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The Main Effort

Newsletter of ARSIC-South
Col. William C. Hix, Commanding



AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE TRAINEES ADDED TO BIOMETRICS DATABASE

Story & photos by
1st Lt. Gianni Bove
Deputy J2, ARSIC-S

Kandahar --- On a recent visit to the Regional Police Advisory Command (RPAC) at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Scorpion, I assisted in the biometrics enrollment program where we retrieved information on over 370 Afghan National Policemen (ANP).

The policemen are currently attending Focused District Development (FDD) training. During FDD, the ANP will learn basic police techniques and procedures resulting in ANP professional development and a better trained police force.

Biometrics data was collected during the enrollment with the help of a device known as the Handheld Inter-agency Identity Detection Equipment (HIIDE). The HIIDE device provides an untethered biometrics verification capability. The HIIDE can capture, transmit, store, share, retrieve, match, and display biometrics data to



1st Lt. Gianni Bove retrieves information on an ANP member's fingerprint recently at Kandahar Regional Training Center

identify known persons of interest.

A term derived from ancient Greek: 'bios' meaning 'life' and



1st Lt. Bove scans the retina of a new ANP recently at the Kandahar Regional Training Center

'metric', 'to measure' – biometrics embraces a range of techniques such as fingerprinting, photography and iris scanning for identity verification using physical data.

Why is Biometrics so important? One benefit of biometrics is the ability to enhance access control at a FOB. The goal of an access control system is to control where people, not credentials, can and cannot go, and only a biometric device truly

provides this capability to an end user. It can help verify the identity of individuals seeking to enter a FOB resulting in increased FOB security.

Another question to consider is: Are you who you claim to be?

This is a question that is increasingly being asked of individuals by the military in their bid to fight terrorism. Biometrics technology is now widely adopted as a front-line security measure for both identity verification and crime detection, and also offers an effective crime deterrent.

A word of *Thanks* from COMARSIC

We will soon farewell the great Army and Police mentor teams who have so ably served in southern Afghanistan over this past year. For this reason, I wanted to take a moment to reflect upon the progress made through your hard work and sacrifice and that of your loved ones at home. So with the advantage of hindsight and having been in Afghanistan longer than most, let me offer a few observations on your achievements.

The Afghan Army's 205 Corps is now operationally focused and increasingly capable of independent action. The number of Afghan battalions capable of operating independently has doubled. Army units across the south have nearly completed transition to the M-16 rifle, now integrate Afghan helicopters into operations, and utilize their airplanes for support. Independence is evident in operations large and small. The Afghan Army successfully responded to instability around Kandahar City in June and last month in Lashkar Gah. In both cases, the Afghan Army led major operations. Likewise, the Army in Zabul is a lynchpin for security and development. The Afghan brigade has led the way in wheat distribution and other key projects as well as in fighting the enemy. Most recently in northern Zabul, it effectively cleared a town without Coalition assistance. The Army would have been hard pressed to have

achieved any of this, and more a year ago.

While the Afghan Army has had five years to develop, the Afghan Police did not start to reform until the summer of 2007. Our police mentors were really on the front end of this effort and provided the impetus for significant progress. Some 1,500 Afghan Police were trained through the Focused District Development program, with graduation rates increasing by 55%. In districts reformed by Focused District Development, Afghan civilian casualties fell by more than half and Police casualties have dropped as well. Moreover, when crisis struck in the city of Lashkar Gah, hundreds of police and many of our Police Mentor Teams responded. Their arrival quelled panic among the people and was instrumental in driving the Taliban away from the Helmand Province capital. These encouraging results and many more were made possible by you.

As I look back on your service here, I am continually humbled by your professionalism and sacrifice. Whenever I visit the various forward operating bases, I see courageous, disciplined teams forging bonds through shared hardship and sacrifice and working together with our Afghan partners in good times and bad to crush a determined enemy.

Sadly, we must pause to mourn the loss of our 26 fallen warriors, heroes all. While we mourn their loss, we must also thank God that such men exist. Indeed, the safety of our nation and our freedoms depend on the grit and determination of such men. We offer our deepest condolences to their loved ones and prayers for God's blessing on them in their grief. It is our wish that they find solace in the memories of their loved ones, share our boundless pride in their courageous service to our nation, and are reassured in the knowledge that they will always be missed and will always be remembered by their comrades who count themselves lucky to have served with them in here in Afghanistan.

I am proud to serve in this great and unique outfit. Your actions, while often unsung, are truly inspiring. Through the success of your actions and those of your Afghan counter parts, the enemy will not only be defeated, but the nation of Afghanistan will be able to sustain the security and stability necessary to provide freedom, hope, security, safety, development, and opportunity for the Afghan people.

With great respect and admiration,
Col. Bill Hix, Commander

Police Mentor Teams Receive Thanks for Hard Work in Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province

Lashkar Gah— Thirteen members from Police Mentor Teams from the Kandahar and Helmand Provinces were recently invited to dinner here with the Deputy Governor of Helmand Province, Abdul Sattar. The teams were instrumental in providing mentorship and training of the Afghan National Police during twelve days of continuous operations to push the Taliban out of here. The Taliban were attempting to take over the town in an effort to seize control and use the region as a springboard for further operations.

"After a three-hour "tic" (troops in contact), Deputy Governor Sattar invited the men from Crazy Horse and War Hog to a large feast in thanks to them for their oversight in helping to push the Taliban back. Col. John Cuddy, Regional Police Advisory Command Commander was in attendance along with Brig. Gen. Mirwais, Regional Deputy Commander of the Afghan National Police; Lt. Col. Joe Martini, Provincial Police Mentor Team Leader; and others to celebrate their feat.



Dedication: Forward Operating Base Walton

Photo by: Maj. Roy Hunter, RPAC
Executive Officer

Kandahar— In remembrance of Lt. Col. James Walton and his fellow comrades who gave their lives on June 21, 2008 after a complex attack involving an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack, FOB Walton was dedicated here. During the somber ceremony recently, the camp known formerly as Camp Georgia and the Joint Readiness Coordination Center (JRCC) has been officially named in honor of the Lt. Col. who was well-liked and looked up to by anyone he came across during his time here in southern Afghanistan. "These things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice" the inscription on the marble plaque reads. The dedication to Lt. Col. Walton also commemorates the lives of Sgt. Andrew Seabrooks, Spc. Nelson Rodriguez-Ramirez, and Spc. Anthony Mangano.





Command Sergeant Major's Corner



**By Cmd. Sgt Maj. Corey Cush
ARSIC-South**

Leaders and NCOs',
In this edition of my "Corner" I am discussing the proper setting of the weapon headspace and timing (H&T) of the M2 .50-caliber machine gun. The proper setting of the H&T procedures are contained in Field Manual (FM) 23-65 and Training Manual (TM) 9-1005-213-10.

We are experiencing an extremely high number of avoidable Soldier injuries from improper setting of weapon headspace and timing on the .50 caliber machine gun. In FY 07, 25 out of 42 reported malfunctions of the machine gun were due to improper setting of H&T. To date in FY 08, improper setting of H&T has been responsible for 44 out of 63 reported malfunctions. Many of these malfunctions have resulted in serious injuries including the loss of fingers, shrapnel wounds, burns, and fractures. This does not include the loss of manpower, degraded unit readiness and destruction or damage to the machine gun. NCOs must ensure our Warriors:
Are trained in preparing the M2 machine gun for use, including correct setting of H&T.

Verify correct H&T after assembly, before firing, and after replacing the barrel. Failure to follow the step-by-step procedures of TM 9-1005-213-10 (with Change 2, dated 2 February 2007), Work Package (WP) 0005 and WP 0006, will result in ruptured cartridge cases and damage to the machine gun and may result in death or injury to the gunner or gun crew.

Use proper H&T gage and verify that the gage is in good condition. Gages for the M2 and M3 (aircraft mounted) .50-caliber weapons systems are not interchangeable. Warriors must ensure they use the proper gage for the weapon system on which they are setting the H&T. To ensure accuracy the gage must have a current calibration and must not be bent, rusted or pitted.

Are trained to immediately stop firing at the first sign of a timing or headspace malfunction. That they clear the weapon and ensure proper H&T if they experience a stoppage or malfunction during firing that produces a ruptured or bulged cartridge case, or notice the timing of the weapon becoming faster or slower.

To eliminate the need for users to set H&T, PM Soldiers Weapons is develop-

ing two versions of the M2 machine gun: a "quick-change" barrel, to be fielded in April 2010, and a lightweight variant (half of the current M2 weight) which will augment the M2 with a fielding date of 2012. Both configurations will have fixed H&T that direct support personnel will set, eliminating the need for adjustments by Soldiers in the field.

The M2 machine gun is a valuable and heavily used weapon here in Afghanistan. The proper handling and use of an assigned weapon and assigned crew served weapons are basic Soldier skills.

All NCOs are responsible for ensuring that each Soldier assigned to operate these weapon systems knows the proper procedures for preparing them for use, receives thorough training in the application of those procedures, and follows them in detailed order, each and every time they employ the M2 or M3 machine gun.

Only through such conscientious leadership actions can leaders reverse and eliminate this accident trend. Leaders and NCOs', let's make certain our Warriors are properly trained and led. Hooah!



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE: The Good Word

**By Lt. Col. Thomas Behling
Chaplain, ARSIC-South**



Honor – Live up to all the Army values. FM 7-21.3 says of honor; "When we talk about 'living up to' something, we mean being worthy of it. We must make choices, decisions, and actions based on the Army core values. Nowhere in our values training does it become more important to emphasize the difference between 'knowing' the values and 'living' them than when we discuss the value of honor. Honor is a matter of carrying out, and living the values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity, and personal courage in everything we do."

The apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippian church speaks of an honorable friend and co-worker. "But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me."

Paul told that church they should respect and honor his friend because he was faithful. Epaphroditus lived up to the Christian values that Paul had been preaching. He was even willing to risk his life for what he believed in. He accepted a set of values and attempted to live up to and adhere to those values.

How do we live a life of honor? The Soldier's Guide gives the following guidance: "As an individual with honor do the following: Develop and maintain a keen sense of ethical conduct; adhere to a public code of professional Army values; identify with the ideals embodied in the Army values; and realize that your actions reflect on the unit and soldiers around you and act accordingly."

When we accept and incorporate the Army values in our lives and live accordingly, we too will then live an honorable life. Honor is one of the most highly regarded values in our Army. It is no accident that our Nation's highest military award is named The Medal of Honor.

Camp at Forward Operating Base Dedicated to Fallen Soldier

Story and Photos By ARSIC-South PAO, 1st Lt. Amy Bonanno

Lashkar Gah— Formerly known as Camp Falcon, the American compound at the British base here, was recently renamed in honor of a fallen comrade.

An improvised explosive device (IED) took the life of Cpl. Scott Dimond, on October 13, 2008, in honor of his life the Camp here was recently dedicated to honor his memory.

At the dedication ceremony recently, Lt. Col. Joe Martini, the Helmand Provincial Lead Mentor, said, “Cpl. Scott G. Dimond was the consummate professional. Cpl. Dimond is no longer with us, but his sacrifice here in Afghanistan will never be forgotten. This marble tablet serves as a reminder of Scott and his dedication to the mission to bring peace and security to the people of Afghanistan. I hereby rename Camp Falcon, Camp Dimond.”

Corporal Scott G. Dimond, 39, of Franklin, New Hampshire was killed in

action while the convoy he was traveling in came under attack in Kandahar City, Afghanistan. Cpl. Dimond was assigned to Charlie Company, 3rd of the 172nd Mountain Infantry Regiment of the New Hampshire Army Guard.



Cpl. Dimond was a Police Mentor Team (PMT) member of ‘Easy Rider,’ helping to mentor the Afghan Border Police. After graduating from Franklin High School, he served on the

Franklin Police force for 18 years as an Officer and a Sergeant. After retiring from the police force in 2006, he joined the Army National Guard.

Cpl. Dimond outdid other Guardsmen during rigorous training prior to mobilizing to southern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, despite being more than twice the age of many other soldiers. Cpl. Dimond began taking Pre-Med courses prior to leaving for Afghanistan in the hopes he could earn a nursing degree and work alongside his mother caring for aged and injured veterans.

Cpl. Dimond will be remembered for being a dedicated father and police officer. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and his four children: Ashlee, Luke, Alexis, and Madison.

“Scott, you are missed by all of us, served with honor with us and will not be forgotten by any of us,” Lt. Col. Martini concluded.

Confiscated Drugs Go ‘Up in Smoke’

**Story by Lt. Col. Bruno Plourde, RC(S) Liaison Officer to RPAC-South
Photos by Maj. Roy Hunter, Executive Officer, RPAC-South**

FOB Walton— Recently Afghan national law enforcement agencies destroyed seized narcotics here, at the Regional Police Headquarters of the Afghan National Police. Present to watch the seized narcotics go ‘up in smoke’ were the Provincial Governor, Rahmatullah Raufi, the Regional chief of police, Brig. Gen. Ghulam Ali Wahdat, local Afghan commanders and Afghan government officials, members of the Regional Police Advisory Command- South led by Col. John Cuddy, the Commander, to witness more that 40 tons of narcotics and transformation products being destroyed.

The drugs and related products destroyed were the result of the collaborative work of the Afghan National Police, the Counter-Narcotic Ministry, the National Development Strategy (NDS), and Afghan Border Police during the last few years. All illegal drugs (heroin, opium, hashish) and other chemicals were seized during police operations in the different districts of Kandahar Province.

This event highlights the success, dedication, and the enduring and collaborative efforts of Afghan Government law enforcement officials in the Kandahar province in their struggle to provide their citizens a drug free, more secure, and stable homeland.



Official breakdown of the load: 140 kg - Heroin; 860 kg – Opium; 9 483 kg – Hashish; 8 171 L – Acid; 22 510 kg – Various chemical products; Total: **41, 174 kg**

Voter Registration Succeeding in Day Kundi Province

Article by
1st Lt. Amy Bonanno, PAO
for ARSIC-South

Photos by: Maj. Thomas McGloine,
G3 Mentor, RCAC-South

Day Kundi Province-- The Afghan National Army (ANA) has a large role to play by providing security for the voter registration process that has been happening across the country. Planning meetings have been ongoing since June where Afghan planners, mentored by their American and Coalition counterparts have spent over a thousand man-hours to provide the right plan to provide security. This will allow voters here and soon, in other parts of southern Afghanistan, to register and later, vote in elections.

Quite a phenomenal undertaking. And it's working, with extraordinary success.

The key to the success of the mission? Coalition partners, U.S.-led forces, members of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and in particular the Afghan National Police (ANP) have diligently worked to create a robust security plan with the ANA.

Recently, five coalition members along with the 'G3' or Operations Mentor, Maj. Tom McGloine, flew into Day Kundi to help oversee and mentor the security at the registration site.

"What's amazing about the voter registration this year, is that the ANA and ANP are reaching out into provinces that haven't seen military or government support in a long time," said Maj. McGloine.

Currently voter registration is in the first Afghan villagers came out in droves.



Members of the ANA, RC-South, and ANP conduct a joint back brief rock drill

phase, of four phases total.

The ANA and ANP have energetically created a security plan whereby they have prepared a plan, worked through the potential spectrum of threats. The ANA and ANP fittingly worked with the tribal leaders here to liaison with



The ANA Liaison Team waits for a second lift to bring them into Nili, Daykundi

them to ensure the registration announcement was sent to as many villagers as possible.

The ANA lived in a local ANP police headquarters throughout the 30-day registration process. A sign the two former adversaries are working together, agreeably.

Due to the size of the province here, with ten districts covering 15 hours worth of driving from one end to the other, Regional Command- South provided satellite cell phones to allow the Afghan forces to speak with one another with ease throughout the operation. Twenty coalition members deployed here with 50-man ANA teams to continue mentoring and to provide additional support as needed.

Throughout the operation, the ANA has provided a quick reaction force, standing by all day and night to provide extra security. In addition, the ANA provided a liaison at the Regional Operations Coordination Center (OCCR).

ISAF has provided aircraft enablers such as mortars, medics, engineers, and more in an effort to support the voter registration mission. A feat bearing many footprints, all determined to see this succeed.

"Maj. McGloine has been instrumental in implementing the mentoring process throughout the voter registration planning," complimented Col. Paul Somersall, Regional Corps Advisory Commander.

While United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has been tracking the numbers of Afghan voters registered, many believe over 600 have been registered to date here.

The Main Effort is the official publication of the Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command– South, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. The views and opinions expressed in *The Main Effort* are not necessarily those of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, or the departments of the Army, Air Force, or Navy. *The Main Effort* is a monthly publication distributed to deployed servicemen and women throughout Afghanistan via the Internet on our Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command– South web site at <http://arsicsouth7.wordpress.com>. All questions, comments and suggestions should be submitted via e-mail to:

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Photos from October 2008

ANA Mechanics Maintenance Course



Spc's Scurry and Jolly Re-Enlist!



Photos from November & December 2008

