



International Police Coordination Board Security Force Assistance Brief

By: Col. Stuart Mellon / Lt. Col. Mark Teel

Recently, the 29th ID ANSF Development members Col. Stu Mellon and Lt. Col. Mark Teel provided a briefing on the Security Force Assistance (SFA) concept to the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB). The purpose of the briefing was to educate the international police community on the upcoming changes to security assistance for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

The IPCB mission is to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach amongst the international community in support of the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Afghan National Police (ANP), which makes them a natural partner in pursuing improved oversight and distribution.

The member nations of the IBCB include: Australia, Canada, Denmark France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, The United Kingdom and The United States.

Several organizations are also voting members of the IPCB, including the MoI, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A), European Police Mission (EUPOL), UN Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA), International Security and Assistance Forces (ISAF), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the European Union Delegation. (Continued on Page 2, See IPBC)

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Cover Photo: The Security Force Assistance (SFA) concept brief to the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB).

On the Move

By: Lt. Col. Larry Thomsen



Consolidated Fielding Center in Kabul, Afghanistan

With the increasing focus on Afghans in the lead, unit training and subsequent convoys have gained significant emphasis at all levels of command. The Consolidated Fielding Center (CFC) is graduating units on a regular basis, sometimes as often as two or three a week. Each graduation requires a convoy movement. The ANSF Development Current Operations Team (CUOPS) is responsible for providing convoy support in order to ensure the convoy reaches their parent unit safely.

The CFC, located in Kabul Afghanistan, receives new equipment from National Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A) to train new Afghan National Army (ANA) units. The CFC gives collective training at the battalion (Kandak) or independent company (Coy) level. Upon graduation from the CFC, the new ANA unit deploys to join its higher headquarters in its future area of operations.

The units deploy from CFC to locations throughout Afghanistan, often traversing through multiple Regional Commands (RC). These moves can be quite lengthy and require extensive coordination for life support, route clearance, air medical evacuation, maintenance and quick reaction forces. For example, the movement from Kabul to RC West in Herat requires the most coordination for any movement. This movement is over a 1000 km in length and requires the unit to travel through 5 RCs, taking over a week.

CUOPS primary responsibility is to coordinate unit movement with the RCs. CUOPS works through the Partner Assistance Teams (PAT) assigned to the units, CFC, the National Military Coordination Center, IJC Deputy Chief of Operations and the RC's. CUOPS works with the representatives to coordinate the transfer of responsibility for support from

IPBC

From Front Page.

The UN Development Program (UNDP) and Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOFTA) are non-voting members.

The brief was met with keen interest from the IPCB members. The IPCB members were very interested in how they will be able to support the SFA concept in the future. Moving forward, Col. Mellon and Lt. Col. Teel will continue to engage all of our international partners in shaping the future under the SFA concept.



Col. Mellon during the Security Force Assistance (SFA) concept to the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB).

Importance of ANSF Development Field Assessments in Transition

By: Maj. Hajja Sahid-Hicks

The process used by the command to set the conditions and standards for the turn over of security lead responsibilities in Afghanistan from International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) is called "Transition." The 29th ID ANSF Development Field Assessments team plays a key role in the facilitation of the Transition process.



MG Aman, Brigadier Spencer, BG Whittington and Mr. Thaxton have a meeting at MoI to discuss the ANA assessment process.

The first step in the Transition process is the identification of the districts and provinces in Afghanistan that will undergo Transition first. Several factors, including security, governance, and development impact this decision. The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) Development Field Assessment is one of the driving factors in enabling ISAF to determine which prov-

inces will be considered. The ANSF Field Assessment monitors the capacity and functional capability of the ANSF to perform their mission, both the Afghan National Army (ANA) wartime mission, or the Afghan National Police stability mission.

When considering a district or a province for transition, various elements are considered to evaluate the suitability of the area for Transition. Conditions for Transition include the capacity of the ANSF and their ability to handle security operations and secure the population. Another consideration is whether the population is confident in the performance of the ANSF.

Once a district or province is selected for Transition, implementation plans are created for the selected district and provinces identifying specific milestones. The progression of the selected areas in reaching these milestones is monitored by the transition staff from GIROA, ANSF, ISAF, and the ISAF Joint Command (IJC). Assessments throughout the process are continuous, and the capabilities of the district or province are monitored and tracked for review by the board managing transition, the Joint Afghan NATO Integration Board (JANIB).

The 29th ID ANSF Development Field Assessments team provides the ANSF assessment data that monitors the progression of the ANSF and its operational effectiveness using the Commanders Unit Assessment Tool (CUAT). The data from the CUAT provides information on ANSF capacity and capabilities for each province in the Transition and Provincial Outlook Report (TPOR), which is a report that provides a provincial analysis of the ANSF capacity and capabilities as well as an overview and an analysis of the security, governance, and development of the GIROA.

MOVE

From Page 2.

Immediately prior to and during the unit's movement, CUOPS facilitates a daily movement meeting addressing the timings of the handovers. These meetings are critical because they ensure the proper support is supplied to the unit during the movement and allow all stakeholders to discuss important details, including unforeseen schedule changes or maintenance issues.

CUOPS has successfully handled deploying units from CFC to their parent unit for the last six months, substantially contributing to the ANSF ability to execute missions. This tracking and coordination will become even more critical as we move towards the spring fighting season.

U.S. Army Intermediate Level Education (ILE)

By: Maj. Paul Schreifels



Command and General Staff Officers College located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

The deployment of the 29th Infantry Division (ID) as the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command (IJC) Afghan National Security Forces Development Team (ANSF-Dev) offers an opportunity to examine the value of Army education as preparation for deployment, including U.S. Army Intermediate Level Education (ILE) and U.S. Army War College (AWC). In conjunction with a vast amount of experience, including work at the operational level, the 29th ID also has a very high military education completion rate. As a result, members of the 29th ID are a highly educated and experienced force rarely found in the U.S. Army National Guard.

Nearly two-thirds of the 29th ID “Tribe” (33 soldiers) have completed ILE either in its current form or as the Command and General Staff Officers Course (CGSOC). Additionally, nearly 15 percent have either completed or are currently enrolled in the AWC. This impressive proportion of educated commissioned officers assigned to this mission contributes to its overall success.

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“Because many of the challenges we face on the staff here are wicked problems, identifying clear and achievable end-states that are synchronized through lines of operations and lines of effort with decisive points, greatly assists in establishing an understandable process,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Knepshield, ANSF-Dev CJ4 logistics officer.

A second emphasis from the AWC curriculum identified by participants was the value of critical thinking and problem solving. These skills help leaders to understand the second and third order effects of actions and to appreciate the underlying reasons for regional tension. Also, the 29th ID’s educated officers have applied effective problem solving techniques while dealing with the variety of perspectives and motivations found in a diverse working environment.

The third main theme relates to the ability to build leadership and staff interaction skills. The second year exercise allows the opportunity to conduct collaboration activities, which help build excellent staff coordination and team building. “The use of forums also lent itself to how we need to operate as cross-functional team players and utilizing diversity of experience as enablers rather than distracters,” said Col. Linda Singh, ANSF-Dev Current Operations Team Chief.

Finally, the emphasis on strategic leadership helped build skills for Col. Lapthe Flora, ANSF-Dev Ground Forces Command Senior Advisor. “I have found creative leadership to be extremely useful in working with our Afghan counterparts and the coalition partners,” said Flora. “This has helped us to better influence others in getting the work done instead of directing them.”

Other training that individuals identified as valuable to deployment demands included the regional strategic analysis, public affairs training, and social and extra-curricular events. Highlights among the extracurricular events were the fitness and leadership 360 assessments as well as the battle-field staff rides. (Continued on next page.)

What does pEshraft mean?

The 29thID ANSF-Development (ANSF-Dev) mission focus Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) growth and development. The Dari word pEshraft fits this mission perfectly.

In Dari the word means to advance, to progress, or to develop. The mission of assisting our Afghan partners in their development and progress is every 29th ID ANSF-DEV member’s essential task.

Finally, interaction with teammates is considered to be of exceptional value as many of the officers now working side by side were classmates during their courses.

Participants in ILE were split on its value, some having forgotten material or felt it was of no use for this deployment. This reduced impact of ILE for this deployment was mainly due to ineffective distance learning modules and that it had been many years since they completed ILE. Other officers, however, found ILE to be valuable both personally and for this deployment.

Maj. Tim Gonzalez, ANSF-Dev Future Operations (FUOPS) Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) planner, completed ILE Reserve Component-Common Core during the summer of 2009. He feels he benefited from the self-paced history modules and found the campaign analysis very interesting, noting specifically the Allied invasion of North Africa during World War II. The "GAAT Scenario" (Georgia-Armenia-Azerbaijan-Turkey) introduction is clearly modeled on recent and current experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is similar to the "Krasnovian" theme that has been in use for years in various training centers and exercises, but with some integrated insurgency and terrorist elements. Gonzalez feels that the GAAT Scenario provided basic knowledge that benefit a staff Major deployed at IJC, particularly during phases 4 (Establish Security) and 5 (Enable Civil Authority) of the scenario.

Gonzalez is currently attending the Advanced Operations Course (AOC) via distance learning (DL). This course is the branch qualifying phase of ILE for Maneuver, Sustainment, and Intelligence branches. "My duties here in IJC FUOPS are helping me in the class, and vice versa," said Gonzalez.

For Maj. Jared Lake, IJC Future Plans (FUPLANS) Afghan National Army (ANA) Planner, the most valuable lessons at ILE was the discussion of national power, along with the strategic and operational topics. "These tie in directly to what we are doing here in Afghanistan and enable me to understand everything going on around me," said Lake. "It was the perfect pre-mob training for a corps-level mission."

For advisors to the Afghan Ground Forces Command (AGFC), the lessons learned during the MDMP portion of ILE have proven to be invaluable in training the Afghans to conduct mission analysis, planning, and briefing. Without that training it would have been more difficult preparing the GFC for assumption of command for Afghanistan's ground forces.

Overall, military education has contributed to the 29th ID's successful mission accomplishment in Afghanistan.

Those Artillerymen are at it again!

Some of the 29ers during the Brest campaign desired mementoes of their service from the captured German sub pens. However, according to Joe Balkoski the MPs had quickly posted off-limits signs to deter American soldiers from the area. Balkoski explains one artilleryman had learned from earlier escapades how to get at the treasures of the hunt.

Excerpt from: *From the Beachhead to Brittany: The 29th Infantry Division at Brest, August-September 1944*. By Joseph Balkoski

"For some 29th Division combat soldiers, the challenge of getting past those MsS and into the off-limits sub pens was one that could not be passed up. Capt. Frank Steele, the 110th Field Artillery liaison officer attached to the 115th Infantry.....was renowned throughout the 110th for his mischievous exploits during the 29th Division's lengthy training period in England. One of these deeds in spring 1944 was a mock raid on Abbotsfield Hall, the site of [29th Division Commanding General] Gerhardt's headquarters... Steele had conclusively proved that security at 29th Division headquarters was nonexistent, for he managed to make off with a weapons-carrier, a 400-pound safe filled with secret documents, and several trinkets from the general's private desk. Just to make sure Gerhardt would know intruders had been present in his office, Steele had stopped the general's clock at exactly twelve midnight. For someone as cunning as Steele, entry into the sub pens was easy"(Balkoski, 2008, p. 293).

Balkoski explains that officers approaching MP checkpoints with pen, paper, and clipboard were always granted swift access. Capt. Steele tried it and he made it in to the pens (Balkoski, 2008). Now do not try this around the 29th Division can!!

Reference : Balkoski, J. (2008). *Beachhead to Brittany: The 29th Infantry Division at Brest, August-September 1944*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books