

# Trident Dispatch

## A Word from the PRT Commander

PRT family and friends, greetings from Afghanistan! We are well into our mission here in Khost Province and have settled into a routine of excellence. The PRT continues to do great work in support of TF SPARTAN, and we have been pushing out to the far reaches of the province in our efforts to improve governance and development. We have been very aggressive with the mission set and continue to keep your great Americans busy throughout the week.

The weather has finally turned to summer here, and the farmers are out in the fields in the middle of the wheat harvest. In the midst of that harvest, we are also conducting a Relief In Place (RIP) for the Agribusiness Section within the PRT. The last members of the 4-19<sup>th</sup> ADT are being replaced by the 5-19<sup>th</sup> ADT (both units are from the Indiana Army National Guard).

We wish the 4-19<sup>th</sup> safe travels and a congratulations on a job well done.

With the advent of summer, thoughts turn to family and friends as we celebrate a number of traditional holidays here in Khost; Mother's Day and Memorial Day typically come to mind as the hallmarks for the official beginning of the summer season. Enjoy the holidays, and take a minute to pray for your loved ones here. We miss home and will return before you know it.

See you all on the high ground!

LTC Paul South



## Information from the SGM



Good Afternoon PRT family members, friends and loved ones. The Team has been doing great things here in Khost. We have conducted more than 80 missions and feel we are making a significant impact for and with the people of Afghanistan. The weather is taking a swing upward; it's 88 today and expected to climb a little higher by next week.

We completed our patch ceremony last month, and your great American is now authorized to wear a combat patch. The Soldiers from the 1st Battalion (Airborne) 143<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Texas National Guard, are now authorized to wear the "Texas T" patch. The Soldiers and Seaman who are not organic to the Texas National Guard are authorized to wear the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Patch, informally known as "the electric strawberry." The right shoulder patch signifies participation in combat with that unit. We have had six promotions, and we have awarded three Achievement medals since the middle of April and expect more to come in before June.

Mother's Day is coming up this weekend, and we are taking the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) this weekend as well; wish us luck. We hope you have a terrific Mother's Day celebration and tell all we said, "Hey." We miss you, we love you and we can't wait to come home and have some home-cooked food.



SGM Daniel Jensen



## Inside this issue:

A Word from the PRT Commander	1
Information from the SGM	2
Engineers...Reunite	2
Recent Awardees and Promotions	4
PRT Khost: Mission Pictures	4-5
Top Shot Cricket	9

## RC-E PRT Engineers...Reunite at Bagram

This month I was able to attend a roads and power conference, hosted at Bagram Airfield for Regional Command East. The conference discussed the strategic growth of Afghanistan regarding infrastructure and capital development. It was pretty educational to see how the donors from outside agencies help develop and define a fledgling nation state.

The best part, however, was meeting up with my fellow Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineers. We are a mix of Navy Seabees and Air Force Civil Engineers, executing the same mission set in different provinces in support of NATO operations.

It had been awhile since we left Camp Atterburry, and each of us had great stories to tell from our province, most of them funny and a few of them somber. It definitely made the breaks a little bit easier for conversations when you have a handful of people you already know to talk with. I still needed plenty of caffeine and a Rip-It or two.

Bagram is a really big place and sometimes can be a bit crowded. Luckily, we found a little bit of space with the "Prime BEEF" (Air Force Engineering) guys. Engineers always try to take care of each other because we always tend to end up in some of the most austere locations. The unit there was great, and the Air Force guys even ran into some people they knew.

We sat through the presentations and discussions all day and then hit the gym at night. We worked out and then decided to go get a few cigars and finish the conference off right. Hanging out with Engineers generally leads to laughing, storytelling, and joking about the most random things. And that is exactly how it happened.

*- LTJG Samuelson, PRT Engineer*



Top L-R: Army CPT Kelly (Kapisa), LT Warren (Paktika), LT Talley (Ghazni), Army CPT Logan (Paktia), 1LT Sena Bottom L-R: Army CPT Winkler (Laghman), LTJG Herm (Kunar), LTJG Samuelson (Khost)

**"It had been awhile since we left Camp Atterburry and each of us had great stories to tell from our province. Most of them funny and a few of them somber." - LTJG Samuelson**

### Remarks by His Excellency Hamid Karzai

We all know that there are some who still want to use terrorism as a tool for interference and dominance (influence), but it remains our duty to provide for our countrymen to return to their homeland. It is through peace that we could save our country from the clutches of al-Qaeda and other terror organizations and bless people with an honorable life under the Constitution. We know that not all those who picked up guns against their country are terrorists driven by ideology or associated to intelligence organizations. There are cases where people were forced to fight us out of injustices they were committed against. We understand that these injustices and violations by the employees of the government and powerful individuals as well as the bombardments, house searches or arrests by the coalition and NATO forces have led to public grievance and resentment. Whatever the cause maybe, this bloody war has to stop and the country has to be guided towards better tomorrow.

From here, I would like to call on the Taliban that there is a place for those who are willing to live in peace and brotherhood and within Islamic justice and law. Foreigners are here, because other foreigners attacked them and attack them now. Return to a peaceful life and share in politics through legitimate means is the only way that can enable Afghanistan end its dependence on others.



- Remarks to the Nation by His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of the New Afghan Year, 1390



## Question of the Month

### Why did you decide to join the U.S. Armed Forces?



CPT Marc A. Blue, Indiana Army National Guard, in a contemplative mood while on patrol in Shamal District, Afghanistan (April 2012)

I joined the Indiana Army National Guard on September 29, 1999 at MEPS in Indianapolis, Indiana. I joined the military after I graduated from college. Most people join the National Guard before college to get money to pay for it. The main reason I joined was to get extra money to help pay off my student loans. The second reason I joined the military was to challenge myself and to be part of an organization where I could make a difference. Working a civilian job was not enough for me. I felt that there was more out there to achieve. When I joined the National Guard, I really did not know what I was getting myself into. I figured as long as I was in the National Guard, I might as well try and achieve the highest rank I could. I have put forth the same amount of effort in the National Guard that I always have in any civilian job.

I always was taught to do the best job I could at everything. I did the same in the National Guard as I have on the civilian side, and it has worked out for me so far. It brings me a sense of accomplishment being part of the biggest and most powerful corporation in the world. My wife tells me that when I am doing something full time for the military I act happier and I am better to be around. I also wanted to do something that my kids would be proud of.

CPT Marc A. Blue, PRT Khost—ADT



It is a common question asked among all the military branches. This question is usually asked to those who have recently joined the service, or who have done their duty, whether it is overseas or at home. A simple question with complex answers: Why did you join? This question is answered by personal feelings and motivations. It is not covered by false intentions and is uncommon. The first time that the question was asked to me was when I was in basic training. Being the first of my family to go into the military and having no military background whatsoever, I couldn't come up with some of the answers that my peers around me did. The only thing that popped into my head at the time was family. I was reminded of my own struggles at that time. I gave my answer briefly with my only explanation being that I wanted to do what was best for my family, a vague answer. "The same typical answer," remarked the drill sergeant.

To this day my answer remains the same but with different purpose behind that answer then what I said three years ago. Family, as I was taught, was the most important thing to someone. Ambition, power, greed all the ill nature of human beings are quelled by the power of family. Back then, when I thought about family, I saw myself helping my mother and bringing honor to my family name. I wanted nothing more than to not be looked down upon. In the Army the meaning behind family stands out as something equally important. Think about family in the Army, those who you serve beside, laugh with, and God forbid, die with. They are the brothers and sisters that you never had. I love my family with all my heart and soul. I have given everything that I am, blood, sweat and tears, to my family in the Army and the ones at home. Now that I am a father and have my own family, I see the great bond that holds us all together. The Army has given me the opportunity to expand my family and have those people, whom I care for, become close to me in ways that no ordinary person may understand. So why did I join the Army? To protect, to love, and to give everything I have to my family. That is my one and only response, and it shall stay with me for the rest of my life.

SPC Erick Contreras, PRT Khost – Security Force  
1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment







On a weekly basis PRT Khost holds an all hands formation to disseminate important information, promote personnel and present awards.

**Recent Awardees**

The following members of PRT Khost have received the **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM)** for meritorious service or achievement in either combat or noncombat based on sustained performance or specific achievement of a superlative nature:

- SGT Jose Barriga-Hernandez**
- SSG Carlos Salvidar**
- SPC Tanon**
- SPC Jimmy Sustaita**



**Recent Promotions**

The following members of PRT Khost have recently been promoted:

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>LTJG O'Connell</b>             | <b>SPC An</b>         |
| <b>SSG Carlos Salvidar</b>        | <b>SPC Ayala</b>      |
| <b>SSG Van Scyoc</b>              | <b>SPC Baker</b>      |
| <b>SGT Jose Barriga-Hernandez</b> | <b>SPC Betts</b>      |
| <b>SGT Manos</b>                  | <b>SPC Dollarhide</b> |
| <b>CPL Norton</b>                 | <b>SPC Mitchell</b>   |
| <b>CPL Ruiz</b>                   | <b>SPC Gutierrez</b>  |





## Message from the GIRoA—Minister of Education

Education is the fundamental cornerstone and a key pre-requisite for durable peace, stability and socio-economic development in every society—Afghanistan is



not an exception. Development is about people, not infrastructure, aimed at bringing positive changes in behavior and attitude of people. Education makes people think, behave and act positively, and it promotes social co-existence.

It is for these reasons that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan prioritizes development of education as the key foundation for restoration of sustainable peace, promotion of democracy, rule of law and socio-economic development.

The Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has undertaken the task of building the future of Afghan children through provision of quality education, thus facilitating the socio-political and economic development of our country with qualified human resources that can meet reconstruction and labor market demands.

The Ministry highly admires the generous support of its national and international development partners in the past few years and calls for their even more well-coordinated collaboration in support of Afghan children's education in the years to come.

It is our hope and our religious, constitutional and national obligation that every Afghan child has access to quality basic education by the year 2020.

*Farooq Wardak - Minister of Education*



<http://www.embassyofafghanistan.org/>

## Official Websites of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

<http://president.gov.af/en>



Ministry of  
**Public Health**  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

<http://moph.gov.af/en>



**Ministry of Education**  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

<http://moe.gov.af/en>



**Ministry of Women's Affairs**  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

<http://mowa.gov.af/en>



MINISTRY OF  
**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

<http://mfa.gov.af/en>

**Ministry of Communication**

<http://mcit.gov.af/en>

**Ministry of Commerce and Industries**

<http://moci.gov.af/en>

**Ministry of Finance**

<http://mof.gov.af/en>

**Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development**

<http://mrrd.gov.af/en>

**Ministry of Justice**

<http://moj.gov.af/en>





Afghan kids watch coalition forces at a local village near Khost City.

U.S. Army SSG Carlos Saldivar, 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment, gets a “high five” from an Afghan child while conducting Counter-Insurgency (COIN) operations in Gorbuz District, Khost Province, Afghanistan.



U.S. Army CPL Alfred Ruiz and PFC Anthony Dollarhide, 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment, perform security during Counter-Insurgency (COIN) operations to Shamal District’s Bazaar, Khost Province, Afghanistan.



A local Afghan boy gives a “thumbs up” to passing PRT Khost vehicles on patrol in Khost Province, Afghanistan.



We’re on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/PRT-Khost-Afghanistan/316163393331>







A local farmer discusses agricultural issues with PRT Khost leadership during a recent visit to a village near Forward Operating Base Salerno in Afghanistan.



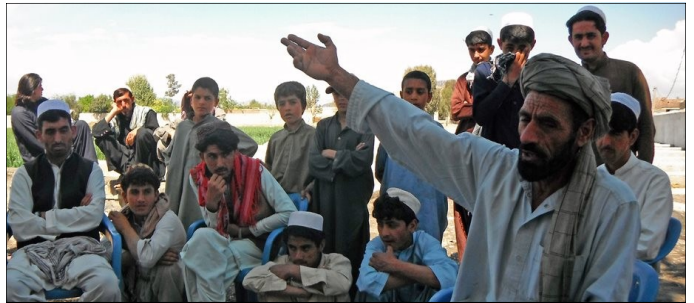
U.S. Army SPC Anthony Dollarhide, 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment, performs security in Khost Province, Afghanistan.

# MISSION PICTURES

*from Afghanistan*



A PRT Khost—Security Force member patrols within the Civil Military Operation Center (CMOC) compound during a recent key leader engagement in Khost City.



A village elder discusses issues and concerns with PRT Khost —Civil Affairs and Afghanistan Uniformed Police leadership during a recent mission to a local village in our area of operation.









# TOP SHOT CRICKET: MAY 2012

*(Top Shot Cricket—continued from page 8)*

The long break for SGT Crawford, as he awaited his opponent to fight through the loser's bracket, must have taken its toll as he dropped the first game to ETC Berg. Now, with SGT Crawford sitting at 4-1 and Chief Berg at 7-1 it came down to the championship match in a "Winner Takes All". Regaining focus, SGT Crawford took an early lead by quickly closing 19s and then 18s. Chief Berg, determined to get to the Bulls, answered back, closing the 16s and then 15s with SGT Crawford already shooting Bulls. After a couple of great tosses, each opponent had chances to win. SGT Crawford had two hits and Chief Berg had one. As the crowd waited to see who would win, SGT Crawford took aim and nailed his third bull's eye on his first throw.

The Top Shot was SGT Erick Crawford from Sierra Madre, CA, representing Civil Affairs. Runner-up was ETC Scott Berg, from Auburn, MI, representing HQ Platoon. Third, the up and coming "Righty" out of Cape Cod, MA, LTJG Meaghan O'Connell, also throwing for HQ. Security Forces' top finisher was SPC Don Bulin out of Austin, TX.

Although fun and excitement lingered all around, 1LT Michael Berenson was busy getting the Warriors of PRT Khost signed up for their absentee ballots.

Disclaimer: No Captain's feelings were hurt while writing this story.



LTJG O'Connell throws her dart during her match.



SGT Erick Crawford (First Place), LTJG Meaghan O'Connell (Third Place) and ETC Scott Berg (Second Place).



Elements of the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team watch the numerous matches during the first PRT Khost Dart Tournament at FOB Salerno.



SGT Erick Crawford watches closely ETC Scott Berg's throw during the championship match held at FOB Salerno.



SSG Thomas Van Scyoc prepares to throw his dart as CM1 Bill Cook competes in a side match.