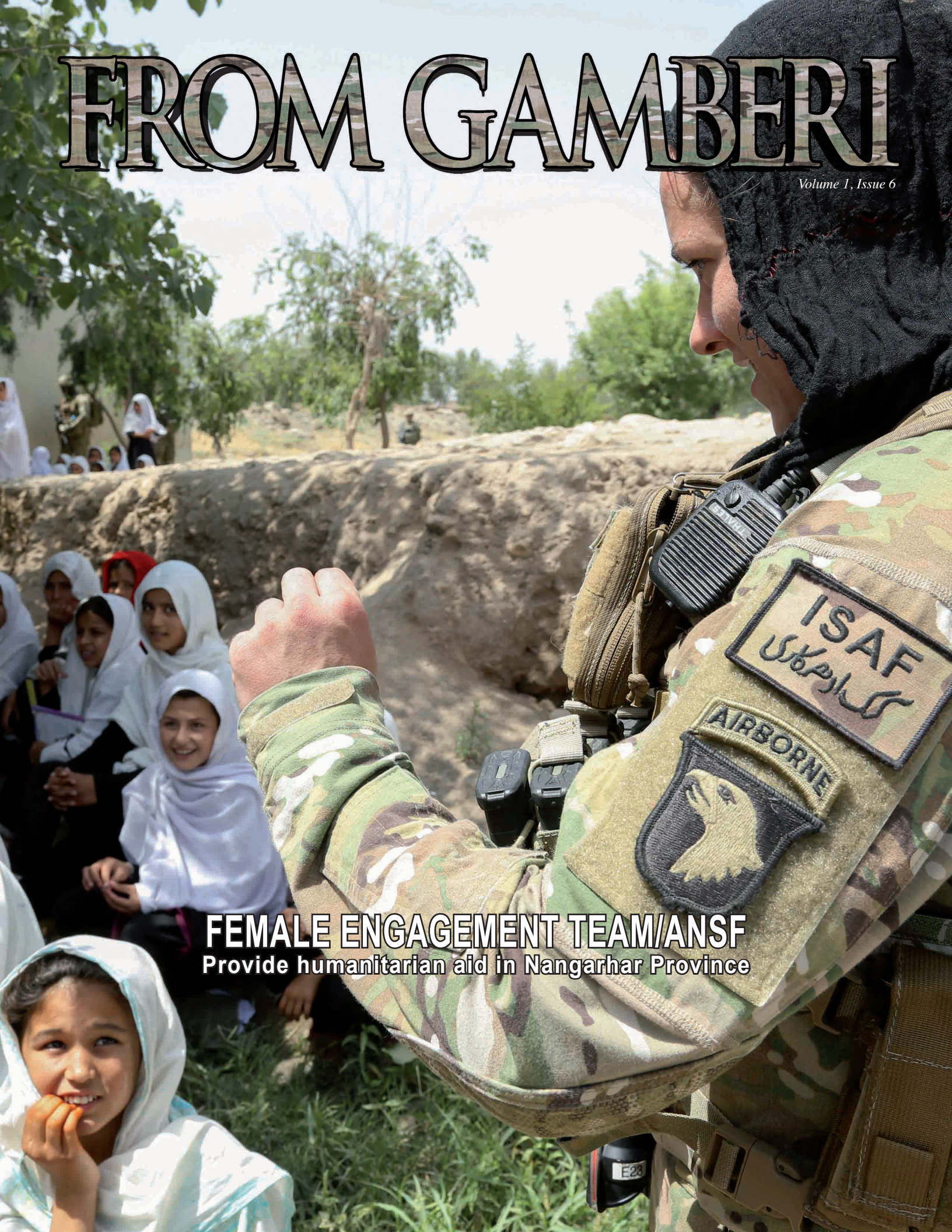


FROM GAMBERI

Volume 1, Issue 6



FEMALE ENGAGEMENT TEAM/ANSF
Provide humanitarian aid in Nangarhar Province

FROM GAMBERI

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

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U.S. Army Sgt. Stacy Coffield talks to students from an all-girls school at Forward Operating Base Finley Shields, Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, May 25, 2013. Coffield serves with the Female Engagement Team assigned to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky. The FET helped Afghan National Security Force soldiers provide humanitarian assistance support for the local community. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton/Released)

This installment of the FROM GAMBERI magazine features photos by Spc. Clayton of a female engagement team helping the Afghan National Security Forces providing humanitarian aid to students of and all-girl school in Nangarhar Province.

A story with pictures by 1st Lt. Otto on how the USDA is working with Laghman Province leaders in order to improve the economy in the province.

A story by Staff Sgt. Andrade on servicemembers and civilians using tactical combatives classes taught at FOB Gamberi not only to learn self defense techniques but as a work-out as well.

A set of pictures of the recent visit by the commander of International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, as he toured Gamberi, his meeting with senior leaders and presented Soldiers with challenge coins of excellence.

The last story is of the US medical advisors at Gamberi helping the ANA improve its medical capabilities.

If you wish to contribute to this magazine with a picture or have a story idea you can contact Maj. Miller or Staff Sgt. Andrade in the Public Affairs Office on FOB Gamberi.

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FEMALE ENGAGEMENT TEAM AND ANSF PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID

Pictures by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

Afghan school girls wait in line to receive school supplies and toys from Afghan National Security Forces at Forward Operating Base Fenty Shields, May 25. Humanitarian aid was given to gain support from the local community. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))



Afghan school girls wait in line after class to receive school supplies and toys from Afghan National Security Forces at Forward Operating Base Fenty Shields, May 25, 2013. The ANSF provided humanitarian aid to gain support from the local community. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))



Afghan National Security Force soldiers hand out school supplies and toys to students of an all-girl school at Forward Operating Base Finley Shields in Nangarhar Province, May 25, 2013. The ANSF provided humanitarian aid to gain support from the local community. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))



U.S. Army Sgt. Stacy Coffield talks to a students from a girls school at Forward Operating Base Finley Shields, May 25, 2013. Coffield serves with the Female Engagement Team assigned to the 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky. The FET helped elements of the ANSF provide humanitarian assistance in support of the local community.

FEMALE ENGAGEMENT TEAM AND ANSF PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID

Pictures by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)



An Afghan school girl poses for a picture after receiving a book bag at Forward Operating Base Finley Shields, May 25, 2013. Humanitarian aid was provided by Afghan National Security Forces to gain support from the local community.



Afghan school girls wait in line after class to receive school supplies and toys from Afghan National Security Forces at Forward Operating Base Finley Shields, May 25, 2013. Humanitarian aid was given to gain support from the local community. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))

USDA HELPS BOOST ECONOMY IN LAGHMAN PROVINCE



U.S. Army Capt. Thomas Rains (right), walks with Dawalatz Zai, Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Eric Dolbeare, U.S. Department of Agriculture senior agricultural advisor, Regional Command-East, and Dr. Jahangir Miakhail, senior provincial management specialist, Laghman Province, after a key leader engagement at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, May 9, 2013. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Sam Otto, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

By 1st Lt. Sam Otto
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Representatives from the International Security Assistance Force and the United States Department of Agriculture met with Laghman district leaders to discuss economic growth at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, May 9.

"I am really happy that we can have these meetings to bring together our knowledge," said Dawalatz Zai, director of agriculture, irrigation and livestock for Laghman Province.

Members of ISAF and U.S. Agencies listened to the concerns and recommendations brought forward by the local Afghan line directors and provided guidance to help boost agricultural revenue.

"Farming is an important part of the Laghman Province economy, with almost 90 percent of the population employed by agriculture," said Eric Dolbeare, USDA Senior Agricultural Advisor, Regional Command-East.

Dolbeare said he is assisting the farmers through the government of Afghanistan and is focusing on what local Afghans need to learn in order to increase the productivity of their farms.

"Improving agriculture is crucial to the development of Afghanistan," said Dolbeare.

Approximately 30 to 40 percent of farmers' produce is for their own use, said Zai.

"Improving agriculture is crucial to the development of Afghanistan," said Dolbeare.

In addition, the meetings are a time to show the line directors how to implement new strategies with the farmers.

As an example, the Agricultural Extension Development program from the United States Agency for International Aid has helped Laghman Province develop seven demonstration farms.

"These farms give farmers the opportunity to come see techniques used to improve their own farms," said Dr. Jahangir Miakhail, senior provincial management specialist, Laghman Province. "We have established orange

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Eric Dolbeare, senior agricultural advisor, Regional Command-East, United States Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, greets Dr. Jahangir Miskhail, senior provincial management specialist, Laghman Province, after a key leader engagement at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, May 9, 2013. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Sam Otto, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Daniel Gilliss, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Civil Military Assistance and Advisory Team, Security Force Assistance and Advisory Team 7, Company A, 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, Oklahoma Army National Guard, based out of Tulsa Okla., introduces himself to Laghman Provincial line directors at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, May 18, 2013. Pnina Levermore, (sitting at the head of the table), sub-national governance advisor, United States Agency for International Aid, works with line directors to assist them with USAID programs with an emphasis on budgeting. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Sam Otto, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

USDA HELPS BOOST ECONOMY IN LAGHMAN PROVINCE

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orchards, wheat, soy beans, rice; we have a lot of production here.”

Another key topic discussed during the meeting was the importance of financial security.

Pnina Levermore, regional sub-national governance advisor, US-AID, who works specifically with provincial officials on budgetary matters, says budget meetings help line directors understand how a budget is formed and how it comes together by looking at the numbers on paper.

“We identified that they did not have the knowledgebase to use their existing budget or how to establish a proper budget plan for the following year,” said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Daniel Gilliss, Company A., 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

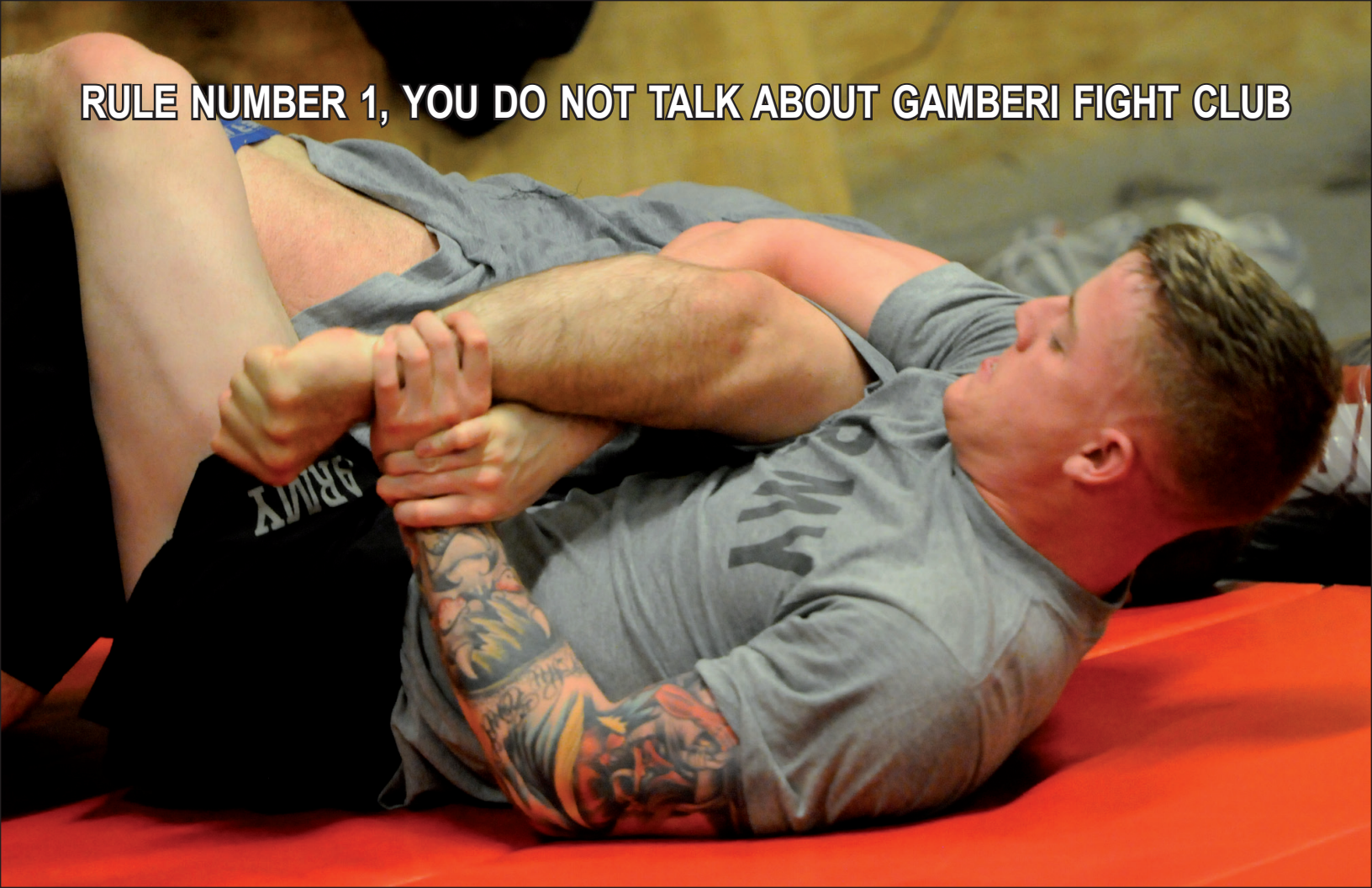
Gilliss, a native from Oklahoma City, Okla. , said he believes helping farmers with the budget will help them get seeds to plant and fertilizer for crops.

“Private sector businesses, such as seed companies, plant protection and machinery companies, will benefit from the increase of productivity,” said Dolbreare. “Improving Afghanistan’s agriculture will increase the Afghans’ confidence in their own government and ultimately it will make them less susceptible to the insurgents.”



Eric Dorbeare, senior agricultural adviser, Regional Command-East, United States Department of Agriculture, listens to line directors of Laghman Province at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, May 18, 2013. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Sam Otto, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

RULE NUMBER 1, YOU DO NOT TALK ABOUT GAMBERI FIGHT CLUB



By Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

What would you do if someone punched you in the face? Would you run away or take a step back, put your guard up and defend yourself?

Deployed servicemembers and civilians took advantage of a Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) class taught by certified instructors at Forward Operating Base Gamberi.

The MACP is the approved combatives system of the U.S. Army, developed in the late 1990's by U.S. Army Rangers. According to the school's web site, the MACP is designed to "instill the Warrior Ethos and prepare soldiers to defeat the enemy in hand-to-hand combat."

"I thought it was a good idea to enhance the soldiers' capabilities to defend themselves," said Staff Sgt. Oscar Pineda, one of the instructors. He serves as a cavalry scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Pineda enjoys practicing martial arts having studied Hapkido, Karate, and Ju Jitsu and is MACP Level 2 certified. The native of Miami, Fla., said to keep things interesting he showed the participants additional techniques derived from Ju Jitsu and Muay Thai.

The tactical combatives classes lasted two hours and after each session the shirts of some of the participants were drenched in sweat. The group got together to "roll" with one another, not because they wanted to get into a fight but because they wanted to learn some type of self-defense.

"The class was... painfully, awesome," said Spc. Hilda Clayton, who participated in the combatives course, and is now Level 1 certified.

The native of Augusta, Ga., said the instructors were very thorough and explained the class very well. She serves as a combat documentation/production specialist, assigned to the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), based out of Fort Meade, Md.

"The instructors went through the movements slowly and if you needed extra help, they were more than willing to help you," said Clayton.

The group took turns alternating with wrestling partners, switching to a different person at designated times.

"The more you rolled with the others; the more [the instructors] talked to you and told you what to do."

The meetings happened in a small gym on FOB Gamberi, after most participants were done with their work duties. The group of women and men took up half of the gym, wrestling on blue training mats with music playing on a speaker system used for motivation.

The level 1 class was set up in the gym and the instructor was around after the hour to answer any questions on the basic combatives skills. The level 2 certification course was later set up at the troop medical clinic where the instructors showed advanced ground fighting combatives techniques.

"The level 2 combatives training was very intense from the day we started, a wake-up from level 1," said Rudy Gomez, a civilian contractor with Raytheon, Intelligence Mobile Education and Training Team.

Gomez said the class learned submissions moves, body positioning moves, intermediate mount escapes and clinch fighting.

The Orange County, Calif., native said the instructors were very strict on technique and were there not just to show how to knock someone out. Gomez said the instructors put a beating on them and physically put them through hell.

He said he knew a little bit of self defense techniques and wanted to learn more, so he took advantage of the level 2 class offered on Gamberi.

"Having those skills while deployed might not only save my life one day but I may save the life of a fellow soldier," said Gomez.

After his certification, Gomez said he got the full extent of the level 2 combatives course, adding that the instructors offered to show other moves not in the regular course.

"During the class, you learn to be patient, find your comfort zone on the mat and work on technique. The instructors smoked the hell out of us

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RULE NUMBER 1, YOU DO NOT TALK ABOUT GAMBERI FIGHT CLUB

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Oscar Pineda (top), a native of Miami, Fla., observes Soldiers practice Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP), Level 1 techniques during a class he taught at the gym on Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Deployed Soldiers and civilian contractors took advantage of a MACP class taught by certified instructors at FOB Gamberi. According to the school's web site, the MACP is designed to "instill the Warrior Ethos and prepare Soldiers to defeat the enemy in hand-to-hand combat." (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))



U.S. Army Sgt. Benjamin Behnke, (right), a native of Grand Rapids, Mi., attempts to choke Rudy Gomez, an Orange County, Calif., native and civilian contractor with Raytheon, Intelligence Mobile Education and Training Team, during a Modern Army Combatives Program, Level 2, class at Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Behnke serves as a cavalry scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))

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every damn day," said Gomez. "They tried to make you quit, but it only made you stronger as a soldier, knowing that you can finish a fight no matter how fatigued you were."

Gomez said soldiers showed up to class after going out on 12 hour missions; others worked 8 hours a day and still made it to the class.

"As far as being deployed, a lot of us do have weapons, but after taking the combatives class, if there is an encounter where you are attacked you know you can defend yourself," said Gomez.

"They loved the fact they learned to fight standing up and if taken down, they can defend themselves on the ground," said Pineda.

Another soldier who participated in both levels of the MACP was Sgt. Benjamin Behnke. He also serves as a cavalry scout with HHC, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

The native of Grand Rapids, Mi., said maintaining physically fit is part of his job. While working out at the gym someone asked him if he would like to become level 1 and 2 certified. He said he didn't hesitate to join because he liked mixed martial arts.

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U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Oscar Pineda (top), grapples with a Soldier during a Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP), Level 2 class he helped teach at Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Deployed servicemembers and civilians took advantage of a MACP class taught by certified instructors at FOB Gamberi. According to the school's web site, the MACP is designed to instill the Warrior's Ethos and prepare Soldier to defeat the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))

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Behnke said the difference between mixed-martial arts and the U.S. Army combatives is that you learn to fight with uniforms on, and learn how to use your opponent's uniform to your advantage.

"In Level 1 you learn the basic fundamentals of hand-to-hand combat. When you go to Level 2, you learn how to transition those fundamentals to more experienced moves," said Behnke.

Behnke suggested more people in the Army take a combatives course, especially while deployed.

"Not only is it good physical training, it prepares you in the event you are in a situation where you have to use your hands. It could be the difference between saving your life or not," said Behnke. "I think it's important for everyone to take this class, regardless of [military occupational specialty]."

Pineda said he will continue to conduct MACP classes until the 4th BCT redeploys to Fort Hood. Training martial arts to deployed personnel is not about hurting other people.

"It takes a lot of discipline to manage your emotions when the time comes," said Pineda. "I think it's good for the soul."



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Oscar Pineda (right), a native of Miami, Fla., observes Soldiers practice Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP), Level 1 techniques during a class he taught at the gym on Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Deployed Soldiers and civilian contractors took advantage of a MACP class taught by certified instructors at FOB Gamberi. According to the school's web site, the MACP is designed to "instill the Warrior Ethos and prepare Soldiers to defeat the enemy in hand-to-hand combat." (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hilda Clayton, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera))

IJC COMMANDER VISITS FOB GAMBERI

Photos by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, left, the commander of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, speaks with Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, the deputy commanding general for support, 101st Airborne Division, upon arriving at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, May 22, 2013



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, right, commander of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, listens to Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Wazeri, commander of the ANA 201st Corps, at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, May 22, 2013. During his visit Milley spoke to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, senior leadership and toured Gamberi to see first hand and assess the capabilities of the 201st Corps. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



Right to left, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, deputy commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, listens as Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, center, commander of the ISAF Joint Command, speaks to Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Wazeri, commander of the ANA 201st Corps outside of the Operations Coordination Center-Regional at Forward Operating Base, May 22, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

IJC COMMANDER VISITS FOB GAMBERI

Photos by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, deputy commanding general for support, 101st Airborne Division, (left), Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, commander of ISAF Joint Command and (center), and Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Wazeri, commander of the ANA 201st Corps, (right), receive a briefing from the commander and staff of the Operations Coordination Center-Regional at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, May 23, 2013. The OCC-R coordinates the operations and activities of the Afghan National Security Forces. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



Center right to left, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, deputy commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, and Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Wazeri, commander of the ANA 201st Corps listen as Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, center, commander of the ISAF Joint Command, speak to the 201st Corps senior staff at Forward Operating Base, May 22, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, commander of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, presents selected Soldiers with a challenge coin of excellence at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, May 22, 2013. During his visit Milley spoke with Task Force Long Knife senior leaders met with the commander of the Afghan National Army, 201st Corps, toured the base to assess the capabilities of the ANA soldiers. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

US MEDICAL ADVISORS HELP ANA IMPROVE MEDICAL CAPABILITIES



By Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade
Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs

The first security force assistance brigade in Afghanistan is made up of numerous advisers helping the Afghan National Army as they become self-reliant. The mentors work hand-in-hand with their counterparts providing the ANA with rotary wing, air force aviation, intelligence and medical support.

The medical advisers assigned to the Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood, Texas, are mentoring the ANA medical staff as they provide comprehensive medical care to their soldiers, allowing them to stay mission ready.

U.S. Army Capt. Esmerelda Linan is the medical sustainment adviser to ANA Col. Shahidullah Akbari, the corps surgeon for the 201st Corps. They work together to develop the clinic staff and improve the troop medical clinics assigned to the 201st Corps.

Akbari is the officer in charge of the ANA medical brigades in 7 provinces of Afghanistan. He has more than eight years of experience working with coalition forces. Akbari said he has developed a good partnership with his adviser, Capt. Linan.

“Our mentors have given us a golden opportunity

to learn and improve our medical capabilities,” said Akbari.

Linan travels to the ANA side of Forward Operating Base Gamberi as many times as she can to meet with and advise her ANA counterpart. Linan also serves as commander for Company C, 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division.

“Our mentors have given us a golden opportunity to learn and improve our capabilities.”
-Col. Akbari

During her time serving as medical adviser, she has witnessed the progression of the ANA medical clinic staff. With improved communication among the different ANA sections, medical evacuation (medevac) and casualty evacuation (casevac), time has been greatly reduced.

Linan said when she first arrived at FOB Gamberi, the request process would take the ANA between 48 and 72 hours to medevac a casualty. It now takes them approximately four hours to medevac a patient.

Linan has many goals as adviser to Col. Akbari. In addition to upgrading the 201st Corps medical facilities, she has helped to improve the relationship between the ANA, the Afghan ministry of public health and provincial chief of

public health.

She said she has a good working relationship with Akbari because he looks past her gender and rank, instead focusing on her vast medical experience.

“I am impressed by his desire to learn and improve,” said Linan. “He is very proud, and wants the ANA to advance and Afghanistan to improve, as well.”

Linan said Akbari is very appreciative of the guidance she provides.

“If he were to be lazy or have bad work ethic, my time as an adviser wouldn’t be as rewarding as it has been,” said Linan.

Col. Akbari said the TMC has gone through tremendous changes since he first arrived nine months ago. He said he took it upon himself to do his best to improve the facility. The first project was to organize the warehouse used for pharmacy supplies.

“When I first walked through the different sections everything was in a bad status. We now have full accountability for the medications,” said Akbari. “We have done as much as we could to improve the TMC. We now have a dental office, a lab tech room, an X-ray room, and emergency room.”

The medical clinic recently acquired an anesthesia machine from Kabul. Akbari said

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BLACK HAWK UP



The sun reflects from the side window of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter as it flies back from a mission in eastern Afghanistan. The Black Hawk is a utility transport helicopter that first entered the Army service in 1979. It is a versatile chopper, used in Afghanistan for transporting troops and supplies, search and rescue missions and medical evacuations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)



Afghan National Army 1st Lt. Mirza Mohammad, a dentist assigned to the ANA, 201st Corps, performs a dental check-up on an ANA soldier at the troop medical clinic on Forward Operating Base Gamberi, June 1, 2013. The progress of the TMC in the past nine months include a dental office, a lab tech room, an X-Ray room and an emergency room. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Andrade, Task Force Long Knife Public Affairs)

MEDICAL ADVISOR STORY

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compared to other TMCs in the brigade, Gamberi is the best. His goal is to have every TMC in 201st Corps upgraded to help sick and injured soldiers.

“Nine months ago, if an ANA soldier was injured, our only option was to take him to Kabul. Now we have the option of taking care of the patient here,” said Akbari.

During his time as the 201st Corps surgeon, Akbari has worked with two advisers and said he appreciates their help. Nine months ago the clinic had many problems, and with the adviser support they have found solutions for most of those problems.

“Having an adviser in my section has been very useful,” said Akbari. “If I encounter a problem, my adviser and I work together to find a solution.

The improvements don’t stop at Gamberi. Akbari said more medical facilities assigned to the 201st Corps are being upgraded. He said it is imperative the 201st Corps continues to improve.

“For me, treating my people is very important,” said Akbari. “The public paid for my college and military training and now I have to work for the Afghan people and for this country.”

As Task Force Longknife reaches closer to the end of their deployment to Afghanistan, Linan has seen the positive impact her role as an adviser has been for the ANA. The native of Corpus Christi, Texas, looks forward to reuniting with her friends and family and said working as an adviser has been rewarding in many ways.

“I knew I would be affected by this job, but I didn’t know it would be this big,” said Linan.

“My experience as an adviser has been good, I’ve learned a lot.”



FROM GAMBERI is an authorized publication for members of Combined Joint Task Force-101, Regional Command-East and members of the U.S. military overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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