

Red Devils head for home

1st Bn., 504th PIR bids farewell to Afghanistan, hello to Fort Bragg



Sgt. Ed Zink

Col. John F. Campbell congratulates Sgt. 1st Class Walter Tagalicud of Co. B, 1st Bn., 504th PIR after pinning on his Bronze Star medal.

By Sgt. Ed Zink

109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD Afghanistan — “No one has attacked the United States again ... not on your watch.”

With this one line, Col. John F. Campbell, commander of the 504th “Devils” Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, summed up the success of his 1st Battalion soldiers’ mission in Afghanistan during an awards ceremony here Sunday.

Campbell addressed his 1st Bn. “Red Devils” in the bomb-riddled hangar on Kandahar Air Field as the unit prepared to redeploy to its home station of Fort Bragg, N.C. following six months of hunting down Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists and their weapons stockpiles.

“We could try to measure your success by counting the number of caches, the number of rockets, the number of grenades, the number of Afghan children you have helped ...,” said Campbell. “Your greatest proof ... is that no one has attacked the United States again ... not on your watch.”

Campbell was quoting the words of the Red Devils commander, Lt. Col. David T. Gerard, who along with Campbell, Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Kalinofski, regimental command sergeant major and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, 1st Bn. command

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Surgical team puts critical care in the air

By Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe

109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, AFGHANISTAN – A new concept in critical care is helping save the lives of more U.S. soldiers in this war than in any previous war.

Moving the critically injured and sick from the front lines to larger and better-equipped military medical facilities has become the job of the Air Force Critical Care Air Transport Team.

CCATT works in conjunction with Air Force aerial medical evacuation specialists, and can provide more specialized care during MEDEVAC flights than was previously available. The CCAT Team is attached to an air evacuation squadron and is tasked with the movement and care of critically injured or sick patients.

“Basically what we are doing is putting an ICU (intensive care unit) in the sky,” said Air Force Maj. Daniel T. Smith, 438th Expeditionary Air Medical Evacuation Squadron here. “We can put a chest tube in. We can put a central line in ... anything we could do in the (emergency room) or the ICU.”

The CCAT Team is made up of three individuals, a physician who usually has a background in critical care such as emergency medicine or general surgery, a criti

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From the top — Excerpt from SMA holiday message



SMA Jack Tilley

The past few weeks have provided me many great opportunities to talk to some outstanding soldiers serving around our Army. On one occasion, I saw the best our Army has to offer during the recent Association of the United States Army annual convention here in Washington, DC.

The displays were magnificent, but what made them stand out were the soldiers and civilians manning them. They were all looking sharp, incredibly knowledgeable, professional and enthusiastic. You should be proud of their efforts. They represented our MACOMs extremely well.

I want to thank AUSA for providing us the forum to discuss a number of issues like NCOES, Transformation and Personnel. The comments we received from attendees were insightful and vital to continuing to improve our Army and our NCO Corps.

One area I ask you to emphasize is the capabilities of Army Knowledge Online. All soldiers should have an AKO account and take the time to check out the services at <https://www.us.army.mil>.

A lot of people don't realize that their spouses are eligible to acquire an AKO guest account. This will provide them with a tremendous amount of information about programs, issues and news about their Army.

The new myPay website is another great program that soldiers should take advantage of. Click on <https://emss.dfas.mil/MYPAY.ASP> and register to be able to receive and update information on your LES, travel vouchers, Thrift Savings Plan updates, as well as federal and state taxes. This allows soldiers to check their pay information anytime and anywhere they have web access.

Gloria and I wish you all the best.
HOOAH!

Desert Devil Dispatch falls under the supervision of Task Force Devil.

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Off the record ...

Who's going to win the Super Bowl and why?



"Tampa Bay is going to win. The Bucs have been waiting to get to the Super Bowl."

Lt. Walter Pjetraj
C-9, CTF 82



"It's going to be Tampa Bay because I hate the Raiders because they beat Tennessee."

Sgt. 1st Class Marc Goulet
HHC, 3rd Bn., 504th PIR



"I feel Oakland's going to win. I'm from the West Coast and that's our favorite team."

Spc. Jahmal Bailey
3rd Bn., 504th PIR.



"I'd say the Raiders. They've got the experience and they've got the offense."

Pvt. Trevor Samhammer
Co. C, 2nd Bn., 505th PIR

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Sgt. Ed Zink

Above, soldiers from 1st Bn., 504th PIR gather around Col. John F. Campbell, 504th commander during the award ceremony held in the hangar here Sunday. Right, among the awards presented were the Bronze Star medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.



sergeant major, personally awarded Bronze Star and Army Commendation medals for service and valor to scores of Red Devils soldiers during the ceremony. Combat Infantry and Medical badges, pinned with a swat and a handshake, also adorned the sun-faded desert camouflage uniforms of the war-time seasoned soldiers.

Campbell told the crowd their reward would not only be the pieces of metal and cloth pinned to their chests, but also the lasting friendships only soldiers who serve in combat together can know.

"You are a team of teams," said Campbell "And, working together as part of Task Force Red Devil, you exceeded all standards. That is your greatest reward."

USECARMY visits Kandahar

By Lt. Col. Jeremy M. Martin
SCDO, Chief of Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Under Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee visited Saturday with soldiers and leaders of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

Brownlee was welcomed to Kandahar by Col. John F. Campbell, 504th PIR commander and the regiment's top sergeant, Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Kalinofski.

Brownlee had meals with soldiers, visited the operational centers of U.S. and coalition forces, and received operational updates from task force commanders.

TF commanders briefed Brownlee on current operations and the complexity of their missions being conducted in a hostile and challenging environment.

"The challenge we face is executing operations over long distances, and over those distances maintaining (command and control), force protection, and security at multiple locations, while maintaining the ability to mass combat power at the proper place and time," said Maj. Malcolm Frost, Regimental S-3.

"We measure our success by our ability to disrupt the enemy's ability to plan, rehearse, and coordinate

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Sgt. Ed Zink

Under Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee speaks to Coalition Task Force 82 soldiers during his visit to Kandahar Air Field, Saturday. Brownlee spent the day touring the operational centers here, receiving updated reports and speaking with soldiers.

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cal care nurse and a cardio-pulmonary technician. The physician is the team leader but everyone on the team plays a vital role in saving lives.

“We all have to know the equipment, but mostly that is my job,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Kristen McCabe, a critical care nurse assigned to 438th. “I have to react to what our monitors tell us, administer medications and document everything we do. We’re limited to the number of patients we can treat, but we offer a higher level of care.”

Since arriving in Afghanistan, the CCAT Team has helped transport a U.S. soldier with a head wound and another soldier with a pulmonary embolism or blood clot in his lung. CCATT is also tasked with the care and transport of local national patients in need of a high level of care. Local patients have included victims of landmines, unexploded ordnance and gunshot wounds, and some critically injured stabbing victims.

One such patient was patient 53,



Cpl. Keith Kluwe

Air Force Maj. Daniel T. Smith, CCATT Team Leader, anesthetizes a patient prior to flying him to Bagram for a CT scan Jan. 12.

transported Jan. 12. Patient 53 was involved in an altercation with a

neighbor. During the altercation, he received several stab wounds from some type of a sharp instrument including one to his scalp, one to the right side of his neck and one to his chest.

Smith said the injury to the scalp of Patient 53 necessitated a trip to Bagram Air Field’s hospital for a CT scan to check for bleeding inside the skull or damage to his brain.

Because of the critical nature of his injuries, the possible loss of his airway from his neck injury and the immediate departure for Bagram after surgery, a CCAT team was used in case anything were to go wrong during the flight. Patient 53 remained stable through the whole flight.

Providing medical care for the Afghans is an important part of the coalition mission here, said Smith.

“It helps us build a relationship with the people of the country and lets them know that the United States is here

for them,” he said. “At the hospital in Bagram, I didn’t see a single American in ICU.”

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dinate operations against coalition forces, and by denying them sanctuary in Afghanistan — since 9-11 there’s been no cohesive, coordinated attack against U.S. or Coalition forces,” said Frost.

“We’re blessed with great leaders, and a tremendous NCO Corps,” said Campbell. “I can’t say enough about the sacrifices our soldier make, (they’re) a highly motivated volunteer force, proud to be on point for our nation,” said Campbell.

Under Secretary Brownlee lauded the efforts of numerous soldiers throughout the visit, including Staff Sgt. Kurt F. Schmitz, a flight medic with the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Assault), Oregon National Guard who was recently hoisted into an area of unexploded

ordnance to provide primary care to a soldier who stepped on a land mine. Schmitz provided primary care to the soldier, who was then hoisted from the minefield and is recovering.

Lt. Col. Terry V. Morgan, Task Force Sabre commander said this is still a very dangerous environment — we’re prepared for combat, and realize the dangers.”

“I’ve never seen a better unit, or one that was more ably led,” said Brownlee.

“The war is far from over, but the job you’ve done in Afghanistan is nothing short of a miracle — thank you,” said Brownlee. “On behalf of Secretary Tom White and the American people, thank you for what you are doing. It’s a tough job, very demanding and we appreciate the tremendous sacrifice and dedication from you and your families.”

You might be Airborne if ... you almost didn’t marry your wife because she was a stinkin leg. — Brian Hubbard (from Paratrooper.net)

DEVIL SPORTS_____

No. 1 ranked offense goes up against top defense

SAN DIEGO — A Super Bowl of the high seas: the Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. the Oakland Raiders

Associated Press

All that will be missing is the pirate ship.

This weekend at Qualcomm Stadium, Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden, who left the Raiders this season, bringing draft picks and millions of dollars to Oakland in exchange, meets his former team.

"I've got a lot of respect for where I come from," Gruden said. "I do have some close relationships with some of those players."

And the Raiders have the league's No. 1 offense. Guess who has the top defense?

How delicious.

Starting with Gruden vs. his buddies out west.

"We thought this could happen," said wide receiver Tim Brown, the longest-tenured Raider. "For it to come to fruition, you really can't dream about it. We're going to go get Jon."

This will be the first Super Bowl for the Bucs, while the Raiders have not been there since winning their third NFL title after the 1983 season.

Now the Bucs get a chance to be NFL champions, taking on the high-powered Raiders, who survived 14 penalties for 127 yards by getting three touchdown



Jerry Rice has three rings. Tim Brown looks for his first.

passes and a TD run from Gannon.

Tampa Bay used its usual approach of aggressive defense and enough timely offense to keep Philadelphia off-balance all day. Oakland got big plays from its cast of veterans, from Gannon to Brown to Jerry Rice to Bill Romanowski to Rod Woodson.

The Bucs had a plus-14 turnover differential this season, and probably have more playmakers on defense than offense. In ranking first against the pass and in overall defense, the Bucs had a league-high 31 interceptions. Defensive player of the year Derrick Brooks had four runbacks for touchdowns this season, but cornerback Ronde Barber was Sunday's star.

"It was a play that I have to make," Barber said after he iced the win with a 92-yard interception with 3:12 remaining. "I'd be kicking myself for the next five weeks if I don't make that interception. The touchdown was a bonus for it."

The Raiders messed up enough times to keep matters close against the Titans. But Tennessee had two critical fumbles and a botched punt that were more costly, and the Raiders never stopped being aggressive — on Sunday or any time this season.

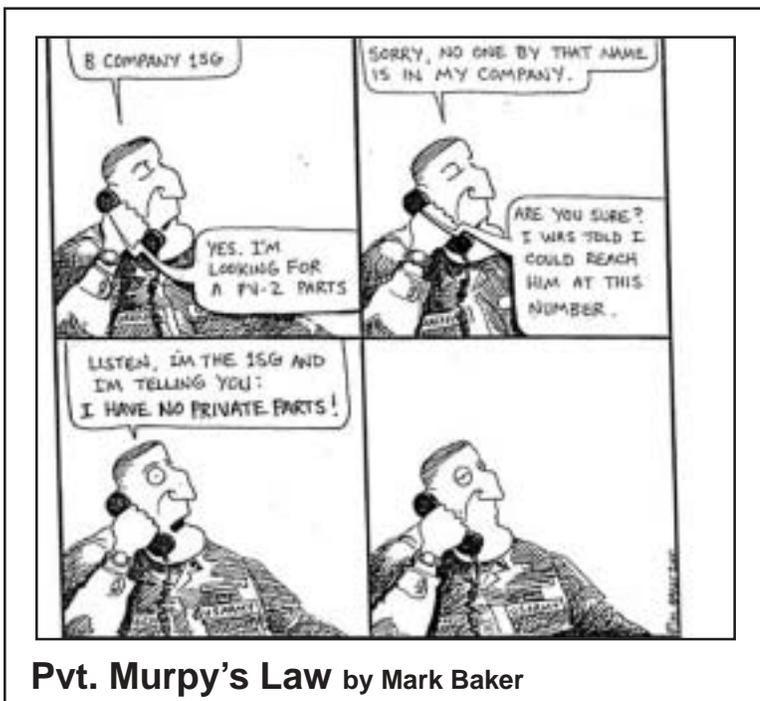
"We fought hard all year long, kept fighting," Rice said. "We lost four games and we fought through it. And now we are going to the Super Bowl."

If the Bucs aren't as generous as the Titans, Oakland could have a difficult time finding the end zone. However, Tampa hasn't faced as versatile an offense as Oakland's all season.

And the Raiders are likely to have more fans on hand, given the proximity of both teams' homes.

"One more to go," said Sapp. "We ain't going for no vacation."

Neither is Oakland.



Pvt. Murpy's Law by Mark Baker

Sports Cont. (Compiled from ESPN.com)

Smith plans to speak with Jones about future

Emmitt Smith said on ESPN Thursday night that he did not believe a report in the Dallas Morning News that said he would no longer be the team's starting running back and would return next season only as a backup.

Smith, the NFL's all-time leading rusher, said he planned to speak with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones soon to sort out his future role with the team.

Kobe the top vote-getter with 1,474,386 votes

NEW YORK — When the ball goes up for the opening tip at the NBA All-Star Game Feb. 9 in Atlanta, Yao Ming will be the center trying to win the jump ball for the West.

The 7-foot-6 Houston Rockets rookie from China will be starting for the Western Conference after defeating Shaquille O'Neal by almost a quarter-million votes in final fan balloting totals released Thursday.

McLaren lands with Sharks, Sundstrom to Canadiens

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Holdout Boston Bruins defenseman Kyle McLaren was traded to the San Jose Sharks on Thursday in a three-team deal that sent forward Niklas Sundstrom to the Montreal Canadiens.

The Bruins acquired veteran goalie Jeff Hackett from the Canadiens and young defenseman Jeff Jillson from the Sharks.

Veterans Stadium ranked the best of the worst

SAN DIEGO — There's no way the turf at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia can get any worse.

Only because it won't be around next season.

The NFL Players Association released its biennial ranking of NFL playing surfaces Thursday. And surprise: The Vet ranked worst in the league once more, giving it a clean sweep of the worst spot since the survey began in 1994.

Sports Scores

NBA

Thursday's games

• **Kings 104, Grizzlies 98 • Mavericks 107, 76ers 94**

Wednesday's games

• **Warriors 114, Lakers 110 • Hornets 103, Wizards 94**

• **Grizzlies 98, Spurs 93 • Clippers 96, Jazz 89**

• **Timberwolves 96, SuperSonics 91 • Trail Blazers 112, Hawks**

110, 2 OT • Knicks 97, Nuggets 88 • Magic 94, Bulls 91

• **Heat 92, Suns 85 • 76ers 92, Pistons 83 • Pacers 101, Rap**

tors 98 • Bucks 106, Celtics 97

NHL

Thursday's games

• **Coyotes 7, Flames 1 • Blackhawks 3, Blues 3 • Rangers 4,**

Predators 2 • Avalanche 5, Blue Jackets 0 • Bruins 4, Penguins

1 • Thrashers 3, Senators 3

Wednesday's games

• **Devils 5, Sharks 4, OT • Mighty Ducks 6, Kings 5 • Oilers 4,**

Red Wings 3 • Stars 4, Blue Jackets 2 • Senators 2, Panthers

1 • Canadiens 2, Lightning 2 • Capitals 5, Hurricanes 3

NEWS BRIEFS

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Thursday (AP) — Fearing war could trigger a crisis in the region, Iraq's neighbors urged Saddam Hussein on Thursday to cooperate fully with U.N. arms inspectors. They avoided any public call for the Iraqi leader to step down.

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La., Thursday (AP)

Two U.S. pilots who mistakenly bombed Canadian troops in Afghanistan last year apologized to the families of the dead and wounded Thursday as a hearing that could lead to their court-martial drew to a close.

"I was called upon to make a perfect decision in a rapidly unfolding combat environment," said Maj. Harry Schmidt, who dropped the 500-pound laser-guided bomb. "I had to make that decision with what I now know, with the acuity of 20/20 hindsight, was imperfect information."

Schmidt called the accident a tragedy committed in the "fog of war."

FALCON HEIGHTS, Texas, Thursday

Two military helicopters crashed overnight while helping the Border Patrol in a drug case, killing all four Marine reservists on board.

The crash of the AH1W Super Cobra helicopters happened Wednesday night at Falcon State Park in far South Texas, near the Mexican border.



La Kandahar, s-a realizat transferul de autoritate: Deta_amentul „^OIMII CARPABILOR” sunt, de acum, oficial sub comand american

Cpitan Constantin HERBANU

Din Kandahar,

Oficerul cu relatiile publice al BATALIONULUI 812 INFANTERIE „^OIMII CARPABILOR”

Misiunile de lupt în Operatiunea „ENDURING FREEDOM” continu. La Kandahar, militarii Batalionului 812 Infanterie „^OIMII CARPABILOR”, au gzduit comisia alcuit din general de brigad ^tefan OPREA, locciitor al comandantului Comandamentului 2 Operacional Întrunit, colonel Stelian GHE^EA, consilier juridic la Direccia Operatii _i Instructie din SMG _i colonel Vasile VOIVOD, locciitor al comandantului Brigzii 81 Mecanizate, care a participat în teatrul de operatii KANDAHAR / AFGANISTAN, la activitci de evaluare a rotirii forcelor.

Dup finalizarea misiunii, chiar la scara avionului C-130 HERCULES ce urma s decoleze ctre car, generalul de brigad ^tefan Oprea, _eful comisiei a rspuns cu amabilitate întrebriilor noastre:

Î: Domnule general, v rugam s ne spuneci care este concluzia la care aci ajuns în urma activitcii dumneavoastr la Kandahar ?

R: „In primul rând, vreau s v spun c aceast misiune, deosebit de important, a avut ca rol încheierea activitcii de rotire a deta_amentelor din Kandahar, în Operatiunea „ENDURING FREEDOM”. Cu aceast ocazie, s-a desf_urat transferul de autoritate ctre forca din Kandahar urmând ca, de acum, deta_amentul nou introdus, Batalionului 812 Infanterie „^OIMII CARPABILOR” s intre în subordinea comandantului Brigzii 1 TF „DEVIL”. S-a fcut transferul de autoritate, iar în urma discuciilor pe care le-am avut cu comandantul forcei DEVIL, a reie_it faptul c, pân la aceast dat, activitcile programate se desf_oar normal. S-a remarcat faptul c acest deta_ament este unul de oameni bine instruiți, disciplinaci _i care au intrat în executarea misiunilor în condicii foarte bune. Aceasta este _i concluzia comandantului Brigzii 1 TF „DEVIL”, colonel John F. Campbell, care, în ceea ce prive_te aspectele operative ale misiunilor desf_urate pân la aceast dat, are doar cuvinte de laud.



mr. Dorin Blaiu impreuna cu gl.bg. Stefan Oprea in vizita secretarului Ministerului Apararii din SUA dl. Less Brownlee, alaturi de comandantul Brigzii 1 DEVIL col. John Campbell

Asupra modului cum s-au desf_urat misiunile, vom trage _i alte concluzii, ce urmeaz s le aplicm în perioada urmtoare, în vederea pregtirii unui alt deta_ament, care se va disloca, dac va fi cazul, evident, în teatrul de operatii din Afghanistan.”

Î: Din câte am înceles noi, este o activitate de pionierat _i pentru Comandamentului 2 Operacional Întrunit?

R: „Activitatea coincide, într-adevr, cu preluarea monitorizrii activitcii internationale de ctre Comandamentul 2 Operacional Întrunit _i trebuie sa v reamintesc faptul c, începând cu 1 ianuarie 2003, misiunile din afara granicei sunt verificate _i conduse de ctre noi .”

Î: Aci participat la recunoa_teri, atât terestre cât _i aeriene, la misiuni alturi de militarii Batalionului 812 Infanterie „^OIMII CARPABILOR”, ce puteci spune despre condiciile de lupt, de aici, din Afghanistan?

R: „Este adevrat c intrarea mea în Afghanistan s-a fcut pe timpul reorganizrii taberei, perioada în care s-a cazat noul deta_ament, „^OIMII CARPABILOR”. Spre surprinderea mea, în dou zile, tabra aproape c s-a transformat, în sensul bun al cuvântului, astfel încât militarii acestui deta_ament au putut intra în ni_te condicii

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TRANSFERUL *from page 8* —

de campare corespunzătoare exigencelor pe care _i le-au impus. Au fost preluate succesiv, facilitățile Batalionului 26 Infanterie, realizându-se într-un timp foarte scurt îmbunătățiri substanțiale. Condițiile de lucru, cazare, hrănire _i imbiere sunt asigurate în bune condiții pentru întregul efectiv, punându-se accent pe incluziunea încaperilor, avându-se în vedere temperatura scăzută, în special pe timpul nopții.

De asemenea, pot să spun faptul că, ce-a de-a doua zi de misiune a coincis cu vizita Subsecretarului de Stat din Ministerul Apărării Statele Unite ale Americii, domnul LES BROWNLEE, care a cinut în mod deosebit, să fac o vizită acestui detașament, remarcând _i domnia sa, la fel ca și comandantul forței (Brigăzii 1 TF „DEVIL”) că, acest detașament este bine instruit, foarte disciplinat _i în măsură să _i execute misiunile primite.

După cum era _i firesc, ne-am ocupat în primul rând de aspectele operaționale ale acestei misiuni, în sensul recunoașterii zonei de

acțiune a batalionului românesc _i, nu în ultimul rând, de verificarea modului cum au fost înțelese misiunile _i cum se execută acestea. Am făcut recunoașterea din aer a zonei împreună cu colegii mei, din echipa cu care am venit din țară, cu comandantul batalionului, maiorul Dorin BLAIU. Am participat la executarea misiunii de patrulare în zona de responsabilitate a unității _i, nu în ultimul rând, am desfășurat _i o misiune de tip „Team Village”(„echipa satului”), prin care s-a urmărit distribuirea de ajutoare umanitare populației din zonă.

Intrarea în teatrul de operații a detașamentului „^OIMII CARPABILOR” s-a executat concomitent cu îndeplinirea misiunilor. Acesta este un lucru inedit atât pentru ei, cât _i pentru comandantul forței americane, dar nu au fost probleme. Timpul de pregătire pe care l-a avut Batalionul 812 Infanterie în care _i exercițiile SIMEX executate au asigurat un nivel de pregătire a întregului personal conform exigencelor din teatru, adaptarea la specificul zonei realizându-se în condiții foarte bune.

Î: Care sunt obiectivele pe care vi le propuneți în legătură cu misiunea „ENDURING FREEDOM”?

R: „Este o misiune deosebit de importantă, cu un grad de risc deosebit de ridicat. În această venire a mea aici, am urmărit _i scopuri operaționale _i, în plus încercăm să dobândim cât mai mult experiență, în vederea pregătirii în condiții foarte bune a unui viitor detașament, care ar putea îndeplini misiuni similare.”

Î: Mulțumim mult, drum bun către cas!

R: „Eu am făcut astăzi urmișii întregului detașament, îmi permit să le retransmit, acum, la scara avionului. Încerc să vă însuflu din interiorul sufletului meu un gând bun, mult succes în îndeplinirea misiunilor ce vor urma _i nu în ultimul rând, vă urez mult sănătate, astfel încât, întoarcerea în țară să se facă fără probleme deosebite. Am convingerea, că toți cititorii sunt suflete _i alturi de voi _i sunt convinși că prin toate mesajele voastre către țară, sunteți mai aproape de cei dragi, care astfel vor suporta mai ușor lipsa soțiilor, taticilor, fraților, a prietenilor care sunt acum, în Afghanistan.”