



WOLF PACK NEWS LETTER

May 26, 2008

Happy Memorial Day from Kabul, Afghanistan! This Memorial Day is particularly heartfelt as the Wolf Pack attended a memorial service for a fellow ETT member on May 22, 2008. The soldier was killed in action on May 18, 2008 when his up-armored HUMVEE struck an IED in one of Afghanistan's southern provinces. His sacrifice reminds all of us that "Freedom is not free!" I would ask that everyone keep the families and friends of our fallen soldiers in their thoughts and prayers this Memorial Day weekend.

Wolf Pack Continues Training Kandak A



Team A continued to emphasize hands-on medical training. We developed a very challenging "final exam" for our "train the trainer" course. The final exam required the teams to "save" Bleeding Barney with very limited light in very realistic surroundings (notice the HUMVEE parts).



In addition to the medical training, Wolf Pack A also certified ANA trainers on M16 BRM (Basic Rifle Marksmanship), and Land Navigation. After the certification, Team A took the newly certified trainers to the Camp Phoenix Mess Hall for a celebratory lunch. Below is the entire group of Kandak A trainers outside of the Camp Phoenix Mess Hall (Wolf Pack A is in the back row).



In addition to the "train the trainer" program initiated by Wolf Pack, we also began to train Kandak A's Quick Reaction Force ("QRF"). We started with basic QRF mission analysis, site security and site exploitation. We then moved on to room clearing. This skill is unfamiliar to the ANA (who would rather clear a room by simply tossing several grenades into

the room first). We started by using a "glass house" (a simple outline of a basic room on the ground). Kandak A soldiers also struggled to move as a team—an essential component of room clearing. However, this was the initial phase of the training, so expertise was not expected.

Below, Kandak A soldiers "clear" a room in the glass house. Notice in the bottom picture, the Number 1 man has entered the room, but the rest of his team has yet to even move (they all watched him enter by himself).



In addition to not moving into a room as a group, the Kandak A soldiers had a habit of simply standing in the doorway—which effectively blocked the rest of the team from entering the room.



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As I previously discussed, I primarily mentor the Kandak's S-3 (operations) shop. Safir, the Assistant S-3 is one of the ANA officers that I work with on a daily basis. Safir has been to military training schools in Canada, Italy and Turkey. He speaks pretty good Italian and is always improving his English (he understands much more than he speaks).



While the photo shows Safir working on the computer, he is actually only rarely working on the computer (mainly because the Kandak's offices only get electricity for a few hours a day). Along with the S-3 NCOIC, Mullah Hussien, Safir is the driving force of the Operations Section.

The First Kandak A Soldiers Group And Zero Their M16's



In connection with the M16-Trainer certification, we took the M16 trainers out to the range to test their ability to group and zero their M16's. The trainers did a very good job and, except for a small handful, were able to quickly group and zero their M16's.



Spring Weather in Kabul

The weather here in Kabul would definitely give Dallas a run for its money in terms of change. Last week temperatures stayed in the mid 90's, but today it has mainly rained and temperatures have stayed in the 50's! I am digging out all the cold-weather gear I packed away last week. It has also hailed on several occasions over the past week. As the picture below shows, the winds, even on a clear day, can be very powerful. Localized "dirt devils" are common, but the one we spotted over near Camp Phoenix last week was very well organized and powerful.



HQ57 The "Cat-Killer"

As explained in the last issue, HQ57 inadvertently killed a cat that had crawled up into the radiator fan housing. I have received a great deal of good-natured ribbing since the event. In fact, one of the other teams added a cat silhouette to my vehicle in honor of my exploit.



Indeed, any sighting of a cat or cat-related items prompts numerous radio calls to my vehicle (not to mention cat calls—ok that was bad). Below, I am posing with a sign we found at ISAF Headquarters warning residents there not to feed the cats. Of course, HQ57 doesn't just "not feed the cats" we eliminate the them!



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be shared b soldiers at those remote locations. A special thanks goes out to the Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary for their generous donation.

Well, that's about all the news from Kabul. I hope that everyone has a wonderful Memorial Day. Thanks again for all the love and support!

Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Supplies the Tiki Hut



A few issues ago, I described the Tiki Hut—Camp Phoenix's unofficial cigar club. It is a great place to relax and enjoy the company of other soldiers in a unique atmosphere. The hut—really a modified smoking shack—has electricity and surround sound speakers (plus, of course, tacky decorations). Personal iPods supply music and, if we can borrow an LCD projector, movies are a frequent event. Keith's Rotary club—the Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary—learned of the Tiki Hut's need for cigars and sent almost \$1000 worth of cigars. The cigars are a huge hit and are provided to the soldiers on "cigar night" (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights). The Tiki Hut also ships cigars to FOB's down range to