



THIS WEEK IN HELMAND

16-22 AUG 10





TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

CF NES(N) (DANBAT)



Major Christoffer Mortensen learning how to spell wrench – in Dari



3rd Kandak welcomes the DKAT on one of their visits to Camp Gereshk



Changing oil at the generator in Camp Gereshk

Optimism from the DKAT

The DKAT (Danish Kandak Advisory Team) is full of optimism after the first weeks of working with their new Afghan colleagues – the 3rd Kandak.

“We have experienced a great willingness to cooperate,” says Major Kim Kristensen, chief of the 10 man DKAT. According to him one of the great challenges for the 3rd Kandak is to adapt to their organizational system and start to use it properly.

It is the plan that DKAT will follow the British KAT and move to Camp Gereshk in the near future.



TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

CF NES(S) (1 RGR)



Locals in village ask Insurgents to leave

As security in a newly *protected community* in Nahr-e Saraj South continues to improve, locals are gaining in confidence and are uniting against the insurgents in their community. The announcement of a new village council was made this week, with four local elders chosen to lead the community. Following the example of locals in a nearby *protected community* the elders asked insurgents at a local Shura to leave the village. Although there is a risk that this may lead to an increase in intimidation towards the local people, Combined Forces in the village Check Points are fully supporting the villagers' brave actions. This is another positive step for the village that has seen insurgents continue with attempts to disrupt progress and Government influence. Locals have recently re-opened shops in the village and small scale development projects are now in planning, which will see locals experiencing the tangible benefits of improved security.



District Level Shura discusses Water Resource Management in NES(S)

On 17 Aug 10 a Shura took place in Gereshk where the District Governor, District Community Council Chairman and Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock representative discussed water distribution and resource management within the Nahr-e Saraj area. The water distribution is managed by "Mirabs" – local figures who control sub-canal, and sub-river access to irrigation water. The Shura sought to better understand the hierarchy of Mirabs in order to support future development projects. The attendees agreed to hold a further Shura on 21 Aug 10 to determine the extent and ownership of local water courses with the local Mirabs themselves.

Above – CF conducting KLE to discuss progress in the village
Below – The Nahr-e-Bughra Canal main irrigation source



TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10 CF NDA(N) (2 LANCS)



On 16 Aug 10 MSST, STABAD and OC Burma Coy attended the formal opening of the newly finished Char-e Anjir Shura room. The CJR DCC member (Muhammad Umar Achakza) was in attendance. During the opening books and pens were given to the DCC members who then issued them out to local children.



3 months ago



16 Aug 10



CfW at the MARS/MORPHEOUS Junction

OP ASOUD CHAREY (deliberate Engr culvert repair on Rte MARS /MORPHEOUS Junction) has been completed with success. MSST and STABAD visited the Cash for Works project involving 60 Local Nationals (LN) to remove Hesco from the blocked irrigation ditch previously closed by ISAF. The LN have now opened the irrigation channel to irrigate their fields for 10 hrs. At 1600 hrs on 22 Aug 10 NDA(N) RE Tp will oversee the backfilling of the irrigation ditch to enable the CLP to pass.



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CF NDA(S) (1 LANCS)



Culvert Builds in the District Centre

Cash for Works projects have accounted for several new culverts this week. The projects, run by the MSST unit, pay local people to complete low level infrastructure projects.

The building of culverts is important because it stops the irrigation system becoming blocked. During the summer the local farmers rely on the irrigation system to water their crops. The culverts also aid freedom of movement for the local population. The culverts also ensure that ISAF and ANSF have freedom of movement throughout the area.





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CF NDA(S) (1 LANCS)



EFI Shop Arrives in SHAWQAT

This week the EFI opened a shop in FOB SHAWQAT. The shop, although small, sells a variety of products from sweets and crisps to flip flops and toiletries.

The shop, run by Cpl Brannigan and Pte Wakefield both of 148 Sqn EFI RLC, will bring a further element of comfort to troops who have to endure harsh conditions. Those based in smaller patrol bases will be able to use the shop when they come through SHAWQAT for re-supply.

The FOB has seen a variety of changes since HERRICK 11 and the increase in facilities will certainly increase morale.

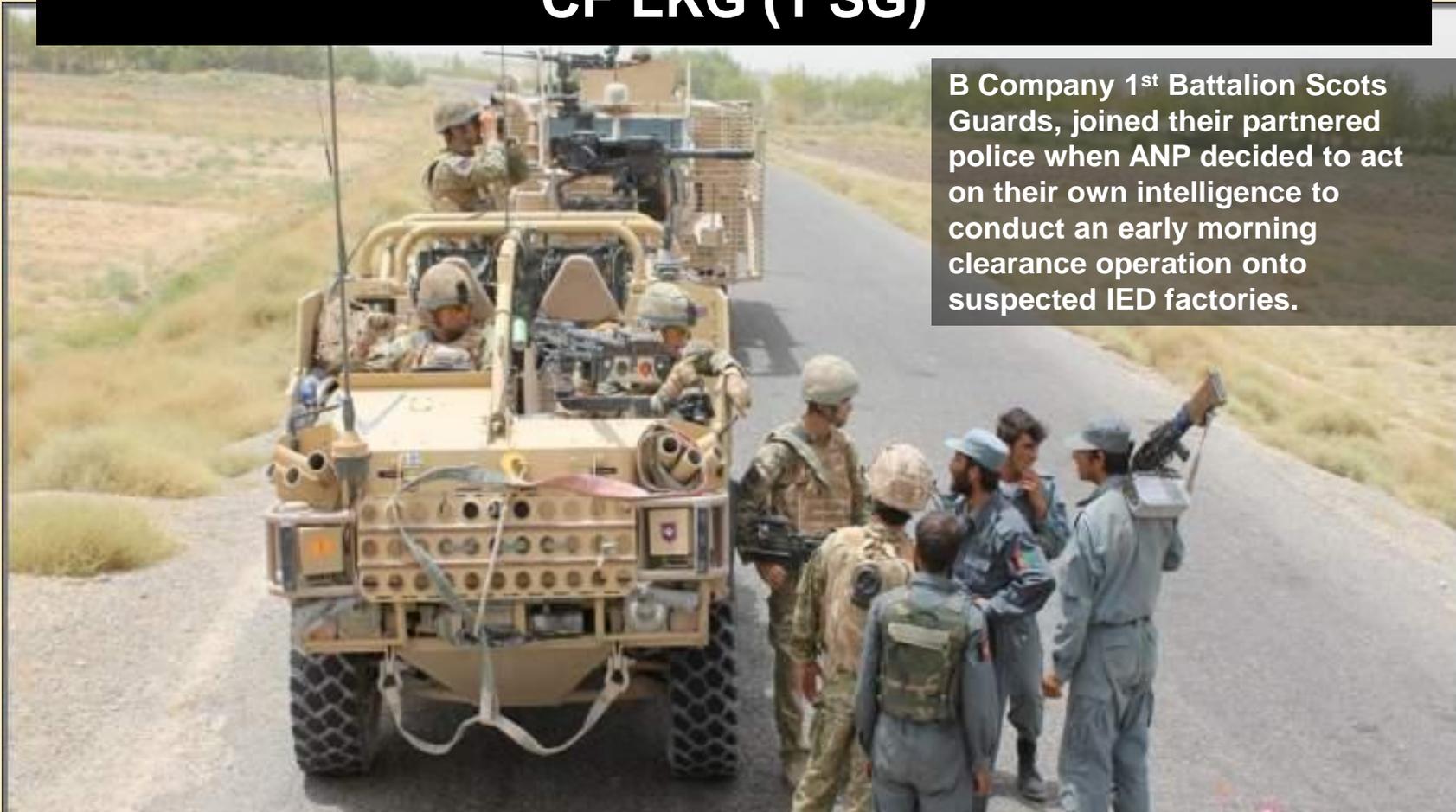




TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

CF LKG (1 SG)

B Company 1st Battalion Scots Guards, joined their partnered police when ANP decided to act on their own intelligence to conduct an early morning clearance operation onto suspected IED factories.



This alone would represent an encouraging step forward in the Police's development. However it is currently Ramadan, where the policemen fast from four o'clock in the morning until seven at night, including no water, but this did not deter them from their task. On top of this, the patrol took place on the Afghan National Independence Day, marking the country's independence from the British in 1919, a day traditionally taken off as a holiday. The police remained on the foot patrol for four hours, searching numerous compounds, until they were shot at by insurgents using a building full of women and children as cover. This detail was not lost on the Afghan National Police who all decided that they were not able to return fire due to the possibility of civilian casualties.



TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

CF LKG (1 SG)



Afghan soldiers trained to fight IEDs

Twenty-three Afghan National Army (ANA) Warriors completed a new type of Counter-IED (CIED) course and received their qualifications in a parade taken by Major Kamal ANA, and Major Rupert Kitching OC Left Flank 1st Battalion Scots Guards.

Sergeant Goodwin, who ran the course, said, *“The Warriors worked hard throughout the course showing their enthusiasm despite the hardships of Ramadan. They wanted to help each other pass the course; those who understood would help those who struggled.”*



Squad Sergeant Sayeed Arghul (Top Commander Award) said, *“It is for our benefit and to save lives. When we find something we will call in Engineers to remove the IEDs. There are many in Helmand so we must defuse as many as possible in the next six months to improve access and security for the remote villages.”*



TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

3/215 BRIGADE ADVISOR GROUP (1 SCOTS)



ANA Discover IED Cache – Nad-e-Ali

Following intelligence reporting, the warriors of 1/1/3/215 discovered a large IED cache, comprising PPIEDs, battery packs, improvised detonators, command pull bottle switches, Russian mine detonators and numerous pieces of metals used for fragmentation and home made explosives.

Working with Sgt O'Neill of the 1st Kdk Advisor Team, the ANA reacted quickly after receiving intelligence and put in a deliberate operation to FIND and SECURE the IED cache. Utilising effective Vallon skills taught by their Advisor, the ANA discovered an IED protecting the cache and their CF partners from 1 LANCS found two more devices whilst in cordon positions for the ANA exploitation.

Sgt O'Neill was quoted, ***"This is a great find for the 1st Tolay and will make a huge difference in securing the population of Sayedebad following on from their successful role on Op TOR SHEZADA. The amount of IED making equipment which we have removed from the INS will severely impact on their capability here"***.



TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

VIKING Gp (D Sqn RDG)



VIKING Group providing Support to OP LOAM 31

Much of the Viking Group is based out of CP Boldack, giving the Vikings a truly Helmand-wide footprint with some elements still providing support to the Route TRIDENT build in CF LKG. A Viking Group LO has been sent to the CF LKG AO in order to assist with shuras with local nationals, thus ensuring all grievances, in regards to possible land damage, have been met.

In addition, one Troop of Viking continued to assist on OP LOAM 31. As has been demonstrated before, the vehicles' manoeuvrability enabled the screening of the CLP out to the flanks from nearly any terrain encountered and to secure the high features to provide an overwatch function.





TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

Brigade Reconnaissance Force



BRF deploy on Op TOR STARGI SHAHIN 2

- After several delays the BRF have deployed on Op TOR STARGI SHAHIN in 31W in a multi-helicopter aviation assault.
- They aim to deal the insurgency in the area a heavy blow though targeting IED facilitation networks and weapons caches.
- The BRF are also more than prepared to meet any direct attacks on their patrols and positions throughout the operation with a range of task force and theatre assets at their disposal.



TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10 JOINT FIRES GROUP (4 Regt RA)



J4 in Camp BASTION

Throughout the tour, the 4 Regt RA Regimental Group at Woolwich Lines, Bastion 2, has been extremely busy. The myriad of tasks vary on a daily basis but primarily the main effort has been the continual supply to the FSTs and Gun Groups with all J4 supplies and equipment required. This task has been challenging with the 4 Regt RA OS Gp deployed in 56 outstations, across all of Task Force Helmand. The echelon has a manning of 36 men and women who look after an OS Group of approx 800; a ratio of 1:22.



Tasks that we have been asked to carry out have included: the preparation for underslung loads with the USMC in moving vehicles to the most northern parts of the AO; training of Gun Detachments and the preparation of Guns for operations, such as Op Tor Shezada; providing and qualifying Drivers, Commanders and HMG/GMG Gunners for CLPs and operations with the Coyote and Jackal vehicles. All this on top of the 'normal jogging' of providing soldiers for BSN guards and sangar duties and Sector Operations along with the RSOI of all our BCRs. BSN continues to be busy for all who work here in J4 and the tempo will increase even more now as we approach the RiP. The light at the end of the tunnel could soon be in sight.



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TFH Engr Gp (21 Engr Regt)



Artillery Hill Upgrade

Engineers of 73 Armd Engr Sqn have been conducting significant winterisation works and Tactical Base upgrades throughout NES(N). Winterisation works have provided a much needed refurbishment before the onset of bad weather. Laying an aggregate base and installing drainage will prevent the muddy conditions that have plagued previous winter operations.

At Artillery Hill works have included compartmentalisation of accommodation areas, installation of new toilets and showers and an equipment compound.

Winterisation works are also being done at Rahim, Old OCCD, Bridzar, Clifton, and Spondon tactical bases.



Aggregate stocks for hard standing construction



Winterised ablution area



WISTON Compound



TFH KEY ACTIVITY 16-22 AUG 10

C-IED TF



Multi-National C-IED Success

Estonian and British Counter-IED (C-IED) troops have been working in partnership to rid Afghanistan of the deadly IED. A British Advanced Search team and an Estonian Bomb Disposal team have joined forces to provide additional C-IED High Readiness Force (HRF) capability. The HRF routinely deploys by helicopter providing an immediate on-call response to any IED-related incident in the Helmand Province.



Sgt Shaw, the HRF Royal Engineer Search Advisor (RESA) said **“working with the Estonian EOD team has been rewarding, they use slightly different tactics, techniques and procedures to us - it’s been a really useful exchange of best practise.”** SSgt Haarakalju from the Estonian EOD team agreed and said: **“We are not used to working alongside Search teams, but these guys are great. They reduce the risk to our team and we’ve easily adapted our drills around them.”**

The multi-national C-IED Team has now dealt with a number of IEDs, reducing the danger to not only ISAF troops but also the locals, all whilst working closely with the Afghan National Security Forces.



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Th ES Bn (1 CS Bn REME)



The return of a Combat Logistic Patrol has led to a huge surge in work across the Bn as a result of vehicles recovered from forward locations requiring in-depth repair or rehabilitation. The recovery crews and Hvy B section have been working hard to turn the recovery vehicles around in preparation for their next task. Forward repair of Base ISTAR continues unabated and the metalsmiths and armourers are working tirelessly on the huge variety of tasks that arrive from across theatre. Our MASTIFF repair team has redeployed to CF SGN to carry out the third forward IED-MASTIFF repair.

WOLFHOUND on the Prowl

The initial issue of the first tranche of WOLFHOUND vehicles to theatre has resulted in an inflow of vehicles into the Th ES Bn. The vehicles will be receipt inspected and given Interim Safety Inspections before being issued their new users. The broad utility of the vehicles suggests that they will be in high demand!

Visit of GOC Th Tps

Maj Gen Brealey (late RA) visited the Th ES Bn this week in order to better understand the challenges that face the Bn and the effect that we can have for his troops deployed forward. He showed a great deal of interest in the issues surrounding the repair of Base ISTAR and MASTIFF. He also showed his mettle under IDF in the form of waterbombs launched due to a particularly ill timed overflow of morale within the Recovery Section. There were 3 rounds fired with battle damage assessed as nil!

