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Photo courtesy of Capt. Adam Tiffen, 29th ID

Tribe Members Visit Two Kabul Community Agencies

Members of the 29th ID Security Partnering (SYP) Team recently participated in two community visits as part of Operation Outreach.

During the first visit, Col. Linda Singh, accompanied by Maj. Colette Topfer, Maj. Hajja Sahid-Hicks, Maj. Gustavo Ramirez, Sgt. Maj. Steven Cutsail, Mr. Hassibollah Eltezam and Mr. Mike Wetzler, visited an Afghan Women's Educational Center to distribute clothes and school supplies.

The Afghan Women's Educational Center was established in 1991 by a group of Afghan women to provide a safe haven for women refugees in the Islamabad area. Their network today spans across seven provinces and is partnered with organizations in 14 other provinces. The educational centers provide a wide variety of services to women and children in an environment that is free from violence and discrimination.

Many seeking support at the educational center are widows and impoverished children who must often work at a young age to support their family. During the visit, the SYP team toured the educational center with Ms. Anna Hacker and met with 16 Afghan women attending literacy classes. The SYP Team also visited five classrooms of students, handed out school supplies for each student, and observed class instruction. The SYP Team was treated to a performance by the students, followed by big smiles, handshakes and hugs, and wrapped up the visit by taking a group photo with the senior female class.

The second community visit took the 29th ID Security Partnering Team, including Col. Linda Singh, Capt. Adam Tiffen, Sgt. 1st Class Fanny Marini, Mr. Mike Wetzler, Ms. Ellen Murphy, Ms. Diana Lanzelotte and Mr. Hassibollah Eltezam, to a displaced-persons camp in East Kabul. (See Visits on Page 2)



Photo left: 29th ID SYP Team members visit The Afghan Women's Educational Center 6 Dec. in Kabul, Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of Maj. Hajja Sahid-Hicks, 29th ID SYP.

Visits from page 1

The families living there are largely Pashtun refugees. These families live in makeshift tents, have no access to clean water and use whatever resources they can to support themselves. While these families have little, they were in high spirits and very excited by the visit of the SYP Team.

The SYP Team distributed warm clothing, blankets, and dozens of pairs of shoes, sneakers, and boots. The children patiently lined up to receive their shoes, coats, hats, and toys, and were very inquisitive about their visitors. They were also very excited by the handouts of chocolate and candy, and shrieked with delight when handfuls of candy were thrown into the air for them to catch. It was a very rewarding experience for the SYP Team to see the children clutching a new pair of shoes or a woolen hat, and knowing that the donations will help make their lives a little easier during the difficult winter ahead. For more information visit www.awec.info.

Interview with Maj. Robert Fessock, 29th ID SYP, Kabul City Police LNO



Hometown/College: South Plainfield, NJ/Towson University Graduate

Civilian Occupation: Washington D.C. Police Officer

Time in Service: 12 years

Q: As a 29th SYP Police LNO, what is your mission at Kabul City Police Center (KCPC)?

A: My duties include work with counter-narcotics, kidnapping investigations, and police operations teams in the KCPC. My major objectives include standardizing and improving evidence collection and processing, narcotics seizures, and basic police report writing.

Q: What is the best part of your job at KCPC?

A: I enjoy the opportunity to work with other Services like the Navy and Air Force, and working with special units of the Afghan National Police (ANP). Every day is a learning experience in this duty position.

Q: What do you miss most about home?

A: I miss my children, family, and friends the most, but also the sense of security that we take for granted at home. I hope we can help our Afghan partners build a lasting secure environment here in Kabul.

Q: How does your civilian occupation and experience help in the duties at KCPC?

A: The training, education, and experiences in the DCPD gives me a solid foundation of law enforcement to mentor and assist the police officers of KCPC.

Q: What do you hope are some outcomes at KCPC as a result of your deployment?

A: The hope is that all of our efforts lead to a safer community here in Afghanistan with a professional police force protecting the citizens of Kabul.



29th SYP Artillerymen Validate ANA Tolley at Pol-e-Charki

Sgt. 1st Class Russell Myers and Maj. Nat Williams, artillerymen from the 29th ID Security Partnering Team, assisted the Validation Transition Team (VTT) in the final evaluation of the combat support (CS) kandak (battalion) for the 3rd Brigade, 201st "Sylab" Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA). The four-day exercise began 1 Dec at the ANA training area at Pol-e-Charki, just outside of Kabul City. The VTT assessed the CS Kandak during a situational tactical exercise that included survivability tasks, route and zone reconnaissance, artillery support, and tactical reporting. The validation team evaluated 20 tasks from the ANA Mission Training Plans (MTPs), utilizing task checklists from the Training and Evaluation Outlines (T&EOs).

Combat support kandaks in the ANA consist of a reconnaissance coy (company), an engineer coy, an artillery tolay (battery) and a fourth coy, consisting of a signal platoon, a fire support platoon, and other combat service support assets.

Kandak leaders developed a plan using the military decision making process (MDMP), delivered the operational plan (OPLAN) to their subordinate coys, then rehearsed and executed their mission. On the final day of the exercise, all elements of the combat

support (CS) kandak were evaluated individually and collectively on their ability to properly execute the commander's OPLAN. The unit moved from their staging areas to the remains of an old Soviet base. This location served as the forward operating base for the kandak and the fire base for the artillery tolay.

After a morning full of activity testing the kandak's other units' abilities to execute the commander's OPLAN, the very eager firing element was ready to perform. The tolay recently fielded four D30 122mm towed howitzers and a coalition team of officers and Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) from Croatia and France mentored the unit through training and validation.

Sgt. 1st Class Myers and Maj. Williams evaluated the artillery in the areas on gunnery and fire support. The tolay quickly moved into their position and prepared the howitzers and fire direction center (FDC) for action. Concurrently, the forward observers accompanied the reconnaissance elements to the forward observation post as the tolay was continuing position improvement within their fire base. Just as the action began to build to a crescendo, a safety delay from elements not in training caused the entire operation to halt. As with artillery training anywhere in the world; safety is paramount. After

this short delay, the tolay commander received the call-for-fire from the forward observers. The FDC and gun line moved in a coordinated and synchronized exercise familiar to any artilleryman, and the fire mission began. When the smoke cleared, the tolay had engaged and destroyed their target, thus validating their ability to mass fires.

By the end of the day, the tolay demonstrated that they could perform the basic tasks that any artillery unit in the world must be able to do; "shoot, move and communicate". The unit performed all artillery tasks proficiently and professionally, while displaying a level of discipline which shall serve them and their command well in the future performance of their mission. The evaluation was declared a success, and the CS Kandak of 3rd Bde, 1st Corp was deemed validated and ready to join the fight.

Photos on this page by Sgt. 1st Class Russell Myers



Mobile Strike Force Vehicles

SYP FUPLANS members coordinate with NTM-A for fielding and training of this critical asset.



training program and resources. Finally, the team received an orientation of the training area in which the MSF Kandaks will maneuver for their critical validation training with their advisor teams just prior to fielding.

The SYP continues to fulfill its mission of coordinating across the IJC to ensure that the development of the Afghan National Security Forces meets the needs of the coalition and the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. By getting on the ground “where the rubber meets the road” the SYP team ensures our planning efforts are “Making it Matter.”

Members of the 29th ID Security Partnering Team, Future Plans-ANA development cell met with their NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) partners Dec. 4 at Camp Blackhorse, located within the Pol-e-Charki ANA military complex on the eastern edge of Kabul. Col. Stuart Mellon, Maj. Jared Lake, Maj. Michael Mussio, Maj. John Martin, and other IJC members were there to coordinate with the NTM-A Branch School Campaign Transition and Assessments Group’s (CTAG) training plans and capacity in order to integrate IJC’s efforts to receive, support, and mentor the new units once they are fielded.

The visit began with a briefing by the NTM-A Branch School CTAG leadership outlining the training program and requirements. Key discussions focused on transition to IJC control and how to tailor the training program to tactical realities in the field. Following the briefing, the SYP team traveled to the site of the temporary armour branch school in Pol-e-Charki compound. Touring the facilities, the team received an orientation of the



Barker Promotion

Security Partnering Director Brig. Gen. Charles W. Whittington Jr., promotes Capt. Douglas Barker, a 29th ID SYP member, and FUOPS ABP Planner, to major at IJC HQs.



Silberman Promotion

Security Partnering Director Brig. Gen. Charles W. Whittington Jr., promotes Capt. Michael Silberman, a 29th ID SYP member and National Police Coordination Center Watch-keeper, to major at ISAF HQ.



A mobile strike force vehicle (MSF-V) (left), scheduled for fielding to the ANA is pictured beside the Armored Security Vehicle (ASV).

Battlefield Circulation

29th ID Security Partnering Visits Mazar-e-Sharif

Members of the 29th ID Security Partnering team travelled to Mazar-e-Sharif Nov. 29 to conduct key leader engagements with personnel from Regional Command North (RC-N). The team, led by Security Partnering Director Brig. Gen. Charles W. Whittington, Jr., met with primary Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) growth and development stakeholders in the region to gain a better understanding of their operations, discuss immediate and long-term issues and to identify areas where International Security Assistance Force Joint Command (IJC) and the RC-North Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) leadership can better synchronize efforts and communication to advance ANSF growth and development.

Brig. Gen. Amanullah Mubin, 209th Corps deputy commander, the senior Afghan National Army (ANA) representative present during the meetings, was joined by Hungarian Brig. Gen. Laszlo Szabo, RC-North chief of staff. Other key representatives included senior level Afghan development advisors and Operational Mentor Liaison Team (OMLT) leaders. The Security



29th ID SYP Director Brig. Gen. Charles W. Whittington, Jr., (right), meets with Brig. Gen. Amanullah Mubin, Deputy Commander of the Afghan National Army 209th Corps and Col. Walter Schulte, Senior Mentor during a visit to Mazar-e-Sharif. Photo: Capt. Adam Tiffen

Partnering team included Fusion Cell Director Lt. Col. Charles Blomquist, Senior Enlisted Advisor Sgt. Maj. Christopher Brock, ANSF Field Assessment Analyst Maj. Colette Topfer, and Capt. Adam Tiffen, aide de camp to the director.

The successful leader engagements addressed ANA infra-

structure issues, future manning projections, assessment metrics, and a way ahead on future contracted and OMLT mentoring relationships. Immediate impacts were made to improve ANA equipment fielding and leaders were able to identify areas to increase manning effectiveness throughout the region.

COMGFC and 29th ID Security Partnering GFC Visits Jalalabad

Thirty members of the Afghan Ground Forces Command (GFC) and their embedded advisors, to include seven members from the 29th ID SYP, conducted the first Commander Ground Forces Command (COMGFC) battlefield circulation trip 29 Nov. to Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Col. Lapthe Flora, Lt. Col. Doug Gagnon, Lt. Col. Dan Austin, Lt. Col. Lance Newby, Maj. Clay Allison, Capt. Sam Kimzey, and Capt. Keith Moran accompanied the COMGFC on two ANA Air Corps Mi17 helicopters to visit the 201st Corps area of operations.

The trip objectives included a survey of the corps' status and readiness, meeting with counterparts, and to view the layout of the ANA 201st Corps Joint Operations Center (JOC). The JOC is nearly identical to the GFC JOC, currently under construction. The visit started with a red-carpet welcome at the helicopter pad by the leadership of the 201st and Soldiers in full dress uniform. Next, the corps commander briefed the GFC leadership on subordinate unit locations and highlighted unit challenges and successes. The visitors



GFC during their visit to Mazar-e-Sharif Nov 29. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Robert Frick, 29th ID SYP

toured a medical facility and met with senior leadership from 1st Brigade, which is co-located with the corps headquarters. The visit concluded with a meal shortly before an early afternoon departure.

GFC Conducts First COMMEX

The Afghan Ground Forces Command (GFC) successfully completed a five-day communications exercise (COMMEX) Nov 23. The GFC conducted the exercise early in their train-up period, working towards the July 2012 goal of full operational capability. Once fully operational, GFC, a three-star level command, will serve as the command and control for the six Afghan corps and other subordinate units. The unit recently activated, received computers in August 2011 and organized a temporary Joint Operations Center (JOC) in September 2011. The COMMEX displayed the robust, reliable, and redundant communication capability essential for efficient command of subordinate units.

During the COMMEX, GFC staff sections communicated with subordinate unit counterparts and their Ministry of Defense counterparts using the PBX phone system, cell phones, and by email. The GFC G3 consolidated all contact information for development of phone books and email directories. Additionally, the commands communicated using the RT-7000 tactical high frequency radio system and GFC staff sections shared documents internally using the command's networked share drive. The GFC members conducted the exercise in the JOC where the vast majority of networked computers and phones exist. By the end of the exercise, the participants met all of the objectives which both proved the capability of communication systems and bolstered the GFC's confidence to reach out to outside organizations.



Lt. Gen. Murad Ali Murad, COMGFC, participates in the recent GFC COMMEX conducted in the Joint Operation Center. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Robert Frick.

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."

Afghans identify themselves by qawm, rather than by tribe or nationality. One's qawm identity is based on kinship, residence, and sometimes occupation. 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).

QAWM

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