homes with lights and decorations, give treats to children, and enjoy visits with friends and family.

A sense of generosity and gratitude colors these festivities. Although charity and good deeds are always important in Islam, they have special significance at the end of Ramadan. As the month draws to a close, Muslims are obligated to share their blessings by feeding the poor and making contributions to mosques.

"STOP" from Page 1

liner Inc. Air conditioned, power mirrors, automatic transmission, pneumatic seats, it surely is better than anything the Russian Army ever gave to the DRA (the Soviet sponsored Afghan National Army).

One of the first problems I encountered was the inventory of vehicles. Anything coming into Afghanistan is a miracle of logistics! Landlocked Afghanistan has no seaports, the

nearest being Karachi, Pakistan. Shipped from Karachi overland by truck through Pakistan over some pretty tough anti-American territory by Pakistani and Afghan drivers, many of the trailers were in bad shape. Busted airlines and hydraulic fittings, missing parts further complicated by sitting long periods of time stacked on top of each other in Kabul's hostile climate.

The second problem encountered was the swirl of different groups one has to deal with. The Afghan Ministry of Defense, the Afghan National Army, the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and private contractors whose employees come from all parts of the globe. The confusion was trying to figure out who was responsible for what and how I, a person of low rank could move people in the right direction to solve them. The only power I had was that of persuasion. I was running around talking to this person and that. Most of the time I'm not sure if what I was saying was correct and was told on occasion that I was out of my lane. Finally after many weeks, the stars aligned and seven tractors and trailers were released to the ANA 201st Corps.



and my efforts at securing an interpreter failed so together we labored to understand each other. I had a copy of the Dari handbook which we received at Camp Shelby. It was marginally helpful as it is rich with phrases like, "hands up or I'll shoot", so through a combination of drawing, pantomime and plain observation, Assad started driving the tractor trailer. Eventually, we were joined by two young Pash-tuns, the dominant ethnic group in Afghanistan and the world's largest tribe estimated at 40 million living in Pakistan and Afghanistan, named Gulhakim and

Commander's Profile:

CPT Eric Christensen
Commander, B Company (Maintenance)



Born September 27, 1969 in Butte, Montana. Graduated from the University of Great Falls with a degree in Sociology and minor in History. Enlisted in Montana Army National Guard in 1998. Completed basic training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Commissioned 2LT in August of 1999. Graduated from Transportation Officer Basic School in March of 2000. First assignment was as a Detachment Commander in Libby Montana.

Currently living in Vancouver Washington, and employed as a

salesman for HVAC wholesale company. Married with one child, a son named Tucker. I have been a member of the 141 Support Battalion for almost six years. I have served as a Platoon Leader and Battalion S4.

I have commanded Bravo Company for almost two years. During that time, Bravo Company provided maintenance support for a two day Brigade movement to Gowen Field, Idaho. Also, deployed Bravo Company in support of humanitarian relief operations for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Bravo Company is currently providing maintenance support for units throughout Afghanistan. Our mission is to ensure that all our Warriors have the vehicles, weapons, and electronic equipment they need to be successful. We pride ourselves on our ability to provide quick and reliable maintenance to all our forces.

“STOP” from Page 1

Farooq. Farooq speaks some English so the training became a little more comprehensible. The problem is that Gulhakim speaks Pashto but Dari is a second language. Assad speaks Dari but not Pashto so the reader can imagine the confusion. Farooq was the key as he speaks both fluently along with Punjabi, Urdu, and heavily accented English. Meanwhile one of the biggest problems emerged; the ANA 201st Corps is composed of Kandaks (battalions) and brigades. These units don't cooperate well with each other when it comes to resources, fuel, motorpool use, tools, etc. I won't even go into how tortuous a process it is to get fuel. To be fair, they don't have a lot of resources to share!

A particular Captain chased us out of the motorpool so training had to shift to the streets of Camp Pol-E-Charki. It is an ideal place to train aspiring tractor trailer drivers as the turns are tight, there are lots of obstacles, people obviously



walk out in front of you, American HMMWVs roar by, in short a perfect Afghan simulation. We spent a week winding our way around and around starting out with an empty trailer and graduating to hauling seven ton trucks. For awhile we were the camp's public transit. To explain, Afghans have limited resources so any transportation conveyance is considered an opportunity to, “catch a lift”, an Afghan version of the good ol' haywagon ride one would find in the farm states and provinces of North America.

The 201st has some engineering equipment but it was always a mystery to me who had the keys and how to secure permission to use it. The good folks at 22 Bunkers (the ammo storage

depot) manned by some other members of the A Company helped me out by letting us use a D7 bulldozer for training. We also used the Kabul Military Training Center rifle range and its dirt roads for some wide open driving.

The final examination was a mission to Camp Phoenix. We were tasked to haul HMMWVs and were given some backhaul loads. The drivers performed flawlessly, executing tight turns, negotiating the chaotic street scenes and backing into areas that are difficult for even experienced drivers. I felt like a proud father whose son just scored a touchdown! Finally after all the delays, the bureaucracy, the language barriers, we had a finished product, the 201st Corp's first driver trainers! Now for the next group of trainees!

Securing students for the next training iteration proved to be much like the first iteration. At least this time, I had three drivers to work with in ongoing training. Students trickled in slowly but unevenly, joining us and leaving as ANA needs overrode our training schedule. Even so they proved to be excellent students although it was a challenge getting them all under the same tent.

We had a flashflood that covered the motorpool where the trucks are, taking one of them out of commission. A lot of equipment was wrecked and at this time won't start. Waist deep water damaged the Ford Rangers that someone saw fit to park in front of our trucks trapping most of them and covering them with filth, another setback with the training that you get used to

Borrowing the SECFOR's translators on an intermittent basis allowed me to get to know each student's life and family and vice versa. This is very important in Afghan society, an annoyance to some in our military culture, in my opinion, vital to success in training the ANA. Patience and a sense of humor is of primary importance. Training the ANA is like trying to hit a moving target. Training schedules were mostly

ineffective as were Task, Conditions and Standards. In the end we managed to train eight drivers in a month. These drivers will form the nucleus of the 201st's heavy transportation capability going forward. There is even talk of developing a national school for the Afghan National Army. Something that is desperately needed as accidents kill more ANA than combat hostilities.

What did I learn? The sense of hospitality among Afghans is still very strong in this country despite a national sense of post traumatic stress disorder. Although their culture has been torn apart by three decades of war and internecine fighting, much of the admirable parts of the culture remain intact. Trying to control and dominate the Afghans though is like holding water in your hands. No matter how tightly you grasp, the water will slip through your hands eventually. I am probably not a prototype for a soldier having had a twenty five year break in service and no military leadership training, but having traveled a lot has taught me to respect people the world over. This served me well in my stint with the ANA allowing me to be accepted and to guide them thorough training with maximum cooperation from all of my students throughout. A recent article in *Stars and Stripes* about the efforts of U.S. Special Forces in Iraq and one of our commanding general's philosophies sums it up. “It's all about building relationships”

Leaving those guys was an emotional experience for me as they were sad to see me go. It means more to me than medals. I wish them well and hope that they will help build their country and the alliance with the United States. Maybe they will be a small part in overcoming the Yaghestan syndrome which is a recurrent script in Afghan history. Time will tell. If you are wondering about the title of this article, I finally learned the word for stop in Dari. Its *baaass*, a word I used frequently at first but never had to use at the end, a small sign of success.



ISG Terrance Curry turned 60 on 21 September. Typically, that is a pretty significant milestone in its own right but to be sitting here in Afghanistan, takes it to another level.

Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1946, spent about seven in Castro Valley in the Californian Bay Area. Returned to Portland in 1959. Graduated from Jefferson High School in Portland in 1964. Enlisted in the Army Security Agency in June of 1965 as a O5H, Morse Intercept Operator. Served in Phu Bai, Vietnam, from 31 May 1966 to 8 January 1968 intercepting enemy Morse communication. Left the army in March of 1969. After an 18 year break in service, reenlisted into the Guard in 1987 as an E-4 and joined the 1-162 Infantry of the Oregon National Guard, and served in various positions up to Platoon Sergeant. As an E-7, left the Guard in 1995 and focus on other issues in his life. On the civilian side he has a degree in Urban Studies and retired after 25 years of service to Clackamas County as a Land Use Planner in 2002.

His desire to serve returned him to the Guard in January of 1999 where he served as an instructor at the Oregon Military Academy and in October of 2004, he was offered a First Sergeant position with D Company, 1-162 IN, and shortly thereafter, another First Sergeant position at E Company, 1-162 IN. He was a third First Sergeant opportunity with the 141 Support Battalion arriving in September of 2005 just before deployment on Operation Southern Relief to New Orleans.

When asked the question, why deploy again, when you have the option not to, there were several reasons why he wanted to deploy. Many were out of a patriotic desire, but one stood out right up there with patriotism and a need to complete a mission he believed in, the biggest reason was that he wanted to experience a welcome home that differed for the one he had seen in 1968.

ISG Curry is married to Tam, his wife of 11 years and currently resides in San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico and has two children, ages 25 and 28.