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## Steve Curda Newsletter

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CMO



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### *USFOR-A J9 Director's Corner*

**Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and DoD Civilians,**

During his first message to the Soldiers, the new Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN Ray Odierno stated, "...last 10 years our Army has proven itself inarguably the most difficult environment we have ever faced... Our Soldiers have displayed mental and physical toughness and courage under fire. They have transformed the Army into the most versatile, agile, rapidly deployable and sustainable strategic land force in the world." Our Civil Affairs Soldiers currently deployed to the Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, exemplifies all qualities GEN Odierno mentioned in his opening comments to the Soldiers. Our US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Soldiers are currently spread throughout the all six Regional Commands in the Combined Joint Operations Area – Afghanistan (CJOA-A). Our Soldiers are making a difference in every Afghan's lives.

The purpose of this inaugural Quarterly CMO Newsletter is to highlight all the great accomplishments our Civil Affairs Soldiers are making in CJOA-A. By all means, this is not a comprehensive accomplishment for the quarter, but as this newsletter takes off, I'm hoping more troops will participate and submit storyboards, papers, and their accounts of extraordinary accomplishments. I am honored to serve with all the great Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marine and DoD Civilians in support of our Civil Military Operations missions and Operation Enduring Freedom.

God Bless,

COL Steve Curda

## Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP)

The CERP is a tool for Commanders to use in support of their Counter Insurgency Operational (COIN) objectives. CERP funding is made available to Commanders for their execution of CERP projects in their battle-space. Projects range from the simple building of a village well to a multi-million dollar infrastructure rebuilding effort. Below are a few noteworthy projects USFOR-A J9 has been working on.

### Mes Aynak Archaeological Site

The Mes Aynak site is what archaeologists believe is a major historical heritage site. In addition to the Buddhist monasteries and other structures from the Buddhist era that have already been identified this location also holds the remains of prior civilizations likely going back as far as the 3rd century BC. Historians are particularly excited by the prospect of learning more about the early science of metallurgy and mining by exploring this site. The site is rich with copper and as a result in November 2007, a 30-year lease was granted for the copper mine to the China Metallurgical Group for \$3 billion, making it the biggest foreign investment and private business venture in Afghanistan's history. Archaeologists have already unearthed manuscripts that may provide evidence regarding the presence of Alexander the Great's troops. In an effort to preserve as many artifacts as possible, USFOR-A with Archaeologists currently excavating the site, is executing a CERP funding project to construct an on-site lab and storage facility. The facility's purpose is to preserve archaeological/culture artifacts prior to copper mining operations are initiated.



Maj Berman (R) and Captain Wylie stand next to a Buddhist Shrine at the Mes Aynak historical heritage site in Eastern Afghanistan

## Resurface Ghazi Olympic Stadium

Ghazi Stadium is a multi purpose stadium located in downtown Kabul. It was built during the reign of King Amanullah Khan in 1923, who was regarded as *Ghazi* (Hero) for winning the war with the British and gaining independence of his nation. The stadium holds 25,000 people. During the late 1990s the stadium was used as a venue for public executions by the Taliban government.

In an effort to build the capacity of the Afghan national sports program, build a national source of pride for all Afghans, and execute a project that is symbolic of the Government of Afghanistan's progress toward transition, USFOR-A is executing a CERP project which will resurface the soccer field with FIFA 2-star turf, refurbish the all-weather track and upgrade the changing rooms.

Project is scheduled to be complete late November 2011. The new stadium soccer field and other improvements are to be celebrated with a grand opening ceremony followed by both men's and women's soccer games.



Above: Ghazi Stadium, picture dated 2009, with grass soccer field. Soccer field will be upgraded with FIFA-2 artificial turf which will hopefully make it a site for future World Cup Soccer matches

### Time to roll... Project Skateistan

Civil-Military Support Team-Kabul delivered equipment to Ghazi Olympic Stadium's Skateistan, skate park. Skateistan was established so that young children could be engaged in learning, as well as get involved in activities such as skate boarding, and roller skating to have a positive influence and keep them active in their community.



## Initiatives Beyond Kabul

U.S. Forces Afghanistan has Civil Affairs personnel operating all over the country. Below are two good news stories from Regional Command-East



Above: The road project linking Parwan and Bamiyan Provinces is a seven-phase process with hopes of improving economical stability

### Road to Bamiyan

The Civil Military Support Team (CMST) East located in Parwan Province, Regional Command East (RC-E) have been executing several CERP projects in their respective battle-space.

CMST-E has been successful in executing several road projects from Parwan Province to Bamiyan Province. It is the hope that by improving country infrastructure such as roads this will stimulate economic development and provide easy access to areas where accessibility is a challenge.

These road projects, funded through the CERP, is an effective way to engage with Ministry of Public Works as a means to legitimize the greater Government of Afghanistan by providing the Afghan people an opportunity to prosper.



Left: PRT-Pansjhir conducts a Key Leader Engagement with local Governor.

## PRT-Pansjhir

With the help of the Pansjhir Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), villagers in the Pansjhir Valley will have greater accessibility to electricity, education, and economic stability.

Amongst many of the projects, the Pansjhir PRT has been engaged in, they've been influential in the development of a 100-kilowatt micro hydro power plant for a village within the Pansjhir district. This will allow them to create electricity from the river running through the valley.

Additionally, the Pansjhir PRT has been engaged in the construction efforts of schools throughout the valley.

A ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of a girls' school with 16 classrooms was held. The school will hold approximately 400 students in three shifts.



Shown Above: A new girl's school at Bazarak has 16 classrooms and will teach more than 400 students. There are numerous schools being built in the valley to help educate the children in the Pansjhir.

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## Commemorating September 11th-10 Years later

# Fallen But Never Forgotten

*New Kabul Compound's 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony was one of the many ceremonies held on the day that marked a decade of our War on the Freedom of Afghanistan. Those who gave their life to the war on terror were of great honor and will never be forgotten for their ultimate sacrifice.*



*During the 10 year anniversary, Sept 11, 2011, Taliban attempted attack of our compound. The CMO office provided several service members to the support base security as part of the base defense. At the same time, our office continued to provide Quality Assessments and oversight of USFOR-A CERP and ARP funded projects. Several personnel volunteered to relieve those who were outside on base defense. During such a static time as the Senior Enlisted Leader, these acts proved to me that the J9 is made up of professionals; from all the services. This is a great Joint organization.—SGM Gino Carreras*

### CMO NEW ARRIVAL & FAREWELL NOTICE BOARD

#### Welcome LTC Steele!

On Sept 16th, LTC Steele joined the J9 Directorate from Okinawa, Japan. LTC Michael Steele settled in his new role of Strategic CERP OIC. His extensive expertise in Finance will enable his team to evaluate projects and leverage contracting expenses. In collaboration with our Civil Affairs assets throughout the J9 Directorate and Civil-Military Support Team-Kabul, LTC Steele will serve a vital role of budgetary alignment in project management.

#### J9 Farewell to Maj Joshua Bahr

On Aug 30th, amongst USFOR-A friends, Maj Joshua Bahr concluded his tour in Kabul, Afghanistan. He will rejoin his family in beautiful Napa Valley prior to returning to Okinawa, Japan. Maj Bahr played a vital role in the oversight of J9 Operations.

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