



Capt. Eric Reschke, ANSF-Development NPCC, congratulates a recent graduate from the NPCC map reading course. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Shelley 29th ANSF-DEV

Map Reading Course at NPCC

By: Lt. Col. James Shelley

On January 15, 2012, the National Police Coordination Center (NPCC) presented course completion certificates to more than eighty Afghan watchkeepers assigned to the NPCC. The course was developed, resourced, and presented by Capt. Eric Reschke who identified a need for the watchkeepers to develop basic map reading skills. The ten hour course covered understanding map symbols, identifying terrain features, and being able to locate positions using the Military Grid Reference System (MGRS). This skillset will greatly improve the interoperability of NPCC watchkeepers when communicating with their National Military Command Center (NMCC) and IJC Combined Joint Operations Center (CJOC) counterparts. General Rahman, the Afghan Deputy Minister of Interior, signed a certificate of appreciation for Capt. Reschke's initiative at improving the professionalism of the NPCC Watch.

In general, the Afghan National Police, like many police agencies throughout the world, do not use the MGRS when identifying locations of incidents. Other Afghan National Security Forces and coalition military forces, however, do use MGRS. Developing this skill is critical when communicating locations in an accurate and timely manner, particularly when speed and precision may be the difference between success and failure in a security operation. Capt. Reschke's personal initiative and diligence is characteristic of the bond that has developed between coalition personnel and their Afghan partners.

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Grappling with “Moe”

By: Maj. Wesley Parmer

There are warriors among us. An expanding group of Soldiers meet on the IJC’s main gym wrestling mats several times a week to enhance their combative skills. Their instructor is the 29th Infantry Division’s own Maj. John “Moe” Moses.

Moses is assigned to the Afghan National Security Forces Development team (ANSF -DEV) and serves as the Afghan National Police (ANP) planner and subject matter expert within International Security Assistance Force Joint Command (IJC) Future Operations (FUOPS).

When he’s not grappling with the myriad of issues facing the ANP as the coalition forces strive to put Afghans in the lead for the security of Afghanistan, he’s facing off with students and sparring partners on the mats.

“A while back I saw some guys training in the gym and saw an opportunity for me to help with the quality of their training,” said Moses. “As it turns out, they weren’t really interested in my help, so I decided to start my own group.” (See Page 4, MOE)



Maj. John Moses (left) demonstrates an arm-hold technique with German Lt. Col. Jürgen Schönhöfer during a Jan 25 training session in Kabul, Afghanistan.

A Tale of One Lieutenant....

By: Maj. Colette Topfer

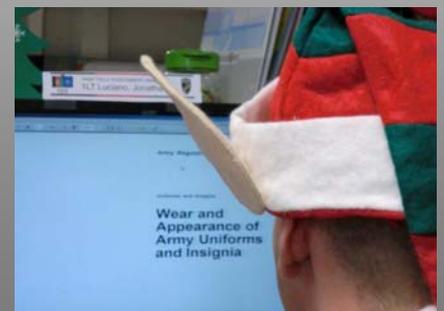
Hometown: Centreville, VA
College: West Virginia University “Mountaineers”
Degree: Bachelor of Sci. in Business Administration (Management Information Systems)
Civilian Occupation: (IT) Associate Infrastructure Engineer Consultant
Time in Service: 8 years



Operation Enduring Freedom 2011-2012 and the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) Development team from the 29th ID “Tribe” has a very diverse team made up of various positions and ranks ranging from brigadier general all the way down to our one lieutenant. 1st Lt. Jonathan “Lucky” Luciano is the Tribe’s last remaining lieutenant awaiting his upcoming promotion to captain. As the lone lieutenant, he works very hard in the Campaign and Transition Assessments Group (CTAG).

Luciano performs a variety of duties in support of the CTAG mission. After completing drivers training, he became a primary driver for cruising the crowded and chaotic streets of Kabul. With his computer background, Luciano makes gathering and analyzing ANSF data look easy and effortless. His automation of data sheets that feed into various required monthly and quarterly reports has made the office an efficient, fine-tuned machine which allows the team more travel time to visit various units and locations to promote assessments. Within the team, he single-handedly mentors the Afghan Assessments Cell to ensure they understand the processes and procedures that go into assessing units across the Afghan National Army. Among all the duties associated with the CTAG office, he also has a couple of additional duties around ISAF Joint Command (IJC) Headquarters. Luciano is a founding member of the “Lieutenant Club” made up of the handful of the last remaining lieutenants from various units awaiting the day they finally receive that important promotion to captain. Attending his weekly meetings at the local Thai restaurant, they plan the week’s social events and how the lieutenants can take over IJC.

Luciano is also our test subject for any questions concerning Army Regulation 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army uniforms and Insignia) On a daily basis he manages to get the unwanted attention of the command sergeants major around post making corrections while he continues to push the boundaries of what he can and cannot wear.



Lt. LUCIANO researches AR 670-1.



National Military Command Center (NMCC)

By Maj. Gavin Boyd and Lt. Col. Cole, 29th ID ANSF Development, NMCC

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Five officers from the Virginia and Maryland National Guard, part of the storied 29th Infantry Division's 65-person deployment here in the fall, are assigned to Afghanistan's National Military Command Center (NMCC) where they advise and assist on national military issues.

One such officer is Maj. David "Gavin" Boyd, a Virginian who works as an associate laboratory director with the Drug Enforcement Administration back in the states. "When I was told last May that I would be working at the national level operations center, I was excited," said Boyd.

Here Boyd works "shona-ba-shona", the Afghan phrase for shoulder-to-shoulder, with three Afghan liaison officers from the Afghan Air Force. Although a Medical Service Corps officer by trade, he has quickly made an impact at the center.

"I'm not an aviator, but my overall experiences and training as an Army staff officer have given me a strong foundation. With a little assistance from my Afghan counterparts and other aviation advisors, I got up-to-speed in a few weeks and now am comfortable with my role here," said Boyd.

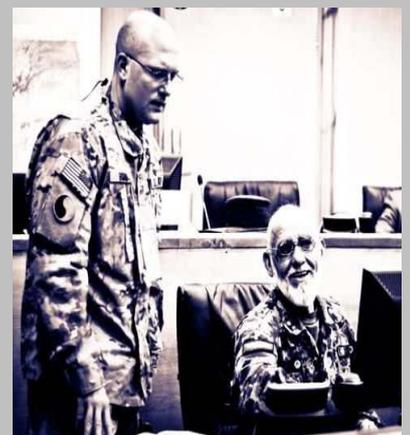
This is not the first taste of Afghanistan for all of the team. Maj. Jon Black, from Salisbury, Md., was here two years ago advising Afghan police at the local level. "I had to make some adjustments after I got here this time," said Black. "My experience before was more of in-the-field working with front-line police officers. Now I'm working at the strategic level with senior Afghan officers," he said.

Maryland native, Lt. Col. Chris Cole, who serves as the deputy for the NMCC Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) Development team, values the experience that Black and other members of the team bring to the mission. "Jon's experience was a great asset for our team. Everyone kept asking him questions all during our train-up. He helped us get in a good mindset, and calmed a few nerves," said Cole.

At home, Black works as the safety director for the American Paving Corporation Highway Construction Company and is a volunteer assistant chief fire fighter for the Salisbury Fire Department. At NMCC, he works as the senior watch keeper and logistics advisor. "My background in operations has helped me tremendously in my role

as Watchkeeper," says Black, "but I've had to grapple a bit more with the logistics part of my job."

Helping the Afghans to take advantage of information systems is Maryland native, Maj. Galo "Rob" Bravo. "The Afghan Officers I work with are intelligent and motivated, but computers are something new to many of them," said Bravo. Fortunately, his work back home at the National Guard Bureau has equipped him with the necessary computer skills to have a positive impact here. "I spent the first couple of months just observing and trying to take everything in. (See Page 5, NMCC)



Maj. Boyd and Col. Lahore review an Air Mission Request at the Center

Moe...

From Page 2.

Everyone who knows him will attest to the fact that Moses doesn't have any trouble meeting new people and striking up conversation. It wasn't long until he had recruited a group of students ranging from the inexperienced to the advanced martial artist. One such novice student is German Lt. Col. Jürgen Schönhöfer, from Nuremburg, who works with Moses in IJC FUOPS as a Regional Command North planner.

"I wanted to train with him in order to learn some useful defense skills and to have fun," said Schönhöfer, who just completed his first session with Moses and the group Jan 25.

Moses has broad experience with training in the martial arts. After 13 years of study, he holds a purple belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a Japanese-originated system that focuses on ground fighting, and has been awarded a brown sash in Wing Chun Kung Fu. Wing Chun, literally translated meaning "spring chant," is named for its founder and is also known as the "Crane-Snake" style.

Legend states that this style of Kung Fu originated from a nun of the Shaolin Sect, Wing-Chun, who improvised the form after witnessing a confrontation between a crane and a snake. The close-range combat Chinese martial art is also a form of self-defense that incorporates striking and grappling, with its movements designed to empower a smaller or weaker fighter against a stronger opponent.

These credentials alone would place Moses well above his peers when it comes to the martial arts, but his skills have even greater depth. As a U.S. Army Combatives Level II Instructor, he has been well-trained for the role he has assumed with his fellow Soldiers here at IJC. Moses is also an apprentice instructor in Filipino martial arts and has studied Thai boxing and Jeet Kune Do, a form designed by Bruce Lee that combines aspects of many different martial arts and focuses on accentuating the natural strengths and talents of each individual student. Lee expressed the spirit of this style with his famous mantra to "be like water," referring to the adaptive and fluid nature of Jeet Kune Do.

As if all of that didn't already make him a formidable opponent, Moses also has two years experience in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) cage fighting.

The international composition of the student group is as varied as the skill level of its participants, which can create some challenges for Moses as an instructor.



Maj. Moses, ANSF-DEV, instructs grappling at the dojo at NKAIA.



Maj. Moses, ANSF-DEV, gets the tap out during a round of grappling.

Due to the varying lengths and overlapping nature of the deployments for coalition personnel, people come and go fairly regularly, so the class is a constant mix of basic and advanced techniques.

"Aspects of the training include street-fighting techniques that have some very practical applications in combat, should you ever find yourself knocked down or in a stand-up engagement with an adversary," said Moses. "Additionally, the training includes sport rules-based competition techniques that could lead our club to possibly train and compete with a similar group that has formed at Camp Eggers."

While there probably are not any plans to install an MMA octagon any-time soon, whether in practice or competition, these warriors, led by Maj. John Moses, will no doubt be ready to accept any challenge that comes their way.

What does QAWM mean?

Qawm is an Arabic term used in Afghanistan to refer to any form of solidarity. It may be based on kinship, residence or occupation. It is sometimes referred to as one's "Tribe." One's qawm identity is based on kinship, residence, and sometimes occupation.

Afghans identify themselves by qawm, rather than by Tribe or nationality. Although "qawm" is sometimes translated into English as "Tribe," the qawm relationship may cross tribal or even ethnic boundaries. The qawm is the basic unit of social community in Afghanistan, which has added to the challenge of creating a national identity in that nation. A qawm is typically governed by jirga or shura (a council or assembly of elder males).

NMCC ...

29th Infantry Division Advisors

From Page 3, NMCC.



Capt. Jerry Huang receives an award at NMCC.

Now I am involved in several important initiatives to help my Afghan co-workers increase their situational awareness through the use of IT systems," he said. Bravo is helping the center stand-up a vehicle tracking system that displays location and type of vehicles in the Afghan Army. "Army commanders always want to know where their Soldiers are. This system provides that situational awareness", Bravo said.

Maj. Patrick "Chase" Burnett, from Maryland, works directly with the Afghan personnel staff, corps liaison, and plans officers to develop various high profile personnel reports including casualty, absent without leave (AWOL), and strength reports. Burnett also provides guidance and recommendations to the senior advisor at the center on team composition, evaluation reports and awards.

"I have worked personnel management back in the Maryland Guard, so I feel like I am making an immediate and relevant impact," said Burnett. "Learning here is a two way street. I tell them about policy and process and they tell me about patience and endurance," he said.

When not working personnel issues at the center, Burnett is developing quite the reputation as a soccer player on the undefeated (well almost) NMCC intramural team. Considering the international flavor of the team and the league, he had to step up his game and is now considered a potent force on the field.



Maj. Burnett watching a NMCC shift change.

General Staff back home has helped me to understand what a Joint Operations Center should do."

The Afghan colonel has a great reputation as a knowledgeable and efficient officer. "I just try to show Col. Qadir different options, different ways of doing business" said Cole. "Sometimes he takes my advice, sometimes he doesn't."

And that is all right with Cole. In addition to working with Col. Qadir, Cole has also worked as team chief, acting deputy director and acting director. "It's a team effort," said Cole. "It is exciting to work here. It's a diverse job and you get to work with such a diverse group of people."

The 29th ID advisors are now four months into their jobs and have assisted the Afghans with providing security for several significant events, to include a traditional Aghan leadership council, known as a Loya Jirga, the dedication of the Ghazi Olympic Stadium, the dedication of the Kabul Public Library, and the opening of the Parliament.

With each completed operation, the Afghan National Army takes over more and more responsibility for its own security. "If we do our job right, we'll work ourselves right out of a job." Burnett said.



Maj. Bravo working with Col Qadir, NMCC Director on the JOC floor

Cole, who is employed as a Facilities Management Officer for the Maryland National Guard, is directly partnered at the center with Director of Operations, Col. Ramani Qadir.

"It's fulfilling to be in a position where we not only train and advise, but also help with real time Afghan National Security Force operations. We help bring the coalition forces together with our Afghan partners," said Cole. "My experience on a



Lt. Col. Cole reviews contract requirements for the new Afghan Ministry of Defense building.

An Interview with ANSF-Development CUOPS

By: Lt. Col. William Greer



Lt. Col. Donald "Larry" Thomsen
Hometown: Yorktown, Virginia
College: University of Connecticut, PHD and B.S. in Chemistry; Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, New York, Master of Science in Chemistry
Civilian Occupation: Senior Materials Research Engineer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Time in Service: 20 years
Branch: Engineer / Space Operations Officer

What do you do at IJC?

I work in Current Operations in the Combined Joint Operations Center as the Afghan National Army (ANA) expert. While in IJC CUOPS, I have been coordinating and leading different brainstorming sessions for solving issues related to the ANA. I track movements of ANA units after training to their duty station and track their performance in the field.

What is a Space Operations Officer?

In a nut shell, it is someone who utilizes satellites and other geospatial tools to help the commander plan and execute operations. I became a space operations officer during the 29th ID's transformation in 2006, because it complemented my civilian career. The Army provided me additional training in GPS, space weather effects on satellite operations, advanced mapping and imagery concepts, and commercial imagery resources. The training broadened my experience with satellite systems and their operations, as well as commercial imagery.

Tell us something about your work with NASA.

I work as a senior material research engineer researching new aerospace technologies for NASA space missions. I have patented two inventions; a flexible high temperature thermal sensor and a thermally driven piston with position control. Before leaving for active duty, I completed a new series of hybrid metal and composite radiation shields and a new thermal sensing system which have patent applications filed. The recent radiation shielding work was rewarding because of the teamwork involved in creating new samples and testing and the relevance to NASA's future space missions.



Flexible High Temperature Thermocouple

How has your civilian occupation helped you in your work here at IJC?

The 29th ID has officers of varying professional backgrounds: industry leaders, corporate managers, business men and women, attorneys, government civilian employees, and engineers. My experience with NASA involves research where scientists and engineers from various countries and background come together to solve problems. This is very much the same as working in IJC Headquarters. Also, I am able to use my knowledge of geospatial tools to help track ANA convoys, support inquiries that need three dimensional commercial imagery terrain maps, and troubleshoot GPS interference.

How will your work here at IJC help you with your civilian occupation?

While at IJC, I am learning staff planning and operational planning. I run a coordination meeting almost every night for 20 minutes using Adobe Connect. This has helped me become more organized, as I am required to develop the agenda each night. All updates have to be clearly articulated and allow for questions and comments by all participants. I coordinate movements amongst different battle space owners across the country. It is interesting because it is an international group involving representatives from all of our coalition partners across the country. I am also working with an Afghan liaison officer to coordinate convoy movements. I have also added input on a strategy of supporting Afghan Army development. I think this will be helpful when I get back home. I sit on the operations floor, so it helps getting an idea of the big picture from the daily events over time. I have been looking at trends that can be picked out and researched for assessing progress. This has been one of the more valuable experiences I will take back to my civilian work. At NASA, I will be better at running meetings and coordinating proposal planning for the projects that I lead.