



# ISAF MIRROR

Issue 38 April 2007





Front cover by  
Sgt. Maj. Richard Frigge

Back cover courtesy photo



**EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Col. Tom Collins,**  
Chief Public Information Officer

**Master Sgt. Paula Allen-Gibbs**  
Editor

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY? HAVE YOU GOT A CAMERA? Then you could be one of the ISAF MIRROR journalists! Send your articles and photos about ISAF activities and who knows, you could be in the next issue.

The ISAF Mirror is a HQ ISAF Public Information product. Articles, where possible, have been kept in their original form. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect official NATO, JFC HQ Brunssum or ISAF policy. Photo credits are attributed to the authors of the submission, unless otherwise stated. Submissions can be e-mailed to:

[pressoffice@isaf-hq.nato.int](mailto:pressoffice@isaf-hq.nato.int)

Articles should be in MS Word format (Arial), photos should be at least 4.5cm and 300 dpi resolution. The ISAF Mirror is published monthly and aims to be available by the first Friday of the month.

For more information, please call the editor on 0799 511230.

The electronic version of this magazine can be downloaded online at: [www.nato.int/isaf](http://www.nato.int/isaf)

# ISAF doctor receives national honor

US Naval Doctor Paul Rockswold received The American College of Preventive Medicine's William Kane Rising Star Award for 2007. The ACPM's letter of notification stated that Dr. Rockswold richly deserved this honor, and the College is pleased to be able to recognize his contribution to preventive medicine.



Sciences in Bethesda, MD in 1987. He is board certified in Family Medicine (1994) and Public Health and General Preventive Medicine (2006). In June 2006, he deployed to Afghanistan as Deputy Command Surgeon for Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan then Deputy Medical Advisor for NATO's ISAF. In this capacity, he advises and works cooperatively with senior officials in the government of Afghanistan to restore security and optimally shape its medical infrastructure and public health services.

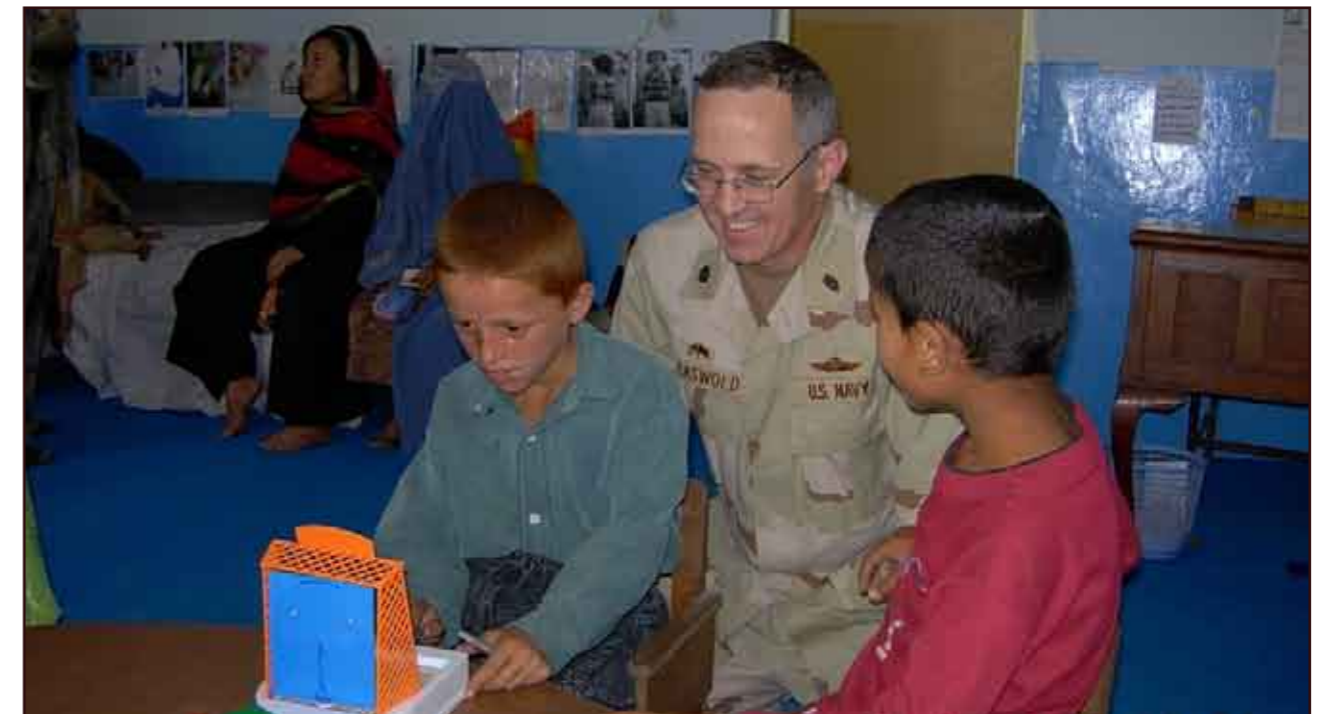
Dr. Rockswold formally received the award at the ACPM Awards Banquet in February.

Dr. Rockswold, M.D., M.P.H. is a Commander in the U.S. Navy assigned at the Navy Environmental Health Center in Portsmouth, VA as Preventive Medicine Division Officer and President of the Navy Epidemiology Board. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he earned his M.D. at the Uniformed Services University of the Health

Major thrusts include reducing maternal, infant, and childhood mortality, providing more efficient and effective emergency services, responding to infectious disease threats, and eradicating polio.

**CONTENTS**

- 3 ISAF doctor receives national honor
- 4 Saving lives.... Nations work together to make field hospital a success
- 5 RC-C experiences several change's of command in short timespan
- 6 The Magnet effect
- 8 ANA Medics: A giant step toward professionalism
- 9 Afghan National Army siezes largest ammo cache of the year
- 10 C.S.I Maimana - Crime scene investigation training yields good results
- 11 Fire destroys Mazar-e Sharif department store
- 12 A strong woman
- 13 Political parties gather for the first time around the table in PRT Maimana
- 14 Green Future: German soldiers initiate project to buy and plant 750 trees
- 15 ISAF on the way of health service to Mazar people
- 16 Delarm joins Farah/ ISAF troops build new roads for locals
- 17 PRT's bring evidence of positive change to Herat
- 18 Task Force Fury shares responsibility with Task Force Spartan
- 19 Senior leaders life spirits of 3rd BCT soldiers
- 20 New playgrounds installed in Tarin Kowt



Dr. Rockswold plays a game with Afghan children at the Kabul Orthopedic Organization. Dr. Rockswold often volunteers his time to community relations projects at home and in Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo)

## Nations work together to make field hospital a success

Photos and story by: OF-3 Dr. Giraud Jean-Marie (FR-A)

A Role 2 French Field Hospital opened eight months ago in Camp Warehouse. It's a small but well-equipped structure with three surgeons (general, orthopedic and ophthalmologic), one anaesthetist, one internist, one emergency doctor and one dentist. Three German doctors (two surgeons and one anaesthetist) have integrated into the medical staff and work in perfect collaboration. The hospital has an X-Ray, a CT Scan, a small lab, three operating rooms and four ICU beds. The hospital can take any life-threatening emergencies and if necessary can organize worldwide aeromedical evacuation.

The hospital's first mission consists of specialized medical support, emergency

resuscitation and war surgery for NATO soldiers and ANA soldiers in cooperation with the Kabul Afghan Military Hospital. All RC-C's national Role 1 facilities send patients for specialized advice and care. Every day the hospital's waiting room looks like a real tower of Babel with NATO nations and Afghan people.

The medical staff also tries to keep the "French Doctors" spirit. They were NGO's (Non governmental organization) that came to Afghanistan secretly in the 80's and took care of many people.

When possible, we offer care to local natives, internal medicine, emergencies like mine wounds, road accidents, cataract surgery, for example.

We have also already organized with local surgeons

specific training to allow them to see some other areas of their speciality. This is part of the collaboration between Afghan and French doctors. Sometimes, French doctors also go to Kabul hospital to support Afghan surgeons.

There are very few ophthalmologic surgery departments in Afghanistan. Many people with cataracts or glaucoma have to go to Pakistan or India for their eye surgery. The French Field Hospital has got one of the first modern machines for cataract surgery in Kabul. The increase of vision after this operation is very much appreciated by the patients.

The dental care has also a great success as the dentist's office has a very modern equipment as well.



## Regional Command Capital experiences several change's of command in a very short timespan

Story and photos by:  
OF-1 Gabriele Pariselli  
RC-C PIO

RC-C recently experienced six Changes of Command.

The first, held 23 Feb., was for the Croatia contingent on Camp Warehouse. The 8th contingent relinquished command to the 9th contingent. The Croatian's have participated in the ISAF mission since 2003. Their contingent consists of a Military Police Platoon, a National Support Element, a National Investigation Cell, a Medical Team and Staff personnel. They had 50 troops at the beginning of their commitment, and now their numbers have grown to more than 150 troops in Afghanistan.

Simultaneously, another transfer of authority was conducted between the ISAF IX RC-C Provost Marshal's, Major Zdravko Magdic and his relief, Major Josip Ivanic.

On 27 Feb. the Portugese Rapid Reaction Brigade oversaw the handover from Quick Response Force IX whose headquarters are at Camp Warehouse to QRF ISAF X. Lt. Col. Pipa de Amorim assumed command of the PRT QRF from Lt. Col. Serra Pedro.

The next change of command took place 1 March between the Battle Group "Feltre" and the Battle Group "Susa", specifically from Italian contingent. During the past six months, the Italian Battle Group has been responsible for checks around the city of Kabul and some districts southwest of the Afghan capital. The Italian Battle Group, during all its mission, has conducted various activities, such as 197 patrols together with Afghan National Security Forces, 257 escorts operations, 2061 patrols in the its area of responsibility and 295 activities concerning the Quick Reaction Force. In particular, the most important activities were the Training Patrol Course organized in order to improve the knowledge of 60 Kabul City Policemen and the Security Course organized for 40 Afghan National Army' soldiers.

On 2 March, The Italian Navy transfered command authority of KAIA to Task Force Pantera. The Italian Navy covered many different operations including medical evacuations and reconnaissance of Regional Command Capital area.



Portugese Contingent



Italian Battle Group



Task Force Pantera

# THE MAGNET EFFECT

Story by: Lt. Col. Philippe Bou RC-C Chief, PIO

Photos by: OR-4 Ludovic Marquet



**A joint training effort was conducted with French troops and the Afghan National Army prior to the beginning of OQAB MAGNET.**

From 3-8 March, Brig. Gen. Pierre de Villiers, commanding the Regional Command Capital, conducted jointly with Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and National Directory of Security (Afghan National Security Forces, ANSF), an important operation in the Surobi District, which is one of the main axes to Kabul.

The population of surrounding valleys was subjected to illegal drug dealers and insurgents' rules in this area, known to be a passing axis. Op OQAB MAGNET was to secure the Surobi district in order to enhance the economic development of the district.

This concept is based on the trust of the population.

"Within six days, ANSF and ISAF handed over the control of the whole district, without a single shot being fired. It is the sign that our daily efforts to gain the trust of the population have paid off" said Brig. Gen. de Villiers with Gen. Esmatullah and Aman, respectively chief of Kabul Police and chief of staff of 201st

ANA Corps.

The name of the operation was no coincidence. Like a magnet that attracts and repulse, the committed forces, the local and governmental representatives have sought to attract the population and repel those who have not chosen peace.

"The indecisive people seem to have made the right choice. They have joined those who want to make peace progress in the region and know that development is impossible without security," added COM RC-C.

Implication of ANSF: a successful co-lead. For this operation, COM RC-C proposed to ANSF to be completely involved in each phase. Afghan officers have been so involved in the planning process at the headquarters level and on the ground that they made the operation their operation. For the very first time, they have co-led an ISAF operation from its planning phase to its implementation.

"Yes indeed, OQAB MAGNET is our operation. We are very satisfied with the job done



**Locals from the Surobi district welcomed ISAF troops. They want to have peace in their communities and are working together with ISAF troops toward this goal.**

on the ground with RC-C" said Gen. Esmatullah, Chief of Kabul Police and General Aman, Chief of Staff of the ANA 201st Corps in front of the joint command post that was at the heart of the operation.

"The welcoming of our forces by the population is our greatest victory. In the end our best weapon is the support of a population that knows everything of what is going on in their territory" clarified COM RC-C.

Our security phases have been simultaneous with aid provided to the people. Soldiers and policemen of all nations have enthusiastically participated in the donations in the villages. The people are very sensitive to these gestures. They can see we respect our commitments with concrete and immediate action.

While the 1000 men (without taking into account ISAF reinforcement and especially from RC-E) committed to operation OQAB MAGNET are going back to their barracks it is a new phase that is beginning. A phase that will strengthen security and enable the long

term development of the district with the support of non-government organizations and the international community. Well before this new phase, projects that were in accordance with the needs of the people were realized. Facilities such as clinics and schools for both boys and girls have been built by ISAF during the last few weeks.

Col. Seigle, Commander of the French Battle Group, has expressed his great satisfaction for having been able to commit on the ground his platoons with ANA and the Police in a concrete way. Joint training realized before this operation completed their formation and facilitated the joint operation.

"The population of Surobi has discovered their Army and its equipment. Indeed, the population never had the occasion to see their soldiers in the valleys before. The welcome was very warm. Police of Surobi are now better equipped and will be more present in this district, with us."

# ANA medics:

## A giant step toward professionalism

Story and photo by: Yahya Najafizada, FMT Mazar-e Sharif

A medical school for the aidmen of the 5th battalion in 209 Afghan National Army corps began earlier this year.

The course, which is run by international advisors of the ANA, ISAF and Coalition forces, lasts six weeks and will have 32 ANA soldiers in each class.

Sayed Hussein is one of the ANA soldiers of the 209 Shaheen corps who was sent by his international advisor to attend the upcoming classes. "We will learn how to help a wounded soldier in the field, stop bleeding and give first aid during the mission," he said.

One of the advisors of 5th medical company battalion of Shaheen ANA corps, Lucas Thomas, appreciated the moment, "We are glad to be able to train soldiers with different backgrounds. Some of them have trained in the Kabul Military Training Center, other soldiers are still illiterate, but all of them aspire to have knowledge," he said.

Gulaqa Nayebi the deputy of 209 ANA corps who inaugurated this course, said, "I am very happy that besides promoting the structure of our National Army, our international friends are

also supporting the health system of the Afghan Army. Due to the fact that we started to make a strong army, further assistance of the international society is still very important in our process. We can't succeed without their assistance."

1st. Lt. Andreas Draht, ISAF medical officer of ANA, spoke about the aidmen, "Until now, the standing of the medics in the Afghan army was still low. One of our aims is to show medics and non-medics, the importance of aidmen."

To date, nearly 135

medics have been hired to work in the medical force.

Deputy of ISAF RC-North medical task force, Lt. Col. Schneider said "Treat the medics of the ANA well, because they are the men who will heal the soldiers."

Hassan Kohbandi, one of the leaders of this medical course, said "I hope this course continues until all of our medics have been trained."

This was the second medical workshop for the medics of 209 ANA corps. The first was opened in Kunduz six months ago.



**Soldiers from the ANA and ISAF cut the ribbon opening the new medical school for aidmen of the ANA.**

# Afghan National Army siezes largest ammo cache of the year

Story and photo by: Yahya Najafizada, FMT Mazar-e Sharif

More than 200 boxes of ammunitions were handed over to Afghan National Army by ex-commanders, loyal to Abdul Rashid Dostum, in the northern province of Jawzjan.

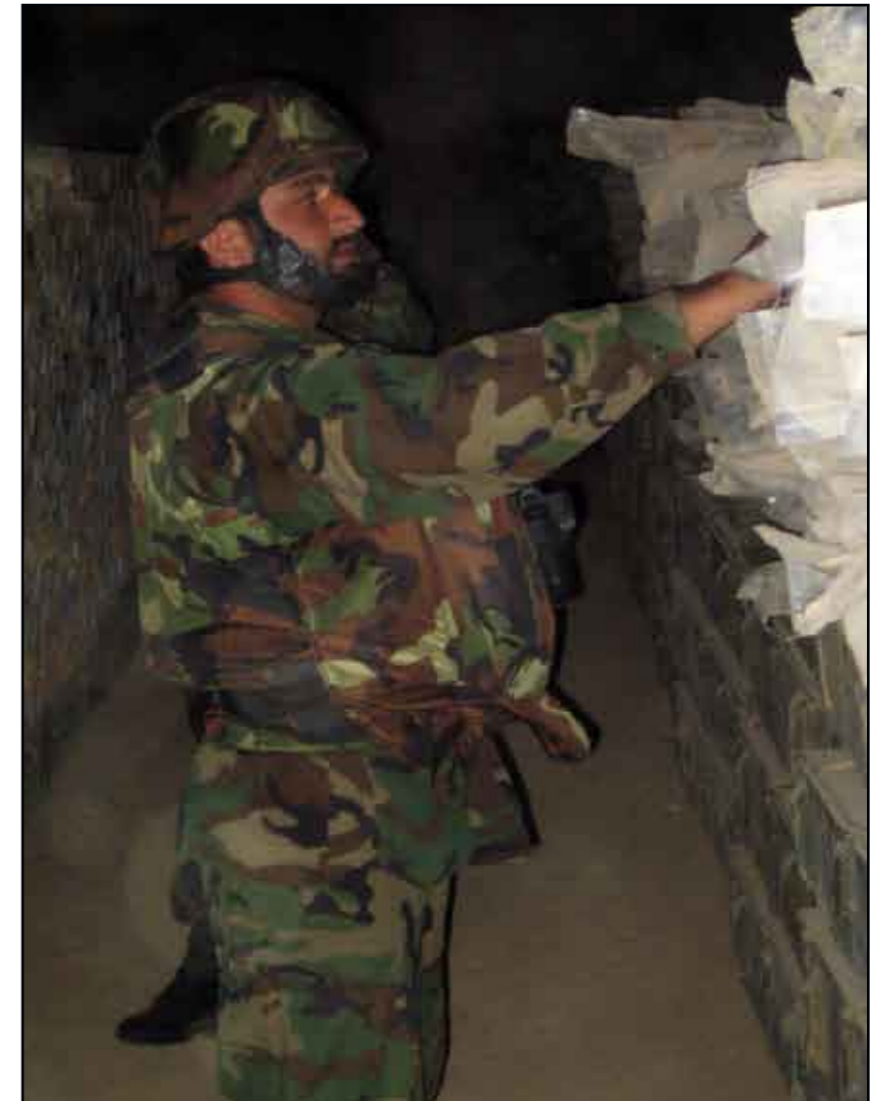
It is the largest cache of minitions collected in Afghanistan this year, according to Disarmament of Illegal Armed Group officials.

Ahmad Fahim Nazari, deputy of the DIAG process in the Northern region said, "This reserve contains different kinds of weapons, anti-personnel mines, Russian and Pakistani artilleries and thousands of boxes of mortar cartridges."

They had collected the armaments from different districts of Jawzjan, Sar-e Pull and Faryab provinces over the last three years and stored them all in Shibirgan.

Most of these stored ammunitions in Shibirgan remain from Jihad times and the extremist regime of the Taliban.

The governor of Jawzjan province, Joma Khan Hamdard, commented, "There are still some illegal weapons in the northern provinces. One reason terrorism still exists in Afghanistan is the illegal weapons which



**A member of the ANA looks over the largest ammunition cache turned over this year under the Disarmament of Illegal Armed Group process.**

have helped to prevent development in our country."

According to Frozan Amadi, a residence of Jawzjan province, if the DIAG process succeeds in collecting the illegal arms, the Afghan

people will have a bright future.

The DIAG process, which began two years ago, will be finished at the end of this year, bringing hope to the people of Afghanistan.

## Crime Scene Investigation training yields good results in Faryab

Story and photo by:  
**Lt Tuomas Kainulainen (FIN Army)**  
 PRT Maimana

As one of ISAF's tasks is to improve the security situation in Afghanistan, PRT Meymaneh has supported and funded crime scene investigation training for Afghan National Police.

was written in Dari at the Maimana Police station.

According to Mr. Eskola the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Maimana, Maimana is "one of the best in all of Afghanistan with a proper laboratory, a suspect room, a sample storing area and an office with a computer and a printer." Previously, most crime scene investigations



**Members of the Finnish Police Force train policemen in Faryab province on proper procedures and techniques for processing a crime scene.**

According to Chief Inspector Jyrki Eskola from the Finnish Police Forces, the training has achieved good results in the northern province of Faryab. "The criminals will now have hard times," he said.

Mr. Eskola completed his last period of the three-phase training at the end of last year. Each period lasted six weeks.

The training started in 2005 and contained areas of training such as how to cordon a crime scene and how to photograph, document and take samples of finger and foot prints. It also included computer training.

At the end of last year, the first computer-generated police report in Faryab's history

were conducted completely outside.

The Finnish Foreign Ministry also donated 17 crime scene investigation kits to the Police of Faryab.

The project cost \$20,000-25,000 euros. In addition, the Finnish Police donated equipment (cameras and printers, etc.) for the local authorities.

Mr. Eskola said, "Even if I was only here for three short periods, I have been able to train those who will go on to train others. They will be able to train local policemen, who can then update their colleagues' skills. They already had good skills, but now they are even better, and the equipment is first-class."



## Fire destroys Mazar-e Sharif department store

Story and photos by: 1st. Sgt. Rolf Walter RC-N

On 9 Feb 1:45 p.m., the Joint Operation Cell (JOC) Regional Command North (RC-N) alerted the onscene commander (OC) of the Air Force Ground Combat Support Squadron: "Explosion and fire in downtown Mazar-e Sharif!"

The Camp Marmal fire fighting unit was alerted 20 minutes later. At 2:28 p.m. the convoy, led by Military Police, set out and arrived on the scene 25 minutes later.

OR-8 Ralf P., the German task force commander, got an initial idea of the situation on the scene. Clouds of black smoke were belching from the multi-story building, which had served as a shop-cum-store for bicycle spare parts, varnishes, paints and construction

materials. Two foci of fire were identified.

Entering the building through the main entrance at the front of the building, the firemen immediately started fighting the fire. Litter delayed their fire-fighting operations, rendering it difficult to make headway in the interior.

The Afghan fire brigade did what they could with their equipment to control the fire from the rear of the building. Brigadier General Volker Barth, Commander RC-N, and Mohammad Razaqyar, Deputy Governor of the Province of Balkh, were personally briefed about the situation and the progress of the fire-fighting operations at the scene of the incident.

As the shop owners did not turn up, the clearing away and disposal of the burned material was delayed. Only at approximately 1700 hours, in the gathering twilight, could the required measures be initiated – with the rubbish piles bursting into flames over and over again.

The well-coordinated cooperation between the German and Afghan firemen and the civilian population was eventually successful and, following an inspection of the building with thermal imaging cameras, the destroyed building was handed over to the Afghan fire brigade for winding up the fire control operation at 1745 hours. The German firemen ended their mission in coordination with the Afghan task force commander at 1800 hours.



# A Strong Woman

Story and photos by: 1st. Sgt. Rolf Walter RC-N

Afghanistan has practiced Islam in a very conservative manner for centuries. In most cases, women leave their homes only by being totally covered with a veil (burka), especially in cities and major built-up areas. Only few women are allowed to walk in public without male company, and women are attacked quite often. While the Taliban ruled the country, women were not allowed to have a job, and many of them had no choice but to resort to begging. Over the past few years, however, the women's social status has changed: more and more women very successfully assume responsibilities that had traditionally been reserved for men.

One of these women is Ragia Balkhi, who was born in northern Afghanistan's Balkh district in 1969. After attending high school and passing the Kabul University entrance examination, she studied civil and structural engineering for six years.

After completing her studies successfully, she was offered a chair as a lecturer for civil and structural engineering at the university of Mazar-e-Sharif by the Afghan Ministry of Education. Since then, Mazar-e-Sharif has been the center of her life.

During her one-year teaching post, it occurred to her to start her own business and set up a construction company. Then, in 1992, she started at the bottom, just as every young entrepreneur does. "As there was no govern-



Ragia Balkhi

ment aid, I had to solicit new business myself. It was not always an easy task to accomplish," she said. In 2005, Ragia Balkhi read in the newspaper that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was advertising for bids. She prevailed despite fierce competition and was awarded the contract. In the meantime, she manages a construction company comprising 100 clerical staff and workers. Of these workers, between 40 and 45 are excavating ditches and building roads within Camp Marmal.

Using Mazar-e-Sharif as a headquarters, she controls her small empire – which now comprises seven branch offices in towns such as Kunduz, Kabul, Herat, and Jalalabad

– along with her husband acting as the company's deputy manager.

However, the company could not exist on ISAF contracts alone, nor could it preserve the jobs that are essential to the people. Road construction projects in the Balkh and Bamyan districts ensure the people's livelihoods. The company, though young, has an annual turnover of roughly five million U.S. dollars. "Afghanistan has almost lost a hundred percent of its economic structure during the war that lasted 23 years. The country is still in the build-up phase. Security and peace provide the basis. All of us are very grateful for ISAF supporting the reconstruction process so well. We look ahead full of confidence," Ragia Balkhi said optimistically.

## Political parties gather for the first time around the table in PRT Maimana



Earlier this year, an historic event happened in Faryab. The three most important political parties, Jumbesh, Azadi and Jamiat, gathered around the same table to discuss the current state as well as the future of the province. This was the first tripartite talks seen in Faryab.

All representatives of the local political parties expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to gather and meet together.

"The time now is suitable for discussing the problems," said Mr. Abdul Jalil Awer, the Deputy party leader of Jumbesh in Faryab. "Political parties will have different ideas, but one should sit together and try to find common solutions. Discussion and exchange of ideas in itself is positive."

All the parties said that they do not have military units any more and that they do not support the use of weapons. They also said that violence and violent demonstrations must be avoided.

Mr. Mohammad Husain, the Azadi Party leader in Faryab said that "it was not a lie that in the past there had been used weapons and not politics. Now we are trying to resolve the issues with politics, not with war."

"The goal is not to unify parties, but to have a unity of ideas to move development and it is beneficial to discuss," Dr. Said Ahmad Sadat, the Party leader of Jamiat in Faryab added.

The initiative for a joint meeting came from the Norwegian-led PRT (Provincial Reconstruc-

tion Team), the only actor in Faryab to provide neutral ground for discussions like these and to free parties from the local power games.

The media of Faryab was also invited to the scene after the closed door discussions chaired by the Commander of PRT Meymaneh, Lt. Col. Arne Opperud.

"The meeting was a success. The party representatives were organized and calm in their speeches and behaviour. It was true political dialogue with peaceful means," Lt. Col. Opperud said.

Local journalists were very happy, too. "As a resident of Faryab it is great to see the parties together, and that everybody could express their views on the needs of the province. Expressing different thoughts and views brings freedom of speech and democracy," the journalists said at the press conference.

The atmosphere was friendly and a lot of smiling and hugs were seen after the meeting. The presence of the local press let also the parties chat informally and find some touches between the key persons.

"The presence of the media clearly worked as an incentive for the parties. The PRT will organize same type of meetings later this year," Lt. Col. Opperud stated.

The theme of this first meeting was security. In the future, other topics will include development and education.



**Representatives from the Jumbesh, Azadi and Jamiat gathered around the table to discuss the current state as well as the future of the Faryab province. (Courtesy photo)**

## Green future:

### German soldiers initiate project to buy and plant 750 young trees for Mazar-e Sharif

Story and photo by:  
Yahya Najafizada, FMT MeS.

The "Trees for Mazar-e Sharif" project originated from the ranks of the soldiers of the German contingent. The money collected for that purpose at Camp Marmal was used to purchase 750 young trees, which were dedicated to the people of Mazar-e Sharif.

In consultation with the provincial governor and the mayor of the town, the areas for planting the trees were chosen. The designated areas include mainly the roadsides along the new access road to the Blue Mosque and Ferdosi Park.

Recently the pines, ashes, willows and mulberry trees were bought and temporarily stored at Camp Marmal. Vehicles of the contingent were used to transport them to the planting areas on the following day.

In arrangement with the Afghan authorities,

local workers had dug a large number of planting pits in the park as well as along the access road several days earlier. Half of the trees were handed over to the head of the municipal public order office, Mr. Muhammad Arif, at the town hall.

The workers waiting at Ferdosi Park quickly unloaded the trees as soon as they arrived and immediately began to plant them. In no time the action attracted a crowd of keen onlookers. With Mr. Arif present, Captain Kai H. (CIMIC) and the LNO, 1st Lt. Björn R. also picked up shovels to lend a hand. Simultaneously, planting began along University Road.

Mr. Junus Muquim, Mayor of Mazar-e Sharif, personally planted a pine and made a short speech, thanking the German soldiers for their special donation to the town's inhabitants. The "Trees for Mazar-e Sharif" project demonstrated the good relations between the German contingent and the people of Mazar-e Sharif to the public eye and, thus, contributed toward the public acceptance of ISAF.



Pine, ash, willow and mulberry trees being unloaded at Ferdosi Park.

### ISAF on the way of health service to Mazar people



Members of ISAF's Norwegian Deployable Hospital unload medical equipment to an orthopedic unit of Balkh civilian hospital.

Story and photo by: Yahya Najafizada, FMT Mazar-e Sharif

ISAF Norwegian Deployable Hospital, NDH, donated a quantity of medical equipments to the orthopedic unit of Balkh civilian hospital.

Besides delivering some high technology medical devices, a workshop, "How to treat the orthopedic patients," was held by the ISAF doctors for the Afghan doctors of Balkh hospital.

It's a long time that ISAF NDH has a superior coordination with the Balkh hospital. The outcomes of this working relation between ISAF doctors and Balkh hospital is treating a number of patients suffering from fractures caused by car accident or mine explosions.

"These are not difficult injuries to treat, but due to equipment requirements these patients have been referred

from Balkh hospital to ISAF NDH," one of the surgeon says. "Before ISAF NDH redeploys to Norway, they wished to donate equipment that they felt it would be the best benefit the Afghan patients who need treatment at the hospital."

The contributions of NDH contain plates, screws and external fixtures along with working equipment for orthopedic injuries. This means that more patients will be able to be treated, and those patients who previously received none or a little treatment may now be cured.

Doctor Saeed, the head of orthopedic department at Balkh hospital told Sada-e Azadi, "We have lots of orthopedic patients, but because of lack of non-equipments and professional treatment system

we haven't been able to treat all of them. After an orthopedic training by ISAF doctors, our doctors have now the knowledge to treat lots of our patients."

He went on to say, "For the reason that ISAF assisted our hospital, most of our problems became solved."

Due to the fact that there's still a big need of orthopedic-treatment, equipment and professional doctors, the majority of patients from Mazar-e Sharif was going abroad to Pakistan and Iran for their treatments. But according to Doctor Saeed, the patients don't need to go out of the country for treatment any more. Now they have six professional orthopedic physicians who also received training lessons by ISAF.



# Delaram joins Farah

Story by: Gina Gillespie FMT PRT Farah

The provincial boundaries have been redrawn and Delaram district is now part of Farah province instead of Nimroz province.

Two months ago Delaram named a new District Manager and Chief of Police. Just recently it became an official district. Now the Ministry of Interior has announced that Delaram will become part of Farah province.

Delaram enjoys a busy district centre, with truck after truck rolling past the lines of shops and busy villagers. Red trucks, blue trucks, yellow trucks, buses and fuel tankers pass by on the paved stretch of highway running through Delaram's heart, heading to Kandahar, Herat or Chegcheran.

Delaram is a volatile area in a strategic location, with the Ring Road and Highway 515 that leads into Bakwa passing through it.

ISAF forces from PRT Farah moved fast to establish control in the formerly lawless district, located in the north eastern corner of the province. A medical team, Civil Affairs team and Police Support Team accompanied PRT Farah Commander Michael Horan and General

Saed Aga, Chief of Police for Farah Province to Delaram. They spent the day assessing the district, setting up police checkpoints and conducting key leader engagement.

The history between PRT Farah and Delaram goes back seven or eight months when the Nimroz police were overrun by the Taliban, leaving the district void of security forces. In mid-September ISAF forces searched Delaram door to door looking for a civilian contractor that had gone into hiding from the Taliban following a car accident. Shortly thereafter the Border Police were ordered into Delaram to provide some sort of Afghan National Security Force presence. But there have been allegations of thievery against the Border Police, something Major Connelly believes will stop once the ANP take charge. "We're hoping that the situation in Delaram will be better with Delaram becoming part of Farah Province, and having ANP and ANAP under General Aga enforcing the law," he says.

Now that Delaram has joined the other 11 districts of Farah Province, the PRT will begin assessing Delaram's needs for development and reconstruction.

## ISAF Troops build new road for locals

In late February ISAF troops finished construction of a new road in the Zharey district. The road, named Route Summit, has been built in support of combat operations and has been completed in a shorter time period than expected to help Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF Troops provide security and move freely in the Zharey district as they battled with Taliban insurgents.

"The rehabilitation of this road marks a milestone by providing remediation for loss of use of the land under Route Summit," said Lt. Col. Bob Chamberlain, commander of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT). "I wish to highlight that we made a promise to complete this remediation process in a timely fashion and we are happy to do so today. This promise was fulfilled with the help of the Government of Afghanistan and principally-led by the local shura."

The formalized process used included walking the ground with the individual families to ensure they received fair compensation. Indications are the landowners were supportive, appreciative, and happy with the amount of remediation.

Many thanks were sent to Canadian members of ISAF for coming through on their promise and for continuing to help Afghanistan as it rebuilds itself after decades of fighting.

Lt. Col. Chamberlain expressed optimism that with the return of people, the new attitudes, and the new road, there would be greater security and prosperity in the Zharey district. "I encourage everyone to continue to support their government and security forces by resisting and reporting insurgent activity," he stated.

The total amount paid to families who were affected by the building of Route Summit was approximately, 40 million Afghani, or nearly \$1 million Canadian. Payment made in Afghani contributes to supporting the capacity building efforts of the Afghan economy.

This remediation followed a similar process for the southern part of the route and marks the end of the remediation for Route Summit. The KPRT commander ensured those in attendance understood that all future concerns would be raised through the elected government and the elected shura.

# PRT's bring evidence of positive change to Heart

RC(W)



Story by: Tech. Sgt. Michael Voss  
HQ ISAF PIO

Behind block walls and posted security guards there are signs of cooperation between Afghans and the ISAF provincial reconstruction teams.

During a recent tour of RC West, Maj. Gen. Garry Robison, ISAF stability commander, Dr. Faizullah Kaker, Afghan Deputy Minister of Technical Affairs from the Ministry of Public Health, and the Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Ghul Jon Jula, toured four PRT sites in the Herat Province.

Stops during the visit included the Pediatric Hospital of Heart, a newly constructed, nearly 10,000 square-foot complex, complete with blood banks, dermatology clinic, an x-ray room and pharmacy.

"The completion of this project will meet the needs of local children from birth to 14 years of age," said RC-W Commander, Brig. General Antonio Satta.

"This will be a regional facility that Afghans can come to for treatment

from as far away as the Helmand District," said PRT Engineer 1st Lt. Maria Martuccs.

Although RC-W is an area considered a success for both ISAF and the people of Afghanistan, it does have room for more progress. With more than three million people inhabiting an area slightly larger than Portugal, there is only one paved road, Highway 1, which connects Herat to Kandahar.

The Pediatric Hospital of Herat in RC-W will do much more than provide a much-needed medical care facility. It does and will continue to provide jobs and put money back into the local economy.

The project currently employs nearly 300 locals a day doing the actual construction of the site and clean-up, but as the project nears completion there will be a need for nearly 4,000 locals to do things like stock supplies.

"In my travels, I see a lot of difficulties for locals to find employment, but this hospital is just the beginning of a city plan that will continue to offer

this type of opportunity," said ISAF Stability Commander Maj. General Garry Robison.

The Herat Pediatric Hospital is just the first part of a long-term project. There are future plans for a town center including apartments to be built around the hospital.

"Provincial reconstruction and development are directly tied to the provincial governors involvement," said Gen. Satta.

"This is a tremendous opportunity," said Gen. Robison. "A lot of the message in the Western media is that this country is filled with nothing but fighting, but it is simply not the case."

The Heart Pediatric Hospital is just one of the examples of the kind of work the RC West PRTs is doing.

The next day the group visited an opening for a school in the Shak A Ban village, which is only 120 miles west of Iran.

They were greeted by the sound of hundreds of school children singing, because thanks to the help

from the PRTs and contributions from USAID, the Man Sur Ali high school was about to open its doors.

Man Sur Ali high school will teach nearly 3,000 students subjects like Math, Science, Pashtun and English. It is the closest high school within five kilometers for the children of the Shak A Ban village.

"The West PRTs have constructed 14 schools as well as other projects throughout the province," said West PRT Commander Lt. Gen. Ferrandu. "That is almost one school per district. "Every day we are working to increase our relationship within the community," he said.

"I will continue to look at ISAF for ways to support your community and these types of projects," said Gen. Robison.

With reconstruction and development being integral to ISAF's long-term success, each project is another step toward not only mission accomplishment but also helping the Afghans to secure a stable, free country.

**"The West PRTs have constructed 14 schools as well as other projects throughout the province," said PRT West Commander, Lt. Gen. Ferrandu. "That is almost one school per district. Every day we are working to increase our relationship within the community."**

# Task Force Fury shares responsibility with Task Force Spartan

In front of a crowd of Afghan leaders, local citizens and ISAF members, Task Force (TF) Fury solidified their arrival to Afghanistan by assuming command of the southern portion of Regional Command-East (RC-E) from TF Spartan, in a RECENT ceremony at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Salerno.

Col. Martin P. Schweitzer, commander of TF Fury, acknowledged the progress made in Afghanistan, and recognized the success of the soldiers from TF Spartan, who have operated in RC-E for the past year. "The Spartans set the bar for professionalism, integration of Afghan units, and represented America with distinction," Col. Schweitzer said. "We will do our best to continue along the path you have set."

TF Fury was initially set to replace TF Spartan; however, under a new increased force plan, the two brigades will operate in the same area together. TF Spartan's area of responsibility will be the northern portion of RC-E and TF Fury will support in the south of the region. The increased troop presence is part of the Department of Defense's strategy to quell Taliban activities in Afghanistan.

"Together with the Afghan National Security Forces, and our two brigades, we will defeat the enemy," said Col. John W. Nicholson, commander of TF Spartan,



**Col. Albert Schweitzer, commander of TF Fury, 82nd Airborne Division, and Col. John Nicholson, commander of TF Spartan, 10th Mountain Division, answer questions from local media after the transfer of authority ceremony. (Photo by Sgt. Tim Sander - US-A)**

when speaking to the local Afghan leadership. "America is sending you its finest soldiers to fight alongside you."

Although the ANSF forces have grown exponentially over the past four years, the primary goal of both brigades will be to help in the further development of ANSF forces, Col. Schweitzer explained.

Soldiers from both Task Forces will integrate Afghan security agencies into their daily operations, allowing for the continued progress of those security agencies. "By doubling the combat formation we will be able to help that [the progress] significantly," Col. Schweitzer added.

Several local Afghan leaders welcomed the incoming TF Fury and

thanked both brigades for their continued efforts in Afghanistan.

"In the past five years, in Afghanistan, and particularly in Khowst, a lot has been accomplished because of the people and our friends, especially those of America," said Arsala Jamal, the Governor of Khowst Province. "I would like to welcome Col. Schweitzer. I believe, and this comes from the bottom of my heart, that you will defeat the enemies of Khowst and Afghanistan."

TF Fury is largely comprised of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. The 4th BCT is the newest addition to the 82nd Airborne Division, having stood up just over 12 months ago, in January 2006.

## Senior leaders lift spirits of 3rd BCT Soldiers

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Supreme Allied Commander of European Forces, Gen. John Craddock shakes the hand of Staff Sgt. Kristin White, acting Civil Affairs Soldier and medic with 710th Brigade Support Battalion, during a visit to the Jalalabad PRT Headquarters.



**Story and photo by: Sgt. Amber Robinson (US-A)**

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team stationed at the Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team headquarters received a special visit from the supreme allied commander of Europe and the NATO secretary general Feb. 22.

Army Gen. John Craddock, supreme allied commander of Europe and Jaap De Hoop Scheffer, NATO secretary general, visited troops at the PRT to express their esteem for Soldiers whose tours in Afghanistan have recently been extended by 120 days.

"This brigade has done great things during their last year in Afghanistan," Craddock said. "The positive attitude and strength of character each of you have exhibited in this time of calling will carry you towards nothing more than a strong and well-deserved victory."

In the face of Task Force Spartan's extension, 3rd BCT Soldiers said they continue to work diligently against terror and for the people of eastern Afghanistan.

"Maintaining that steady battle rhythm and keeping busy is important for us Soldiers," said Army Staff Sgt. James Kruse, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment. "We

have sustained battlefield circulation, we have continued negotiations with Pakistani officials about the border, and of course, the humanitarian aspect of the fight is always present."

Kruse said working with the Afghans makes the mission worth it.

"It helps immensely that the Afghan locals are so receptive to our presence as well," he said. "Seeing the local kids running beside our humvees smiling and giving us the thumbs-up of approval makes staying much easier."

Craddock presented all TF Spartan Soldiers with a SACEUR coin to commemorate the visit. "It's great a four-star general took the time out to come and visit with us," said Army Staff Sgt. Kristin White, acting Civil Military Operations Soldier and a medic with 710th Brigade Support Battalion.

"He was very personable and thanked us all for staying on and keeping our heads up," she said. "It was a definite experience."

Aside from time with TF Spartan Soldiers, Craddock and Scheffer attended a battle brief presented by the PRT commander, Air Force Lt. Col. David S. Naisbitt. Naisbitt and staff discussed ongoing operations and projected missions the PRT will undertake during the next few months as TF Spartan continues to administer the northeastern provinces.

## New playgrounds installed in Tarin Kowt



**ISAF forces work together to install a swingset at a girls' school.**

ISAF soldiers along with Afghan National Army personnel helped install outdoor play and sports equipment, along with clearing a soccer (football) and volleyball field near two schools in Tarin Kowt.

At a local boy's school, ISAF soldiers installed a soccer and volleyball field and in a separate field, ISAF forces installed swings and a separate playground for the girls' school.

After the installations

were complete, ISAF and ANA forces handed out blackboards, notebooks, pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners and other school supplies to the teachers.

"ISAF has been working closely with local teachers and the goal is for these two schools to be open by April. The local population is working hard on completing the schools and any part ISAF can play in improving the future education of the children of Afghanistan we welcome,"

stated Major Marloes Visser, ISAF's Task Force Uruzgan Spokesperson.

The Minister of Sport for Uruzgan, Ruhall Almas, was on hand for the completion of the soccer and volleyball fields. He stated, "Sports is important for the development of our country; I am very happy with this gift from ISAF and the ANA." Immediately after the soccer field was completed, ISAF soldiers played soccer with the children to test the field out.



Alishang District Administrator Mohammad Qasim, right, Air Force Lt. Col. Brad Bredenkamp, center, Alishang elder Asadulla Khan, left, and others stand on the newly finished flood protection wall next to Dumlam village in northern Laghman.

Story and photo by: Capt. Gerardo Gonzalez (US-AF) Mehtar Lam Provincial Reconstruction Team

## Wall completion signifies progress in northern Laghman

It may only be a 150-meter flood protection wall outside Dumlam Village in Laghman Province, but its completion Feb. 21 signified a turning point in an area once gripped by anti-coalition extremists.

Since the establishment of Security Base Najil after Operation West Hammer last December, many villagers have turned their backs on extremists, enabling more reconstruction in northern Alishang District.

The permanent presence of Afghan National Army soldiers and ISAF forces has improved security in the area and given local people new hope in the government.

"Just three months ago we were getting attacked just about every time we came up here," said Air Force Lt. Col. Brad Bredenkamp, Mehtar Lam Provincial Reconstruction Team commander. "Laghman Governor Golab Mangal made a commitment with (ISAF) forces to set up Security Base Najil and tackle the security issues here."

This is the first time ANA forces have been permanently assigned in the area, said Bredenkamp. He said the significant presence of ANA and police forces is making a difference in reducing insurgent activity from the nearby Mayl and Gonapal Valleys.

"Thankfully many of the people in this area have cooperated fully with the government," Bredenkamp said. "They are eradicating poppy and driving away enemy fighters because they want the reconstruction that you see happening now."

In addition to the Dumlam wall — which will protect farmers' land and fields — other projects will soon come to fruition in Alishang. This year a road going into the Mayl Valley will become a reality.

"The road will make it more passable for vehicles so that the government can move freely to meet with local people," Bredenkamp said. "It will also make it easier for villagers to take their products to markets."

Mohammad Qasim is the Alishang district administrator, and he said he is very happy about the progress in his area.

"Twenty eight years of war have destroyed our economy, our culture... everything," he said. "Thanks to the PRT we're getting this wall — something that's very important for local agriculture. I hope some day we will have a stronger, more independent Afghanistan."

Alishang elder Asadulla Khan expressed his gratitude for the projects that are helping improve the northern part of the district.

"I'm very happy to see several projects going on in this small area," said Khan. "I hope this continues so we can create more jobs for local people."

Projects will continue. The government will soon break ground on a bridge between the Mayl and Gonapal, said the commander.

"This will enable the police, the ANA and government officials to reach out into the Gonapal and address the needs of the people there," Bredenkamp said.

The commander credited the boost in reconstruction to active leadership from district officials. The district leaders were instrumental in getting local people to cooperate with the government and maintain security.

"Continue to spread the word up and down the valley for people to work with the government and the coalition," he told them. "Because we are here to help."

Later that day the district administrator and the PRT also broke ground on a project to refurbish an abandoned clinic in nearby Qal-i-najil.



## A common drill with an uncommon *Twist*

It's a common drill with an uncommon twist for Maj.(Dr.) Mohamad Haque, a U.S. Army surgeon, and his team of doctors, nurses and medics at Forward Operating Base Naray, Afghanistan.

Over a handheld radio comes a call from the tactical operations center, "There is a woman in need of immediate medical attention at the front gate. She's been shot."

Naray is a long way from Bagram; the main supply and medical hub for Coalition Forces in Afghanistan. The nearest Coalition presence is at Asadabad, almost 120 km to the south. There is one central dirt road that

runs north to south following the Kunar/Nuristan River-Valley. The patient's travels took two hours from the town of Nishigam to the medical care at Naray.

Medics Sgt. Cody Vernon, Spc. Peter Lee and Pfc. Elizabeth Marsteller hurried to the entry control point and found a bleeding woman with a large caliber gunshot wound to her abdomen and her anxious husband. The woman was transferred to an Afghan National Army ambulance and driven to the medical tent.

On arrival, a team of medics from the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, and the 160th Forward Surgical Team rapidly evaluate her and find the gunshot wound but also discover that she is pregnant and full term. The gunshot was to the central abdomen with intestines protruding from the wound. The team proceeded quickly, collecting information from the patient and husband. Saving the mother offers the best chance of saving the baby.

She was rushed to the operating room where she was anesthetized by Maj. Warren Cusick. The surgical team of Maj. (Dr.) Erick Martell, Cpl. Michael Bega and Haque opened the patient's abdomen and found that the only injury was to the enlarged uterus. With no option but to deliver the baby, an emergency Cesarean Section was performed with the assistance of Sgt. Ernie Freiermuth.

The baby was handed to emergency nurses Capt. Stephen Schmelzer and Sgt. Augustus Francis, who

warmed and resuscitated the infant. The baby had a grazing wound to his buttocks but was otherwise uninjured. Within minutes the baby boy was pink and crying.

The mother, Noor Begum, was brought to the recovery area where she was awoken from anesthesia two hours later. Her first question is "Mashom singa dai," (How is the baby), as the proud father presents her their son.

Reports said criminals near the town of Nishigam had fired AK-47s and rocket propelled grenades at three Afghan cargo trucks, destroying them and their cargo. The pregnant woman was a bystanders at the scene of attack. Shots fired at the taxi pierced her abdomen, hitting her

womb and skimming her unborn child.

Two days later, the baby's father, Walayat Khan and Noor Begum named their child Abdul Haque. Swaddled in a combination of traditional Afghan garb and American humanitarian assistance baby clothing, mother and child were discharged to their home a few kilometers from Naray, taking a stock of food, blankets and their son's English-Pashto birth certificate.

This is not the first time insurgents have injured innocent Muslims in a war to "defend" Islam, and Soldiers have worked hard to undercut the notion that the Coalition is here to

destroy Islam.

"The notion that we are here to wage a war on Islam is absolutely ridiculous," said Lt. Col. Michael Howard, 3rd Battalion, 71st Cavalry said. And since they have no reason to fight they have made one up—to defend Islam against the Americans. Unfortunately, they're fighting for a false cause and doing more harm to local people than anyone else."

Since arriving at Naray in early March 2006, the Coalition has extended every courtesy to show respect and religious tolerance towards all religions. Reconstruction projects facilitated by the Coalition are in progress everywhere. "We want to give them something they can touch, see and feel: Water, electricity, roads and medical care" said Maj. Thomas Sutton, 3-71 Cav executive officer. Over the past year, over \$6 million have been spent by 3-71 Cav on these types of projects. The effect has been tremendous.



**Maj.(Dr.) Mohamad Haque, a U.S. Army surgeon, and his team of doctors, nurses and medics at Forward Operating Base Naray, with Noor Begum and her new son. The team had to perform an emergency cesarean section on the local woman after finding out that she had been shot in the abdomen. (Courtesy photo)**

## Soldiers, Afghan contractors work together to build 31-mile road

Story and photos by:  
**2nd Lt. Elizabeth Rybacki**  
**27th Engineer Brigade**

In an effort to save time and develop the Afghans' capacity to develop their infrastructure, the 27th Engineer Battalion is working with Afghan contractors to build a 31-mile road in the Paktika Province from Orgun-E to Lawara.

The planning began in May 2006, when the construction team, led by Army Capt. Aaron Hill, a native of Columbus, Ohio, went on a recon to determine the best route for the road. The team used an automated route reconnaissance kit, which is a system that combines global positioning system and video to record and take engineer measurements of the proposed route.

The team used the video recording and data to analyze the points of interests, such as low water crossings and culverts, to determine the project's scope of work. Once the scope of work was determined, the road was broken up into four sections.

Three of the sections were contracted out for the locals to build. The team then took the potential contractors on a site visit to show them exactly what had to be done. In December the contract was finalized and Afghan Shahid of the Scandinavian Construction Company began constructing section two of the road.

In order to ensure the road is being built on schedule and to standard, Hill makes regular trips to the job site for quality assurance and quality control



checks. If the team discovers an unsafe or potentially hazardous portion of the road, Hill shows the contractor the deficiency and instructs them on what they need to do in order to correct it.

"Through our relationships and business dealings with contractors, we have made a positive impact in the town of Orgun-E and the Paktika Province," said Hill. "We also are helping to build the capacity to do road construction within the Afghanistan community."

Section one of the road is being built by Bravo Company's Light Equipment Platoon. Over the past year, the platoon has constructed

over 34 miles of road. They have recently completed the 29-mile road from Orgun-E to Bermel.

"[Afghans] like the roads we build because it makes commerce easier through the rough terrain of Afghanistan," said Army Sgt. Morton Guerrero from Providence, R.I. "It is increasing their quality of life, making it easier for them to get from one place to another."

When the road is complete, it will also make it easier for ISAF forces to get from one location to another. The wider, better constructed road will also decrease the likelihood of Improvised Explosive Device

