

# ISAF MIRROR

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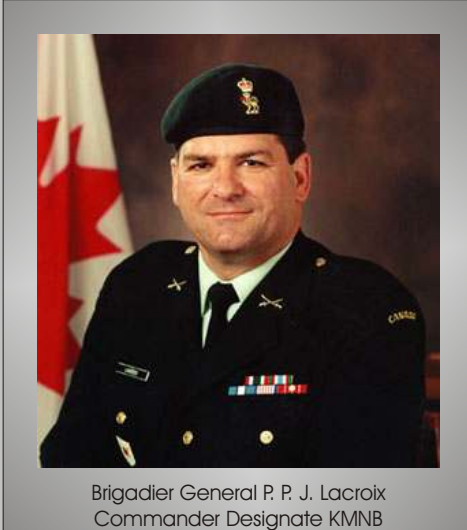
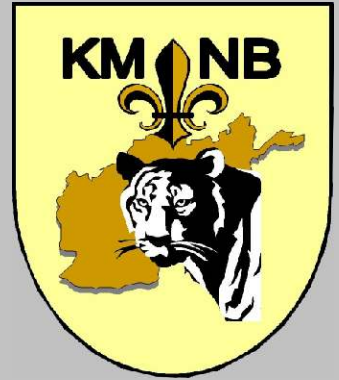


Page 2	Changing of the guard at Kabul Multinational Brigade Headquarters
Page 3	Telemark Task Force transferred to Kabul Multinational Brigade Headquarters
Page 4 - 5	A Small Afghanistan Incident
Page 6 - 7	PRT Konduz: Devoted to making a new concept successful
Page 8	Opening of Route Desperado by Kabul Multinational Brigade Engineers
Page 9 - 10	International Stories TOA French Contingent Kabul Donate dieci ambulanze e numerosi arredi ospedalieri Spendenaktion für die Schule "Setara No 6" vom Deutschen Unterstuetzungselement in Kabul Exchange of school records between Spanish children and children of the Merheb-U-Din School in Kabul NATO's Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan Minister Cetin assumes his functions in Kabul
Page 11- 12	Winner Photo Contest

# Changing of the guard at Kabul Multinational Brigade Headquarters

By Maj Guy Turpin, KMNb PIO

After nearly six months in Afghanistan, the KMNb HQ is preparing itself to pass on the reigns to a new HQ, this one coming from 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (5 CMBG), Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, Québec, Canada.



Brigadier General P. P. J. Lacroix  
Commander Designate KMNb

The Transfer of Command Authority (TOCA) ceremony is scheduled to take place, Saturday, January 24, 2004. During this brief ceremony, Canadian Brigadier-General Jocelyn Lacroix will take command from Canadian Brigadier-General Peter Devlin.

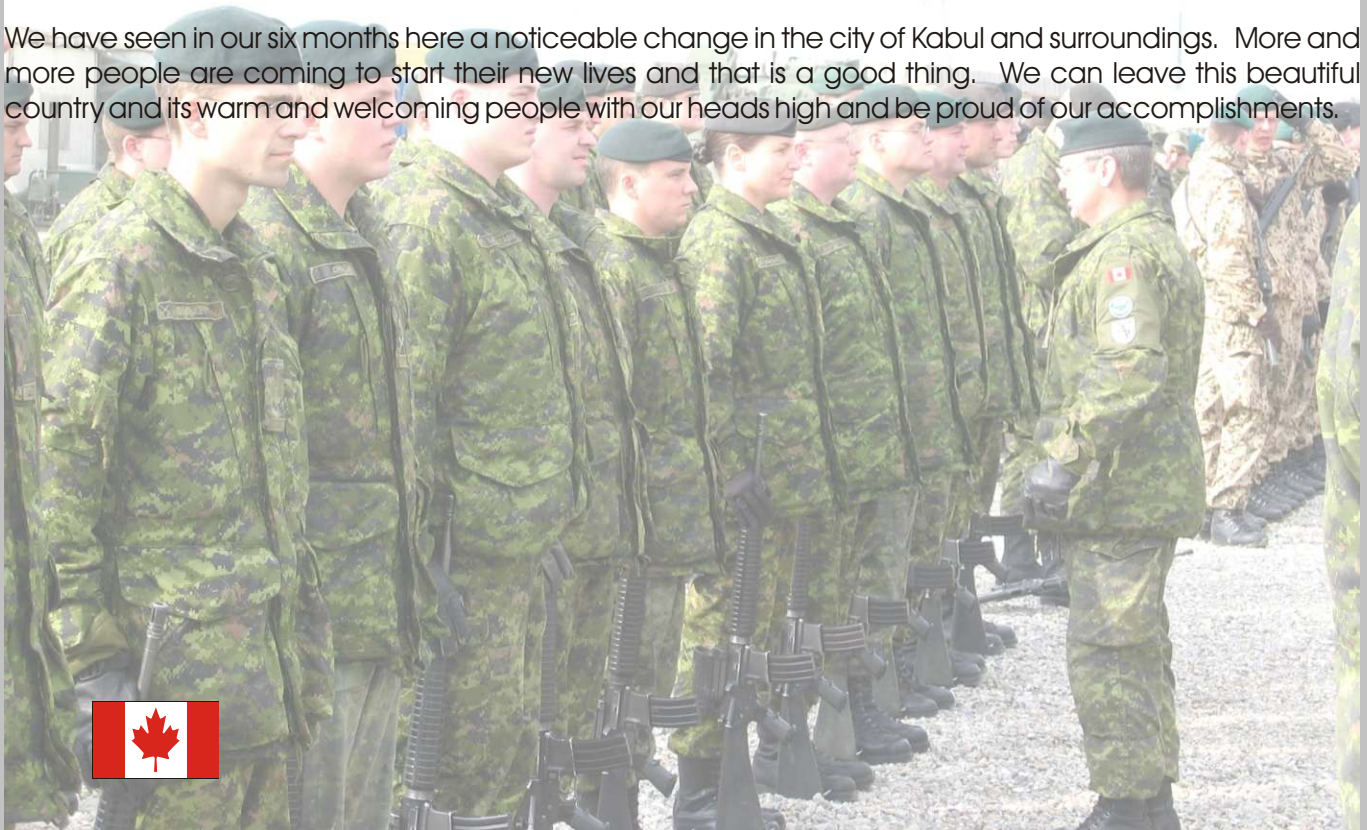
The Canadian elements of "Rotation 0" forming KMNb HQ and its supporting Signals Squadron, will be returning to Petawawa, Ontario, Canada, for a well deserved break and will handover a well-established



Brigadier General Peter Devlin  
Outgoing Commander

network to its 5 CMBG counterparts. As a note, the Canadian Army is formed of only three Mechanized Brigade Groups and 5 CMBG is the only bilingual Brigade, with French as its primary language. Nonetheless, even with the language difference, the transition between organizations will be seamless and the support provided will be as high.

We have seen in our six months here a noticeable change in the city of Kabul and surroundings. More and more people are coming to start their new lives and that is a good thing. We can leave this beautiful country and its warm and welcoming people with our heads high and be proud of our accomplishments.



## Telemark Task Force transferred to Kabul Multinational Brigade Headquarters



By 1st Lt Geir Loevhaug, Telemark Task Force PIO

KABUL: Telemark Task Force is the latest contribution from Norway to ISAF. On December 4, 2003 the company was handed over to Brigadier-General Peter Devlin, commander of Kabul Multi-National Brigade.

"It is an honour for me to welcome Telemark Task Force to the Kabul Multi-National Brigade. Your role as a Quick Reaction Force during the Loya Jirga is of great importance and you can expect to be used in various scenarios throughout your mission in Kabul," said Brigadier-General Peter Devlin, Commander of the Multi-National Brigade, in his opening speech.

### Impressed

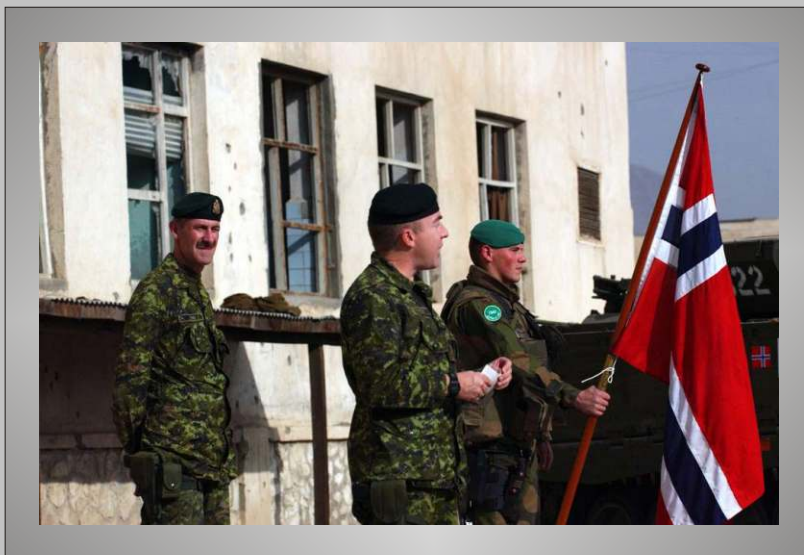
General Devlin told the company that he was impressed by the fact that Telemark Task Force (TMTF) was able to deploy to Afghanistan and get ready on short notice. The high readiness is crucial for the task that TMTF is going to fill as a Quick Reaction Force during the Loya Jirga. The company is trained and equipped to assist Afghan authorities if necessary. For the next weeks, TMTF will be ready carry out its assignments on short notice. Ensuring stability in Kabul is a complex task in which several aspects has to be taken into consideration.

### Firm, but fair

"We shall show our respect to the people of Afghanistan and we will be firm but fair. It is exciting to serve in Afghanistan and the people are friendly and welcoming. However, we are aware that there are elements that pose a threat to the ongoing process in Afghanistan. Our job is to support the Afghans and protect the process. There is much work to be done here in Kabul, but I am convinced that Major Frode Ommundsen and his company will solve the task in an excellent way," General Devlin said.

### Transfer of Authority

The Transfer of Authority ceremony was held in Camp Invicta where the Norwegians are based together with the Italians and the Greeks. The Norwegian Contingency Commander LtCol Kirknes handed the Telemark Task Force over to Brigadier-General Devlin. He told the TMTF that he was confident that they would carry out their mission in an excellent way. TMTF will operate in theatre for eight months and is a mechanised infantry company.



## A Small Afghanistan Incident

Lt. K.J. Stewart



Members of 5 Troop, 24 Squadron, 3 RCR Bn Gp were conducting a LAV III grouping and zeroing shoot on the east side of Kabul. The range is an old one, littered with bombed out Russian armoured vehicles. It utilizes the base of a mountain as the backdrop. Even on the bleakness of a shooting range, you only have to lift your eyes to the ever-present mountains to appreciate the vastness and raw beauty of Afghanistan. We started the shoot and shortly after local citizens appeared on the scene and started to pick up the spent ammo cases. They were very nonchalant about the shooting, giving us waves and smiles while trying to snag the spent shells. They were quite willing to obey our safety precautions, but also prepared to fight with one another for the brass and we had to referee several disputes.



A small crowd gathers as members of the Third Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Battalion Group, (3 RCR Bn Gp) take a short break while patrolling the streets of Paghman in their LAV III armoured vehicle. Members of the 3 RCR Bn Gp patrol in around the Canadian area of responsibility in Kabul daily as part of Operation ATHENA.

Photo: MCpl. Brian Walsh 3 RCR Battalion Group Photographer

When we left the range we tried to pick a route that avoided the core of the city as much as possible. Nevertheless, there were people everywhere and the numbers, the sheer weight of humanity can be intimidating. We had a vehicle breakdown and were forced to pull over to the side of the road. A recovery request was radioed and we settled down to wait for the tow vehicle. Then a crowd started to gather around us. Excited people formed around our vehicles, talking, laughing and attracting more and more bystanders. We set up local security around ourselves as the crowd grew in size. We now had a crowd of about fifty

excited people around the vehicles and they were spilling out onto the road. There are no road rules in Afghanistan. It's everyone for themselves and I began to fear that members of the crowd would be hit by one of the vehicles speeding by, or turning in to see what the attraction was.

The kids in the crowd were laughing and speaking loudly in Dari. The older people were quiet and a little wary. A few young men in their late teens or twenties could speak some English and started asking questions. As soon as I started to respond to a question the crowd would go silent...listen to me and the translation, and then shout out more questions for the "interpreters" to ask me.

For me, it was a fascinating exchange. They wanted to know my name and where I was from. What are you doing here? How far away is Canada? Are you hot? My digital watch interested many of them and I was asked the time. Was I married? Where were my parents? Did I have brothers and sisters? They wanted to know what two fingers meant (Peace sign) and I asked them if the thumb up was good or bad...and, amid much laughter was told it was good! I was asked why I wore my watch on the wrong hand?

I didn't see a watch anywhere in the crowd so I don't understand why this was something they would pick up on. However, I explained I am left-handed and demonstrated how I write. That produced gales of laughter. Another question was why did soldiers wear maps on their arms? I realized the reference was to a tattoo.

They were interested in my sunglasses and asked if it was true that in America there were glasses that could see through clothes! I explained that wasn't the case...and they listened intently.



5 Tp Sappers and Local Children  
Spr Kevin Lloy, MCpl Curtis Watt, Lt Kevin Stewart, and Sgt Steve Houde chat  
with some local Afghan children on the outskirts of Kabul.

I explained to the crowd that Canada (pointing at the flag on my shoulder) was present as part of ISAF and trying to help Afghanistan rebuild and become a safer place to live. They listened carefully. A young man about my age asked if I thought Afghanistan would ever be safe? I told him I thought so and that Canada was one of many nations that would help. He disagreed and said there were too many Taliban and that the people would never be safe. There was lots of discussion in the crowd. From the interpreters I gathered that they can see the positive results of mine clearing, road openings, building reconstruction, school openings...but their personal experience and the history of their country makes them pessimistic.

The dialogue continued for close to an hour and a half before the tow truck arrived. The crowd remained, shifting as some left and others arrived. They were hungry for a personal contact with people like myself, strange soldiers from a far away land, but not ones they need to fear. They are as fascinated about us as we are about them.

I will always remember that hot, dusty afternoon, the noisy but respectful crowd, where for a short period of time I felt a personal connection with the people of this ancient and fascinating culture. When we were leaving the crowd dispersed with smiles and waves...and one young man thanked me for coming from Canada to help them.

## PRT Konduz: Devoted to making a new concept successful

By Captain Florian Weigand, PIO of PRT Kunduz, German Army

Konduz. No canalization, no electricity for hours at least once a week and muddy roads spotted with deep



holes filled with dirty water the soldiers of the German-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Konduz have already experienced on their various missions what reconstruction may mean in war-torn Afghanistan.

So every man from private to the Commander, the German Colonel Kurt Helmut Schiebold - is devoted to his task: to make the PRT a successful project. "You are making history", exclaimed the Commander of the German Einsatzführungskommando in Potsdam, General Friedrich Riechmann, at his visit to the camp on the outskirts of Konduz. And the meanwhile 200 Germans as well as the small additional unit of Canadians understand this remark very well.

They proudly wear the crest on their sleeves, which symbolizes the new concept of the PRT: On the blue background with the headline "Konduz" in Persian letters on top, a white bridge with two poles shows the two legs of the PRT Konduz: The military and the civil part, at the time being represented by the envoy of the German Foreign Affairs Office, Kurt Stoeckl-Stillfried. Both conduct the mission by balancing their tasks in constructive talks. The German-led PRT-Project is an integrated institution of the German government. It combines the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Ministry of Defense and is open to other nations.

The civilian mission is to support and promote reconstruction in the four northeastern provinces with own financial and material means. The focus is at strengthening the authority of the Afghan Transitional Authorities (ATA) in order to promote political-military structures and the rule of law, to strengthen democratic institutions and to implement medium- and long-term reconstruction measures. Within the Security Sector Reform (SSR), Germany is the lead nation for the build-up of the Afghan police force. This comprises professional advice, training and material assistance.

The military contingent is in operational control of COMISAF. The military activities comprise the liaison to decision makers and opinion leaders, monitoring the security situation and the Disarmament-Demobilization-Reintegration (DDR) process, support the SSR and Afghan National Army (ANA)-training and the gathering of information to become a regional expert. The overarching objective is to support the Afghan Central Government to establish and maintain a secure environment. An important mission: Without a secure environment every civil reconstruction is in danger to fail.

The overwhelming majority of the more than 100 000 Uzbeks, Tadshiks, Pashtunes and Hazara in town knows this very well. The efforts made by the Konduz PRT are at the time present warmly welcomed both by the population and the local authorities. Bunches of children are waving to the Four-Wheel-Drives with the German Flag on the doors, adults raise their hands for a cordial salutation, policemen and soldiers of local units stand still for a military salute.

Afghan dignitaries and representatives of help-organisations come to the camp in order to take part in discussions with the civilian and military leaders of the PRT. On the other hand the PRT staff seeks actively the contact to important personalities in the province, decision makers and opinion leaders. Several meetings have already developed to periodical consultations. "The situation in Konduz can be described as calm, but not stable" says Colonel Schiebold, who knows that also a calm situation can skip in every moment. The soldiers are well aware that every mission in Afghanistan is conducted on shaky ground. Effective force protection remains a part of the daily business.

And the daily business is demanding: After an intense build-up phase of the camp, the German-led contingent came under ISAF command and took over responsibility from the US-Army, which had run the PRT in the recent two years. After the solemn ceremony, held on 6th of January, which marked the transfer of authority (TOA) to ISAF, the soldiers in Konduz have a lot to do. A radio program for the population of Konduz is already on air, a newspaper is in the preparation phase. Paratroopers are on reconnaissance missions almost every day.



German Commander PRT  
Colonel Kurt Helmut Schiebold

And also visible construction is underway. Under the label "Quick Impact Projects" (QIP) wells, little bridges and the pavement of important roads are repaired to improve the freedom of movement for the armed forces in the PRT. And the QIPs create a good side-effect: Also the local population benefits from these efforts.



The successful start of the PRT Konduz is to be a pilot project for similar missions. "I hope, there will come other PRTs under ISAF-command", said COM ISAF, the German Lieutenant General Götz F.E.Gliemeroth, at the TOA ceremony in Konduz. "But every PRT will be tailored to

## Opening of Route Desperado by Kabul Multinational Brigade Engineers



By Major Guy Turpin, KMNB PIO

In its first big engineering project since NATO took over command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) earlier last August here in Kabul, the engineers from the Kabul Multi-National Brigade (KMNB) opened a ring road that will benefit both the soldiers of ISAF and also the citizens of Kabul, December 19, 2003.

"The construction of this road is a major accomplishment for our Multi-National Force", said Brigadier-General Peter Devlin, the KMNB Commander, who was overseeing the ceremony. "Thank you for your exceptional work, which will have effects in the years to come as we continue to make Kabul a secure and stable city".

This major undertaking by the Multi-National Engineer Group (MNEG), started October 15, 2003 and the end product is an approximately five-kilometre, all weather, 60-ton class, two-way high traffic capable gravel road. This ring road will connect the Jalalabad and Russian routes, in the east end of Kabul.

On hand during the opening ceremony was Engineer Jan Baz from the Kabul Municipality. "I want to express my most sincere congratulations and thanks for this road that will stay here a very long time as a memorabilia of the great cooperation between ISAF and the city of Kabul", said Engineer Baz.

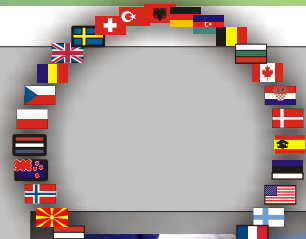
The lead-nation for this project was the Italians of the MNEG with the assistance of the Greek and Spanish engineer companies, part of that same unit. To construct Route Desperado, some 12,000 cubic meters of soil had to be displaced, 13 culverts were either repaired or emplaced and unexploded ordnance had to be removed.

"This road will increase the standard of living of the people living in the area by providing an enhancement to bringing necessities of life to their community", said Italian Lieutenant-Colonel Tito Tolla, the MNEG Commanding Officer.



JALALABAD ROAD

# International Stories



## TOA French Contingent

Lt Col Philippe Maurin, French PIO



Colonel Philippe Morel, commanding officer of the 1st marine infantry regiment (RIMa), has become the new French military representative attached to the Commander of ISAF and the chief of the French contingent deployed in Kabul, Friday 16th January 2004, for a four-month mandate.

He has succeeded to Colonel Thierry Lion, commanding officer of the 1st Tirailleurs infantry regiment. This transfer of authority at the head of the Pamir operation is marking the beginning of the seventh French mandate within ISAF.

The main units deployed in the frame of Pamir 7 are the 1st RIMa, the 3rd RIMa established in Vannes, and the 6th engineering regiment from Angers, all of them coming from the 9th marine light armoured brigade (9° BLBMA), whose HQs is located in Nantes.



## Kabul Donate dieci ambulanze e numerosi arredi ospedalieri



Il 18 dicembre 2003, si è tenuta presso il Compound "Invictia" - sede del Contingente Italiano a Kabul, costituito da soldati dell'Esercito, Carabinieri e dall'Aeronautica Militare - una cerimonia, durante la quale dieci ambulanze della Croce Rossa Italiana sono state donate all'Afghanistan.

In fila e a sirene spiegate, così hanno fatto il loro ingresso nell'area della cerimonia le dieci ambulanze che l'Esercito ha fatto giungere a Kabul.



Deputy Minister Italian Ambassador and Commander Italian Force

Insieme agli automezzi sono stati donati 200 posti letto ospedalieri oltre ad un elevato numero di coperte lenzuola, 2 studi odontoiatrici completi ed altre attrezzature ospedaliere.

La cerimonia si è svolta alla presenza di S.E. l'Ambasciatore d'Italia in Afghanistan e del Vice Ministro della Sanità afgana, del Comandante del Contingente Italiano e di una rappresentanza di militari della Coalizione Multinazionale e della Cooperazione Italiana.

"Grazie per il loro lavoro ed il modo altamente professionale con cui lo hanno svolto", queste le parole del rappresentante della Croce Rossa Italiana che è intervenuto durante la cerimonia, nei riguardi dei militari della

Cellula di cooperazione civile-militare e che da settembre ad oggi ha distribuito nella capitale afgana e nei distretti confinanti 15 tonnellate di aiuti umanitari, tra cui materiale scolastico e vestiario.

Al termine degli interventi delle autorità presenti e dei rappresentanti della Croce Rossa e di Cooperazione Italiana, i soldati che avevano condotto le ambulanze nel piazzale della cerimonia sono stati affiancati da altrettanti afgani a cui, rappresentando simbolicamente la cessione degli automezzi, sono state consegnate le chiavi.

Al termine della cerimonia, le dieci ambulanze, con alla guida il personale afgano, hanno lasciato la base italiana dirette verso i numerosi ospedali di Kabul e di altre province alle quali sono state assegnate.



## Exchange of school records between Spanish children and children of the Merheb-U-Din School in Kabul

Major José Luis Mejía PIO Spanish contingent



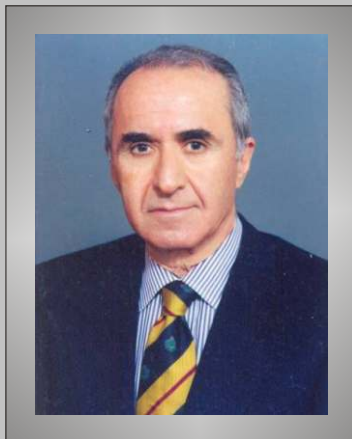
In order to allow the exchange of information between children of Afghanistan and Spain and know the different lifestyles, cultures and socioeconomic situation, the Spanish Contingent ASPFOR VI, has organized an activity between several schools of the Spanish cities of Zaragoza and Toledo and the MERHEB-U-DIN School in Kabul.

The Afghan children will send to Spain a record, answering some questions, and with a free draw. The Spanish children will send the same to Kabul, using both, as mail, the Spanish Contingent in Afghanistan. The children are all between 8 and 12 years. The language that we have been used to design the records is dari, for the Afghan children, and Spanish, for the Spanish children. Before the exchange of the records, the translators of the Spanish Contingent will translate them. Finally a jury will reward the best records.

The MERHEB-U-DIN school was reconstructed by the Spanish Engineer Company in 2002. At the moment the School has 3800 students, in 72 groups of 50 students. There are 18 classrooms, some for boys and some for girls, five of them under campaign tents. The school has organized the schedule in three shifts, first the youngest, then the girls and finally the boys. Two years ago, during the Taliban rule, there were about 400 students. The toys were forbidden, the kites can't fly, the girls can't go to school and the culture and the media were restricted.



## NATO's Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan Minister Cetin assumes his functions in Kabul



NATO's Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan, (SCR) H.E. Minister Hikmet Cetin, arrived in Kabul and assumed his functions on 26 January 2004.

Mr. Cetin served as Turkish Foreign Minister from 1991 to 1994 and was Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly from 1997 to 1999. He has also occupied several other Ministerial posts in different governments of Turkey.

As Senior Civilian Representative, Minister Cetin will be responsible for carrying forward political military aspects of the Alliance assistance to the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) in fulfilling the Bonn Agreement commitments. He will work closely with the ISAF, United Nations and other coordinating bodies, established by the international community and the ATA in Kabul.

The SCR will be crucial to the success of NATO's ISAF mission. The NATO Secretary General is confident that Mr. Cetin will make a solid contribution to that end.

Submit photos with caption to the Press Information Office  
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SSgt Hoffmann, CPO Stanislawski, Lt Cdr Cockburn  
Maj Arata, LTC Langer

**... Time to say good bye ...**

The members of the **ISAF Public Information Office** wish to thank all of those who contributed articles to the ISAF MIRROR, as well as their readership, over the past six months. We hope you enjoyed the articles and photographs. Good luck and Godspeed as the mission comes to a conclusion for you in the coming weeks.

**Winner Photo Contest**



**1. Place**

Magnificent - My Future  
MSgt Scherer



## 2. Place

Barbs & Burkas  
LTC Langer



## 3. Place

Kabul Traffic - Beyond Imagination  
Major Grohman

**TESS ISAF**  
**TERRORISM**  
**ESPIONAGE**  
**SUBVERSION &**  
**SABOTAGE**  
 directed against  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**SECURITY**  
**ASSISTANCE**  
**FORCES**




Report any suspicious activity to HQ ISAF Main  
 Allied Command Europe Counterintelligence  
 (ACE-CI) office (Mark or Roy)  
 Located across from HQ Tent (former gym)  
 Cell: 070-293328

### TESSISAF

Terrorism Espionage Sabotage Subversion directed against International Security Assistance Force. Allied Command Europe Counter Intelligence (ACE-CI) would like you to report anything that is out of the ordinary or suspicious as soon as you recognize it.

Security awareness is the key to saving lives. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Be aware of people taking pictures of you and your equipment as well as the installation where you live.

If you work at HQ ISAF and have something to report, please contact ACE CI at IVSN 1245 to report any suspicious activities or security violations.