

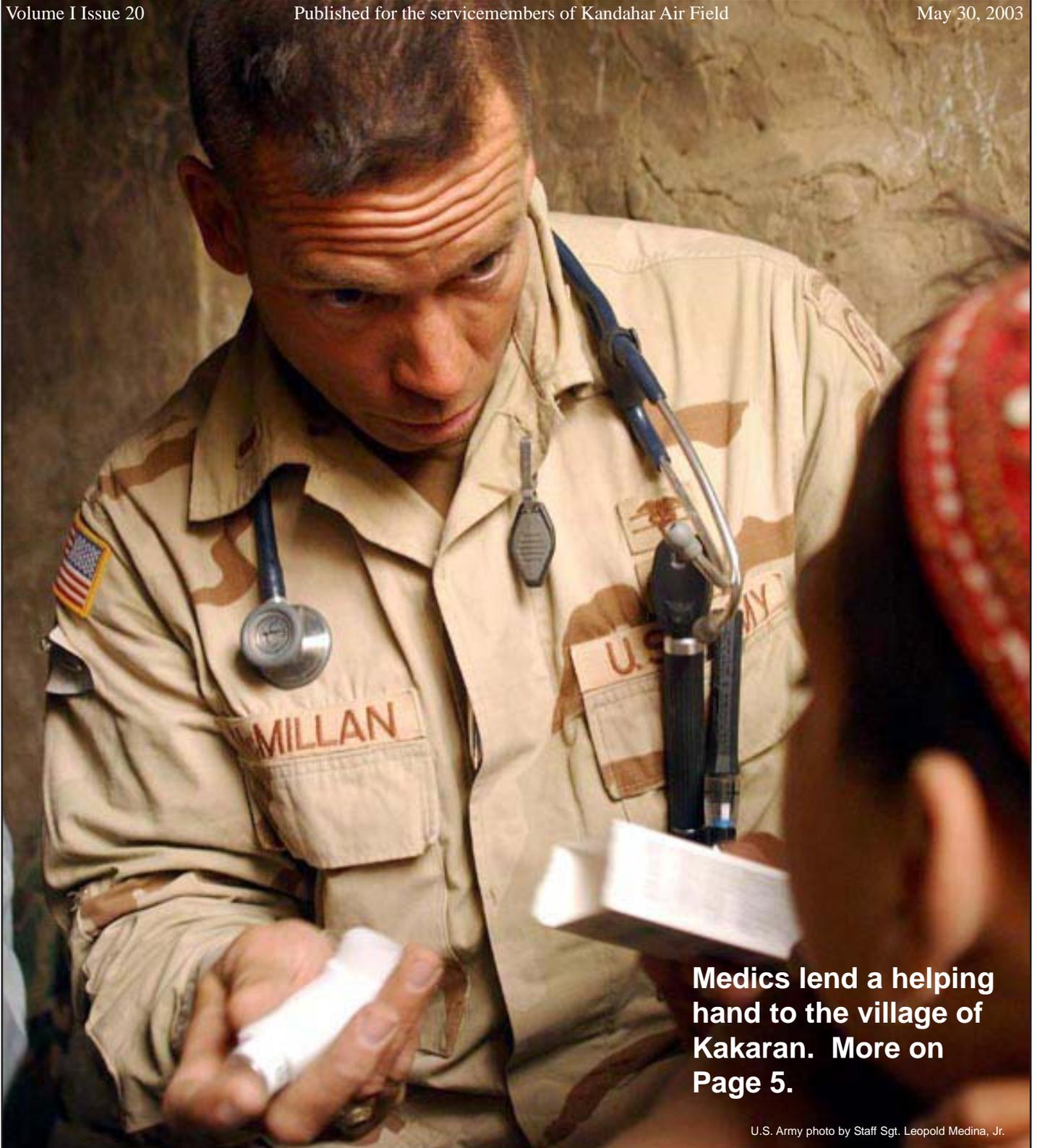


DESERT DEVIL DISPATCH

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Medics lend a helping hand to the village of Kakaran. More on Page 5.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Leopold Medina, Jr.

TF Devil - Take Pride in Your Team

by Col. John Campbell
Task Force Devil Commander



Devil Six

This will be my last article in the Desert Devil Dispatch as shortly I'll change command and pass the colors to Col. Patrick Donohue. For the past 24 months and especially the past six months in Afghanistan it has been my honor and privilege to command this great regiment and the Devil Task Force. This has been the most rewarding experience of my military career and certainly one I will not forget.

Everyday I'm amazed at the perseverance of our soldiers as they continue this very important task of preserving our way of life ... by prosecuting the Global War on Terrorism. All of you should be proud of the accomplishments of this great Task Force and the difference you have made in the lives of so many of the Afghanistan people. As I have said to numerous formations and groups ... no one will understand the experiences that you have gone through here more than your buddies on your left and right ... there is no way that you can articulate what you have sacrificed together ... there will always be a special bond between you and your brothers-in-arms. Cherish this time, take care of each other and stay focused on the task at hand.

Looks like I'll head to the Pentagon for my next assignment and the message I'll tell all is that the paratroopers of Task Force Devil are making a significant difference in this Global War on Terrorism and a huge impact in Afghanistan. Under very austere conditions and rugged terrain the paratroopers are making us all proud to be associated among them. Like the veterans before them at places like

the Waal River, Salerno, and Sicily new names like Kandahar, Spin Boldak, Baghrum Valley, Khwost will go down as places that the Devils have made significant impacts upon. Just as earlier veterans of this great Regiment, today's Devils have forcefully demonstrated on the battlefield that despite the obstacles of weather and rugged terrain, or of being tired, these Devils have remained determined and kept its commitment to accomplish every mission with out ever relinquishing any ground it had once occupied.

Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Kalinofski and I are continually reminded of the great sacrifices our soldiers and their families make everyday so that others may enjoy the liberties of freedom that many Americans take for granted. All veterans know that freedom isn't free and that it takes men and women of great character to step up and take a stand—this Task Force — everyone of you individually is doing their part to ensure that the terrorists that inflicted the great suffering of 9/11 will never ever have the capability to do so again—we will never forget.

Someday in a Taliban or Al-Qaida diary we will read, “

“We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts and by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter, we will not fail”

- President George W. Bush

...Devils in baggy pants have surrounded my cave, I can't sleep at night; they pop up from nowhere and we never know when or how they will strike next...the

black-hearted devils are everywhere...”

I owe a great debt of gratitude to the family readiness groups and to all the ladies that have supported us the past two years. Without them we could not have stayed focus on what we all love to do. To the greatest assembly of non-commissioned officers ... you truly are the standard bearers ... I have learned more about leadership from all of you than I could ever pass on. We're truly blessed to have Kalinofski as our regimental sergeant major ... he has been and will continue to be the bedrock of this great regiment. I'm truly living the dream ... to be associated with this great Regiment, with its great veterans, with the greatest

see **FAREWELL**, page 6

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

Task Force Devil Commander:

Col. John F. Campbell

Task Force Devil Command Sgt. Maj:

Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Kalinofski

82nd Airborne Public Affairs:

Maj. Robert Gilpin

Romanian Public Affairs:

Capt. Constantin Hertanu



Desert Devil Dispatch, a U.S. Army newsletter, is produced by the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

Commander:

1st Lt. Cory Angell

NCOIC:

Staff Sgt. Kevin Askew

Editor/Layout/Graphics:

Spc. Jim Wagner

Combat Correspondent:

Cpl Keith A. Kluwe

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If you would like to receive the Dispatch electronically, please send an email to jim1wag@yahoo.com



Romanian soldiers demonstrate their skill with the rocket-propelled grenad launcher, first loading (left), firing (center), and hitting the silhouette.

Romanians Host Country's Minister of Defense

by Spc. Jim Wagner
109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The Romanian army's "Carpathian Hawks," the 812th Infantry Battalion, conducted a live-fire demonstration and humanitarian aid mission for their country's minister of defense Saturday.

Ioan Mircea Pascu, Romania's highest civilian military official, visited Kandahar and the surrounding area to assess the army's involvement as part of a coalition force, said Romanian 1st Lt. Crisan Dan, a civil affairs officer.

Accompanying the minister of defense were top military officials and two elected officials -- Sergiu Nicolaescu, president of the Senate Defense Committee, and Razvan Ionescu, president of the Deputy Room (comparable to the U.S. House of Representatives) Defense Committee.

Romanians also visited the villages of Fatibullah and Kalantar to distribute school supplies.



Afghan children wave Romanian and U.S. flags.



U.S. Army photos by Cpl. Keith Kluwe

ABOVE: Romanian army infantrymen air assault into Tarnak Farms during a live-fire demonstration Saturday.

RIGHT: Romanian 1st Lt. Crisan Dan, civil affairs officer, hands out Romanian flags to Afghan children during a humanitarian assistance stop to a local village.





U.S. and coalition servicemembers march off at the end of the transfer of authority here Tuesday. Maj. Gen. John R. Vines is the new commanding general of combat operations here, succeeding Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill.

Vines Takes Coalition Command in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Det.

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — After Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill stepped down as commanding general of U.S. and coalition forces here Tuesday, Maj. Gen. John Vines officially took his place.

McNeill had a few things to say to servicemembers after commanding operations here since late May of 2002.

“...I don’t have to stand before you and give you a lot of words to prove the point that this coalition task force has made a difference.

“You can see it all around you ... soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians of the combined joint task force, thank you for your loyalty, faithfulness and service to the cause of freedom. Your countries are proud of you,” said McNeill.

The former commander didn’t forget to thank the Afghan allies either.

“To our Afghan allies, you will always have my gratitude for the hospitality you have shown to the members of the coalition.

“The future of your country is in your hands. Only by working together will



Maj. Gen. John R. Vines delivers a speech here Tuesday to servicemembers during a transfer of authority and reception.

you guarantee your future. Your friends around the world expect that of you and I know you won’t disappoint them,” said the lieutenant general returning to his home and family in North Carolina.

Just before he passed the microphone to his successor, he said, “Every day I will think of the members of the coalition, the people of Afghanistan and all those here who are working and indeed sacrificing to rebuild Afghanistan and to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism. It has been my privilege to be part

of that noble cause.”

After accepting the new assignment, Vines spoke to servicemembers.

“Some 25 years ago, as Afghanistan was wracked by war, the world looked the other way. Your presence here today represents the commitment not to repeat that mistake.”

But in order for Afghanistan to not

suffer again, Vines reminded servicemembers that the task will not be easy.

“Many of us think of our homes and families many of thousands of miles away in many countries. But the reality is we are needed here. What we’re doing is a noble enterprise. It is an honor to serve with you,” he said.

Vines has been in Afghanistan for nine months and is due to take over command of the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. this summer, said McNeill.



U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Leopold Medina, Jr.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A healthy baby from the village of Kakaran waits in her mother's arms to be seen by U.S. medics; Maj. Tom Tosto, Task Force Devil, 82nd Airborne Division, gives an injection to an Afghan man from the Kakaran village; Pfc. Daniel Paulsen C Company, 307th LTF, prepares an antibiotic shot for an elderly man; 1st Lt. Kathy McConkey, 948th FST, examines a baby; Task Force Devil soldiers make their first security stop during the convoy headed to the village of Kakaran

Medics Lend a Helping Hand

by Cpl. Keith Kluwe
109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Medical personnel from Task Force Devil at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, journeyed to the Afghan village of Kakaran Tuesday to provide the village with some much needed medical assistance.

Doctors, nurses, physician's assistants and other medical personnel from the 307th Logistics Task Force, 948th Forward Surgical Team, Devil Brigade and other supporting units from Kandahar treat Afghans while civil affairs soldiers talked with village leaders and provided humanitarian assistance in the form of tools and school supplies.

More than 243 Afghan civilians were treated in the three hours the mobile medical clinic was set up and operated. Their ailments ranged from worms to ear infections, said 2nd Lt. Bertis McMillan, a physician's assistant from 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment.

"We had more providers on this mission than we usually have," which accounted for the high number of patients seen in such a short amount of time, said McMillan. "Plus we had a Forward Surgical Team nurse to treat female patients.

"We saw a lot of people with worms, diarrhea and abdominal pain," he contin-

ued. "They are the biggest problem with the kids. Two pills can cure their case of worms and fix any nutritional and hydration problems caused by the worms."

This mission was very successful because of the wide variety of medications the providers had to prescribe McMillan said.

Immediate treatment, he said, is a must because of all the problems associated with a follow-up visit to each village where a medical assistance mission is performed.



Sept. 11 Flag Flown Over Bagram Headquarters Before Return to NY

by Spc. Charles Meseke
CJTF-180 PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Reveille has always been an important part of military tradition. From Fort Drum, N.Y., to the front lines of the War on Terror, honors are given to the flag as it is raised each morning over a military compound.

Reveille took on a special meaning at the Combined Joint Task Force-180 headquarters compound Wednesday morning as an American flag that was flown at the World Trade Center Sept. 11, 2001, was raised over the headquarters for Operation Enduring Freedom.

The flag was taken out of building number seven of the World Trade Center by a police officer as people inside the building fled after witnessing the first

of the twin towers collapse.

The police officer and the Nam Knights, a motorcycle club composed of military veterans and police officers, thought it fitting to present the flag to a soldier who served with the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan.

As the 10th Mountain prepares to once again take control of operations in the War on Terror, it seemed fitting for a flag once nearly destroyed in an act of terrorism, is flown over the command center in a war to keep such an act from ever happening again.

Although the ceremony was performed just like any other morning at Bagram Air Base, it had a deep significance to those who participated.

“(Raising this flag) definitely had a sentimental value, just to be a part of it is more than an award,” said Spc. Angel

Acevedo, a military police officer with the 10th Mountain Division.

The 10th Mountain also plans to fly other flags over the CJTF-180 compound and give them to the Nam Knights and the New York Port Authority Police.

FAREWELL, from page 2

NCOs, officers and troopers ... I am in awe every day. I am truly humbled and proud to be part of this great organization and to have had the opportunity to serve alongside the very best. If I can assist any of you in the future please let me know. Ann and I wish you and your families the very best.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jim Wagner

Col. John Campbell, Task Force Devil commander, left, and Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Kalinofski, pose for a photo after running in a 10-kilometer race May 8. Campbell will relinquish command Thursday at 0400 Zulu in a change of command ceremony to be held at the north end of the airport terminal.

Spc. Angel Acevedo, left, and Sgt. Andreas Adams, military police officers with the 10th Mountain Division, raise a flag that flew inside the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, at the Coalition Joint Task Force 180 compound at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles D. Meseke



**You might be
Airborne if ...**

**big rubber bands excite you.
- John “Doc” Horton**



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