



THE TRIDENT DISPATCH



A MESSAGE FROM THE SKIPPER



CDR Mel Naidas
PRT Khost Commander

Happy New Year! Now some of you may be saying, “Hey I think the weather’s finally gotten to that Navy guy... Doesn’t he know that the New Year started a month ago?” So let me clarify. Happy Chinese New Year, or Kung Hei Fat Choi (Mandarin, I think) or Chúc Mừng Năm Mới (Vietnamese). Because of the large population of Asian-Americans in Hawaii, as you can imagine this holiday is widely celebrated. Though to some just another reason to party, there is a very traditional aspect to the holiday. The evening preceding Chinese New Year's Day is typically an occasion for families to gather for an annual reunion dinner. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly cleanse the house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for good incoming luck. Windows and doors are usually decorated with red color paper-cuts and couplets with popular themes of "good fortune" or "happiness", "wealth", and "longevity." Another popular activity includes lighting firecrackers to “scare away” any bad luck, and let me tell you, most Hawaiians take this practice to an all new level. The last time I was driving through my neighborhood during New Year’s Eve, I thought I was driving through downtown Beirut! So, on this New Year of the Snake, I wish you and your family well and all the best

of luck that a new beginning can bring. Here in Khost, we continue the transition of effort from Coalition Forces to our Afghan partners. Your Soldiers and Sailors continue to do an outstanding job in enabling this transition, and quite frankly what better way to personify a new beginning than Afghans taking over full responsibility of all programs in their country. Your Service Members helped make this happen, and they did it with your support. I couldn’t be more proud, or more thankful.

CDR Mel Naidas

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A Word from the Sergeant Major



As this deployment comes to an end for some of the members of Team Khost, I want to thank the handful of Soldiers who have completed the mission for their dedication to the PRT, the Army, and our great country. I know each of you are eager to complete the process and return to your loved ones, but take the time during the demobilization process to ensure you have everything documented from the deployment in order to obtain all of the benefits you deserve.

Collectively we conducted more missions in Jan than we did our previous months together in theater, and with no accidents or significant injuries. I attribute that to training which provides standards, our NCOs who enforce those standards and to our self-disciplined Soldiers who consistently perform to standard. I believe our OP-TEMPO will remain at least as high as it is now through the remainder of our deployment. Once again, I charge the Soldiers of PRT Khost with looking right and left, to your battle-buddies; keep each other out of harm’s way.



SGM Mark Fluckiger
PRT Khost

SGM Mark Fluckiger



Civil Affairs Featured Service Members

Civil Affairs Featured Soldiers— By MAJ Dan Keenaghan
Each mission we do impacts our area of operations for governance, development, and transition to Afghans leading their own country. As we start to draw to a close, we would like to recognize some of the individual team member efforts and contributions in support of the overall success of PRT Khost and the 3/101 BCT mission in Afghanistan.



MAJ Dan Keenaghan
PRT Khost Civil Affairs Chief

SPC Christina Roy has learned a great deal on her first deployment as a civil affairs soldier. Her many accomplishments include preparing intelligence analysis reports as the interim intelligence specialist, developing robust map and imagery preparation skills, and as a primary communicator with local Afghan women to encourage gender equality. She also has become quite adept at preventive maintenance on our Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and at teaching how to assemble and disassemble the M-16 and 240 B weapons.

SGT Frank Yarrish is congratulated on his recent reenlistment and selection for promotion! His mature outlook and duty focus have instructed team members on mission patrols, and excellent marksmanship. He has personally reached out to Afghan children to make a difference in their lives by encouraging participation for boys and girls in schools, and identified critical needs for infrastructure and healthcare.

MSG Byron Hall recently supported a highly successful business seminar with the provincial chamber of commerce and the Khost Shaikh Zayed University's business school. The lessons learned by businesspersons will foster business plans for agribusiness and Afghans are learning how to pass on the models to educate others.



LT Greg Holyfield recently conducted a successful security shura with local Afghan leaders who want to take a stake in ensuring their own protection from insurgency. Participation included village elders and Afghan police on rules for enforcing denial of insurgency, fines and the use of funds to support orphans and widows, and the expansion of the security shura to include other tribes in the area.



SGT Yarrish speaks with local children
(US Army Photo by SPC Christina Roy)



PRT Khost
Civil Affairs Team (Photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



We're on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/PRTKhost>



Agribusiness Development Team



Local farmers listen as SPC Rybolt describes low tunnel farming techniques.
(US Army Photo by SGT Kimberly Trumbull)



SFC Michael Spurgin, far left, discusses the FFA Kit greenhouse with officials of Dormalaka Village High School. The FFA kits were established by previous ADT's and were visited by the PRT.
(US Army Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



The Khost Business Development Workshop was held as a joint effort between USDA and the PRT with funding assistance by the Department of State. Attendance was a good mix of local and regional businessmen, producers and government officials. The presenter was USDA Senior Agriculture Advisor, Pardeep Patnaik (at the lectern).
(Photo by MSG Brian K. Williamson)



MSG Brian K. Williamson, the AG Education Coordinator for the PRT with the Headmaster of Dormalaka Village High School.
(US Army Photo by SFC Michael Spurgin)

MISSION PICTURES



from Afghanistan





AE1 Garrett leads the convoy for PRT Khost.
(US Army Photo by LSC Urena)



PFC Cuenca Provides security at the Mandozai District Center.
(US Army Photo by SGT Kimberly Trumbull)



Soldiers of 1st PLT Angel Co 3-187 IN assigned to PRT Khost secure
the Mandozai District Center
(US Army Photo by SGT Kimberly Trumbull)

MISSION PICTURES



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