



THE
MOUNTAINVIEW
MAGAZINE

July 2011

Oaths
Reaffirmed
Page 4

Inside:
Team hike
Crackshots
Eye in the sky

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMBAT RELAY
PAGE 10



MASS REENLISTMENT
PAGE 4



REGULARS

AROUND RC-SOUTH
PAGE 14

LATEST LOLS
PAGE 16

TOP SHOTS
PAGE 8

COLUMNS

COMMAND COLUMN
PAGE 13

THE DON SAYS
PAGE 12



Taking Aim



Sgt. Joshua Jones, a sniper with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, scans his sector for possible threats. When intelligence is received that suggests a possible attack, the snipers are always ready to scan potential enemy attack positions for possible threats

See story on page 15

On the cover

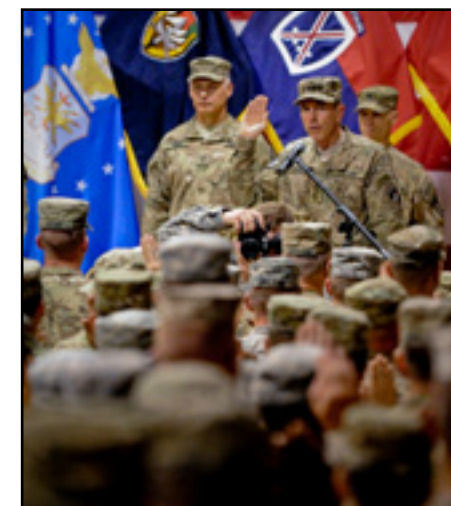


Photo by Lt. j.g. Haraz Ghanbari

Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general of the NATO International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, administers the oath of reenlistment to 235 U.S. service members.

The
MOUNTAINVIEW
MAGAZINE

Regional Command South
Commanding General
Maj. Gen. James L. Terry
Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Greca

The Mountain View is an authorized publication for members of coalition forces. Contents of The Mountain View are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, coalition governments. All editorial content of The Mountain View is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Regional Command South Public Affairs Office.

Editorial Staff
RC-South PAO Lt. Col. Web Wright
RC-South PAO NCOIC
Master Sgt. Tami Hillis
Command Information OIC
Capt. Wayne Minami
Managing Editor Sgt. Matthew Diaz

Media queries please contact RC-South Public Affairs at 10thmntnpao@gmail.com
Contributing Units

TF Spartan
TF Thunder
TF Viper
TF Warhorse
CT Uruzgan
CT Zabul
NTM-A
16th MPAD

Sworn on the Fourth of July



KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, celebrated the 235th anniversary of America's independence by administering the oath of enlistment to 235 service members during an Independence Day celebration held July 4 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Story by Staff Sgt. Jes L. Smith
16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by Lt. j.g. Haraz Ghanbari

Maj. Gen. James L. Terry, commander of Regional Command South and the 10th Mountain Division, hosted the Fourth of July celebration, and started the ceremony off by thanking the service members for their commitment to the military as well as the sacrifices made by their loved ones in support of their service.

He then offered a special thanks to Petraeus for his leadership and sacrifice throughout his many years of service before introducing the man whose long-time service in the Army will soon end, as he moves on to become the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Prior to offering the oath of enlistment, Petraeus gave a short speech to thank the service members for their service as well as speaking about the military’s history of re-enlistment, especially during times of war and its importance in today’s military.

“Here 235 of you stand ready to re-enlist for another tour of service, or to reaffirm your recent re-enlistment by reciting the oath of enlistment, knowing full well your commitment will likely entail another long separation from loved ones and more tough battles with the enemy,” said Petraeus. “I can not say how impressive your actions are.”



Service members salute after Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, administered the oath of reaffirmation and re-enlistment to 235 U.S. service members during a ceremony called “Operation Enduring Commitment - The Red, White and True,” held at Kandahar Airfield in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Petraeus added that there was nowhere he would rather celebrate Independence Day than in Afghanistan with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

He also noted that he spent eight of the last 11 Independence Days deployed with servicemembers.

Sgt. Robert Conklin, an ammunition specialist with the 592nd Ordnance Company, deployed out of Billings, Mont., and one of the service members who took the oath of enlistment, said when he heard about Petraeus coming to conduct a re-enlistment ceremony at KAF, he jumped at the opportunity.

“I think it is a really cool thing that General Petraeus came out here to visit Kandahar,” said Conklin. “The fact that he is willing to do one last hurrah with a bunch of re-enlistees is a really cool thing.”

The ceremony was offered to servicemembers re-enlisting and to those desiring to affirm

their commitment from a previous re-enlistment during their current deployment in Afghanistan.

The ceremony ended with a cake cutting ceremony, in which the youngest and oldest servicemembers to take the oath of enlistment were called up on stage to cut the cake with Petraeus and the other distinguished guests.





TOP SHOTS



"TOP SHOTS" ENTRIES ARE OPEN TO ALL READERS.

ALL "TOP SHOTS" SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION DATE. SEND SUBMISSIONS TO 10THMTPAO@CMAIL.COM

RUCK AND RIFLE RELAY



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Over hurdles, through ditches and carrying 30 pounds of weight on their back, service members at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, raced against each other during a 10-mile combat relay hosted by the 10th Mountain Division July 17.

The event featured more than 110 teams of five from 10 different countries, to include Afghanistan.

“We wanted to put together something that was unique and different,” said Sgt. Maj. Donald Spicer, the combined, joint communications sergeant major for Regional Command South, International Security Assistance Force, and 10th Mountain Division. “We didn’t want to do just another 5K (kilometer) run.”

Spicer said the aim was to create an enjoyable contest that also replicated combat. Each team member had to run a two-mile lap in full uniform with a weapon and 30-pound rucksack through harsh terrain, obstacles and desert heat.

“This really represents what we do in reality,” said Spicer, who put together a similar event with 10th Mountain Division while deployed to Iraq in 2008. “If you’re in combat, you’re not really sure what you’re getting into. You might be climbing up stairs, going on roofs, climbing over T-walls (large concrete barriers) or going down into a lake.”

International participation also replicated real-life combat situations and provided a unique opportunity for countries to compete against each other, said Pvt. Kyle M. Hartley, an infantryman for Company B, 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

“I feel special,” said Hartley, whose team finished in

first place. “Just seeing where our company stands compared to other companies around the world – it’s great. It brings different countries and different branches all together to do one thing. We’re like one huge family.”

Along with esprit de corps, one of the main things the event brought was some much needed relaxation to servicemembers in a combat zone, said 1st Lt. David M. Shanahan, executive officer for Division Signal Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 10th Mountain Division.

Spicer said one of the biggest challenges deployed servicemembers can face is time, and anything fun that breaks up the usual combat routine helps people to start over and stay fresh.

“If you look around, I think you can see how happy people are,” said Shanahan. “We’ve all been away from our families forever. This brings everyone together and takes their mind off work. We’re all out here to have fun and to show how tough we are.”

The competition ended with an awards ceremony where plaques were given to the top overall team, which was from the 170th IBCT, and the top all-female team, which was from the 10th Mountain Division. Awards were also given to the top four runners up, including a Netherlands team, two British teams and a multinational team.

“Everyone here brought together a team,” said Spicer. “The ultimate goal – and my hope – is that it created camaraderie and brought them closer to their organization. It’s something that’s a memory for life.”



A Canadian soldier quickly passes off his weapon and rucksack to two other Canadian soldiers during the 10th Mountain Combat Relay at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 17. Instead of a baton, the relay required contestants to pass off their weapon and 30-pound rucksack to the next person on their team after they completed their leg of the race.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. EDWARD A. GARIBAY
16TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT



OK 10th Mountain, redeployment is coming soon and it is important to understand that we will be issuing out a new medication for you to take. The medication is called primaquine phosphate (pronounced PRIM-uh-kwin FOSS-fate). Primaquine is used to kill the liver form of the malaria parasite (the hypnozoite.) You will continue to take your doxycycline or mefloquine for four weeks after you redeploy. Adding primaquine prevents relapses that can occur months later. Primaquine is in a class of medications called antimalarials. It works by killing the organisms that cause malaria. Primaquine comes as a tablet to take by mouth. It is usually taken twice a day for 14 days. Take primaquine at around the same time every day. It is important to realize that you should not drink alcohol while taking primaquine or any other prescribed medication. Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully, and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Take primaquine exactly as directed, 10th Mountain. "CLIMB TO GLORY."

Cultural Considerations:

Ramazan is upon us and with the holy month comes a few considerations to take for our Afghan partners. What follows is a list of things to avoid in August.

- Don't eat, drink or smoke in front of your partners.**
- Don't use profanity.**
- Don't play loud or inappropriate music.**
- Don't enter mosques unless operations require you to do so.**

It is important to keep in mind that your partners may be fasting. If they are fasting they may be lethargic. Try to be patient as your partners observe this holy month.

Just the facts: debt compromise

The compromise allows debt ceiling increase by as much as \$2.4 trillion in total. Included is an immediate increase of \$400 billion. President Obama would be permitted to request another \$500 billion increase in the coming months, which Congress could vote to disallow by a veto proof two-thirds margin. A further increase of between \$1.2 trillion and \$1.5 trillion would be available after a special committee identifies matching levels of additional spending cuts.

The agreement calls for cuts of more than \$900 billion over 10 years in spending from programs, agencies and day-to-day spending. It would include security-related and non-security-related cuts. According to the Congressional Budget Office, "discretionary" spending would be decreased by \$21 billion in 2012 and \$42 billion in 2013.

The agreement creates a 12-person House and Senate special committee to identify further spending cuts. The committee must complete its work by Thanksgiving - Nov. 23 - and Congress must hold an up or down vote on the committee recommendations by Dec. 23. The committee could overhaul the tax code or find savings in benefit programs like Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security. Congress could not modify the committee's recommendation.

Should the special committee deadlock or should Congress reject the committee's recommendations, then automatic across the board spending cuts of at least \$1.2 trillion would go into effect.

The agreement requires that the House of Representatives and the Senate vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, although its passage is not guaranteed.

The deal also includes changes to Pell Grants and student loan programs. Pell Grants will receive a \$17 billion increase for low-income college students, which will be financed by the elimination of subsidized student loans for most graduate students.

The compromise does not include any immediate revenue additions or tax increases.

Article provided by cbsnews.com



CHAPLAIN'S Going Home! CH (Maj.) Herman Cheatham

Matthew 25:13 "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

This verse is the ending of a story that for some had a happy ending and for others a sad ending. For the full story read Matthew 25:1-13. For the ones who had a happy ending they were happy because they were prepared. Needless to say the other individuals were not happy because they were not prepared for the going home reunion. The latter were left behind because of their lack of preparation.

Are you ready to leave Afghanistan and go home? Many may be saying, "Chaplain, I've been ready to leave since I first got here!" It would be great if we could only spend a few days away from home and still complete our mission. It would make going home a lot simpler for some.

Unfortunately that is not the reality of this situation. By the time we return back home to our families, we will have been gone from them for a year or so. They have changed and we have changed. What have we been doing to keep the relationships back home alive? What are we doing to prepare to blend back into a "normal life" when we do return home?

There are a plethora of ways that have been afforded us to keep in contact with our friends and family back home. There is the Internet where we can keep in contact through e-mail or other social networks. There are phones and phone centers where we can call home and actually talk with our friends and families. Then there is the good old-fashioned letter writing method, which has fallen by the wayside for so many. All of these are ways we can and could have kept in contact with those we have relationships with back home. Are you prepared for what is waiting for you back home? Have you been using your resources wisely?

Spiritually speaking, are you ready to go home? No man knows when they will be going home to their final destination. That is very similar to what we have going on in this deployment. We have a guestimate of when we will be actually going home but no one will know for sure until they are actually on the bird going home. There are plans that have been made but nothing is locked in yet. Have your spiritual plans been made to go home? There have been a plethora of spiritual resources made available to you during your life. How have you been using your resources to grow in your relationship with God? We are all going home, eventually, both physically and spiritually speaking. It could be a good home coming reunion or a bad one. Are you ready?



Eye in the sky helps keep Soldiers safe

Story and photos by Sgt. Ruth Pagan
Public Affairs Office, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Look, up-in the air! It’s a bird, it’s a plane, no it’s a big-white blimp! Though it doesn’t have a menacing look to it, the Persistence Threat Detection System is very dangerous to the enemy. It’s an obvious reminder that the Soldiers in Kandahar City are being watched over.

“It’s an eye in the sky for our Soldiers here to keep them safe,” said Joseph Heckler, the site manager for Camp Nathan Smith’s PTDS, a civilian contractor with Lockheed Martin.

“Our site is unique because we are sitting in the center of the city so we see a lot of high value targets,” said Christopher Lynch, a field engineer with Lockheed Martin.

PTDS has a variety of things it can be used for.

The PTDS can see if people are planting improvised explosive devices, it helps gather information on patterns of life in the city and if a firefight does break out it can help track down the bad guys, said

2nd Lt. Caitlyn Gallagher, brigade collections

manager with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Military and civilian contractors work hand-in-hand to keep information flowing.

The PTDS system is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, said Heckler.

“The PTDS guys are extremely on the ball with reporting everything they see, and giving us analysis on what they are getting through the feed,” Gallagher said.

The benefits of having the PTDS are invaluable.

“My biggest reward here was when I stopped a convoy from rolling onto an IED,” said Lynch. “Their first sergeant came and brought me a box of chocolate chip cookies, and then a couple of weeks ago they actually caught the guy who had planted that IED.”

Not only are Soldiers lives saved but bad guys are caught, said Heckler.

“Everybody’s proud to work with the military, and we feel like we are contributing to the efforts here,” said

Story and photos by Capt. Jonathan Holm
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

Task Force Talon snipers a valuable asset

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, have been conducting extensive partnered security operations with Afghan National Security Forces in western Kandahar City during the past month to disrupt and destroy Taliban networks and secure the population.

A vital enabler to these missions has been Headquarters and Headquarters Company’s sniper team. These operations have included everything from human terrain mapping to large-scale clearance operations.

The snipers, uniquely equipped and expertly trained, have been pushed out several times to support these missions and have provided a reassuringly watchful eye over our Soldiers and our ANSF partners, not to mention the unsuspecting enemy.

They have been critical to the Task Force Talon partnered patrols as they are able to identify suspicious activity and report it to the unit on the ground. They are armed to engage and destroy any enemy targets once they have positive identification and the snipers can engage these threats from a great distance and a well concealed position.

Not only have the snipers been a great asset on patrols, but they are a force protection measure for Soldiers working and resting on Afghan National Civil Order Police Headquarters. When intelligence is received that suggests a possible attack, the snipers are always ready to scan potential enemy attack positions for threats.

The sniper team has been a true combat multiplier that helps ensure patrols are always able to take the fight to the enemy, secure the population and move forward.



THIS JUST IN!

FROM THE INTERNET

VACATION RELAXATION?



SOLDIER'S BOARD

WHAT ARE THE THREE PERIODS OF A NORMAL DAILY EXERCISE ROUTINE?

WARM-UP
CONDITIONING
COOL-DOWN

POW - MIA
5k and 10k

September 16th
6 a.m. at the boardwalk

\$15 registration fee supports the
VFW unmet needs

A day of school supplies, a day of hope

Story and photo by Sgt. Sam P. Dillon
Regional Command South Public Affairs Office

DAYKUNDI PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The sun is shining bright, the temperature is a warm 90 degrees and the winds are calm. More than 350 Afghan students sit underneath a tarp providing shade from the direct sunlight, all of them waiting patiently as box after box of school supplies are unloaded by men and women toting guns on their backs.

As coalition forces start unpacking the boxes and lay out the contents from within, you can hear the sounds of whispers and giggles from the crowd of girls at the Gandanak Girls' School. More and more people arrive, filling up every inch of space of the courtyard trying to find a piece of shade to relieve themselves from the heat. This scene continues for two hours, as boxes get unpacked and more students arrive squeezing into an already tight place. When all the boxes are unpacked and all of the students have arrived, a total of 650 students from four different schools are sitting . . . waiting.

All of this was for one reason: to receive much-needed school supplies.

"They (Afghan families) can't afford a decent meal, let alone school supplies, so if the family can afford to get one pencil and one notebook for the entire year, that is pretty good, because they can't even get that," said Gina Ladenheim, International Security Assistance Force Regional Command South cultural adviser.

There was a lot more than one pencil or notebook provided to these students. They received a pack of supplies containing pencils, paper, pencil sharpeners, rulers and bags. The students weren't the only ones to receive supplies: every teacher, 30 in all, received classroom supplies. Chalk, crayons, colored pencils, construction paper and scissors, all of this to better supply the teachers to better educate the students - 1,500 pounds of supplies in total. All of the supplies were packaged, collected and shipped by a small

group of people from Fort Drum, N.Y. Dedicated spouses of deployed Soldiers and the local community got involved to help out children half way around the world.

"If we have foreigners (who) pay this much attention to our schools, we need to do the same thing," said Qurban Ali Orugani, Daykundi governor. "I ask all Afghan officials to pay as much attention to their own country for the rebuilding, for the advancement and progress of Afghanistan."

"I was only expecting two boxes of toys and supplies, but to receive 1,500 pounds of supplies was beyond my expectation," Ladenheim said. "I figured we would only get the first or third graders and we would only hand out a couple of supplies, but to get that kind of turnout and hand out that much supplies, that was beyond my expectation."

Smiles covered the faces of Afghans and coalition forces alike. The day was not all about doing a good deed for people in need; the day was about the experience. The experience that the students of Daykundi witnessed, a major general singing "Old McDonald" to the music of a banjo-playing colonel or to see their Afghan officials take time out of their day to celebrate with them. It is about the hope that comes with handing someone a ruler or a box of crayons - the hope that the experience will get them through tomorrow



Students from Nili, Daykundi Province, Afghanistan, sit and wait to receive school supplies during a humanitarian supply drop at the Gandanak Girls' School. More than 1,500 pounds of school supplies were handed out to more than 650 students from four different schools in the Nili area

Become a friend and check in often for the latest news, pictures and video from RC-South.
FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/ISAF.RCSouth

TUMBLR

www.ISAF-RCSouth.Tumblr.com

TWITTER

www.twitter.com/ISAF_RCSouth

YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/user/ISAFRCSouth

DVIDS

www.dvidshub.net/units/RC-S

The Mountain View Magazine wants your input! We are looking for cartoonists, columnists, sports fanatics and many more to contribute. If interested, contact the RC-South Public Affairs Office at 10thmntpao@gmail.com.

