



TCM-BFSB
Fort Benning, Georgia

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BFSB Monthly

Director's Message

By COL Gary R. Nicoson
Director, TCM-HBCT and BFSB

BFSB Community,

Greetings from TRADOC Capability Manager (TCM) Heavy Brigade Combat Team and Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. This month's BFSB Wff newsletter focuses on providing the BFSB Community information on two upcoming symposia, along with highlighting the activities of BFSBs both at home and deployed.

Two major events occurring in May are the 219 BFSB (INARNG) Lessons Learned Symposium, 12-13 May 2012 and the 16 May 2012 Department of Army Senior Future Force Review addressing the recommended TOE change for the BFSB.

Look for more information inside this copy of the BFSB Monthly for the 219 BFSB's symposium. The highlight of this symposium will be a Defense Connect on Line – Secret (DCO-S) on line symposium running 0900 – 1100 EDST, 13 May 2012. 504 BFSB, deployed to Afghanistan will also present lessons learned during this session. Don't fret it if you can't make the on-line session. We will record it and the BFSB Wff homepage will provide instructions on how to access the link.

The 16 May 2012 Senior Future Force Review will introduce and recommend the BFSB TOE change that affects predominately the R&S Squadron, but also adds applies to the Brigade Support Company and the Brigade HHC. We'll update you next month on the response of the Army Leadership. This edition of the newsletter summarizes proposed TOE change. We'll keep you updated on the status of this capstone effort.

In closing I've got a "save the date" item of interest. The Brigade Modernization Command (BMC), US Army Capabilities Integration Center (ARCIC), Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) will be the lead presenter in the Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Warfighter Forum (Wff) Symposium 02-2012 on Wednesday, 20 June 2012 from 1100 – 1230 Eastern Daylight Time (0900-1030 MDT, 1500Z – 1630Z). The BFSB Wff will record this session for forum members who are unable to participate. The purpose is to share insights from the May – JUN 2012 Network Integration Exercise (NIE 12.2) held at White Sand Missile Range (WSMR) and Fort Bliss, TX (FBTX). The specific focus is to discuss the potential impacts of the insights on BFSBs in contingency operations in the future. We will present these insights via the Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF) model.

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BFSB Warfighter Forum (Wff) Links

- [BFSB Wff Homepage](#) (Includes links to BFSB unit homepages)
- [BFSB Collaboration Site](#) (CAC required to register)

Upcoming Events

- The 219th BFSB Post-Deployment Focused Online Wff Symposium and Lessons Learned Event, 12-13 May, 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana
- BMC Special Focus Online Symposium, 20 June.

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201st BFSB Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



Description: The two parts symbolize the responsibility for acquisition and processing of tactical and strategic intelligence. The sword symbolizes the aggressiveness and physical danger inherent in military intelligence operations. The lightning bolts refer to the electronic warfare capabilities of the unit and the commander's need for accurate and ready intelligence from all sources.

Go to <http://www.lewis.army.mil/201st/> for more information about the unit's history.

An article titled "Soldiers train on upgraded Prophet" can be found in the April 12, 2012 edition of The Northwest Guardian, or by clicking the image below. The Northwest Guardian is the official publication of Joint Base Lewis-McCord where the 201st BFSB is based.



109th MI Battalion, Vanguard of the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Story by CPT Shane Sandretto, 2BCT Public Affairs Officer

FORT POLK, Louisiana – The 109th Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion's participation in the Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 12-05 during the month of March 2012 made it the vanguard of its parent unit, the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB), from Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash.

The 109th broke ceilings for an MI Battalion on several fronts to attain this honor. Foremost being, it was the first operational Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Military Intelligence Battalion to ever deploy to a Combined Training Center (CTC) according to Lt. Col. Douglas Woodall, commander of the 109th.

"The mission of an MI Battalion is to provide multi-disciplined intelligence to unified land combat operations in support of task forces, combined joint task forces or battle-space owners to answer commander's priority intelligence requirements," said Woodall.

The most significant deviation from a classic military intelligence battalion and what truly makes us the vanguard for intelligence, is that we brought a new system with us, added Woodall, "Vigilant Pursuit."

"We are the first intelligence professionals to use these vehicles at a CTC or in any capacity outside of testing," he continued. "Vigilant Pursuit gives a multi-functional team the capability to fuse military intelligence capabilities on a target. It's a revolutionary concept which provides the ability to reach back to national databases from an objective to confirm whether we have the right individual or not, [using various means of identification.]"

Aside from vigilant pursuit the 109th's participation in rotation 12-05 was historic in and of itself, as it was the largest rotation to occur at Fort Polk since the Louisiana Land Maneuvers of 1940 according to Maj. Joseph Johnson, rotational planner from JRTC's operations group.

"An average rotation will have about 45 hundred Soldiers and support personnel involved," said Johnson. "Rotation 12-05 had roughly 8 thousand."

The reason this rotation was so large is that it was the first rotation to focus training on the Army's new Security Force Advisory Teams bound for Regional Command-East with a full infantry brigade combat team and other elements in support of that training as battle space owner and enablers. (cont. on page 6)

Soldiers from the 109th Military Intelligence Battalion with an interpreter role player, identify the direction of attack during situational training exercises at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La, March 18, 2012. The 109th MI Battalion participated in the largest JRTC Rotation since the Louisiana Land Maneuvers of 1940 in support of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and 48 Security Force Advisory Teams during March 2012. Photo by SPC Jacob Mahaffey.





SPC Kathleen Gatts, a female engagement team (FET) member with C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, answers a question posed to her by SMA Raymond Chandler, the 14th Sergeant Major of the Army. Chandler spoke at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak, Afghanistan April 4 about the importance of the Army's anti-hazing and sexual assault policies, and took questions about upcoming challenges and changes for the Army (U.S. Army Photo by SPC Scott Matheson).

219th BFSB Lessons Learned Weekend and Online Symposium with the 504th BFSB

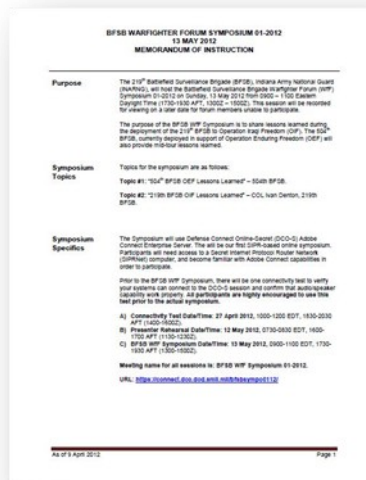
On Saturday 12 May 2012, representatives of TCM-BFSB and other invited guests will have an opportunity to talk to Soldiers of the 219th BFSB, and capture critical lessons learned with the purpose of passing along this data to the BFSB Community. Click [HERE](#) to view a presentation on the location of the event at the INARNG Joint Force Headquarters. Click [HERE](#) to view a copy of the agenda (**UPDATED**).

On Sunday, 13 May 2012 from 0900 – 1100 Eastern Daylight Time (1300Z – 1500Z), there will be the BFSB Symposium 01-2012, over Defense Connect Online– Secret (DCO-S). The purpose of the BFSB Wff Symposium is to share lessons learned during the deployment of the 219th BFSB to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 504th BFSB, currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, will provide mid-tour lessons learned. This session will be recorded for viewing on a later date for forum members unable to participate.

After the symposium, Mr. Pete Rose, the Deputy Director of TRADOC Capability Manager (TCM) BFSB, will give an update on the “Future of the BFSB” to Soldiers of the 219th BFSB. This update will be recorded and posted on the BFSB Wff Facebook page and BFSB Wff Homepage.

If you wish to participate in the event, or view the online symposium over DCO-S, please contact derek.larson@us.army.mil.

Click on the image to the right to download the [UPDATED MOI for the symposium \(CAC required\)](#).



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Get added to the distribution list!

To get added to the distribution list of the BFSB Monthly, please register on the BFSB Collaboration Site by clicking [HERE](#).

What to expect in next month's newsletter

In next month's BFSB Monthly, we will provide the results of the Department of Army's Senior Future Force Review on 16 May, which will address the recommended TOE change for the BFSB.

How to submit an article

If you'd like to submit a BFSB-related article to be published in this newsletter, contact one of the BFSB Warfighter Forum contacts on Page 1. It's that easy!

Current BFSB Warfighter Forum memberships: 445

Current BFSB Wff "likes" on Facebook: 18





Wff Symposium 2-2012 Topics

Topic #1: NIE Mission.

Topic #2: NIE 12.2 Objectives.

Topic #3: Tentative Results of the NIE regarding R & S / BFSB Operations.

Topic #4: "Potential 2nd and 3rd Order Effects on BFSBs in the Future.

Topic #5: Future Focus of Information Collection (ISR) in the NIE.



PFC Alexis Trucke and an Afghan boy share a thumbs up at the district center of Marwakh, near Combat Outpost Zormat, on March 19, 2011.

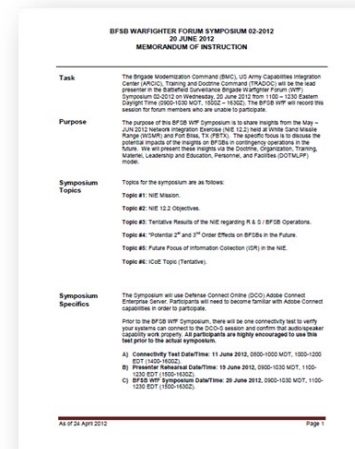


From left, 1SG Richard Aldag, of Lincoln, PFC John Asbach, of Fremont, and CPT Jeremiah Afuh, of Lincoln, greet Afghan National Police Col. Abdul Bary in Kabul on March 8, 2011.

Brigade Modernization Command to be lead presenter at BFSB Wff Symposium on 20 June

The Brigade Modernization Command (BMC), US Army Capabilities Integration Center, Training and Doctrine Command, will be the lead presenter in the Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Warfighter Forum (Wff) Symposium 02-2012 on Wednesday, 20 June 2012 from 1100 – 1230 Eastern Daylight Time (0900-1030 MDT, 1500Z – 1630Z). The BFSB Wff will record this session for forum members who are unable to participate.

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MOI available by clicking the above image.

Guard members' readjustment takes time

Story by Matthew Hansen, World-Herald Staff Writer

But the 3,000 Iowa and Nebraska National Guard members who deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 and 2011 with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team — Iowa's largest single deployment since World War II — know that being home doesn't mean the fight is over.

Some have struggled to find work. Some have leaned hard on family members while struggling to reconnect with friends.

Some have only recently become comfortable in public without a bulletproof vest. Some have to remind themselves that the other cars on the highway aren't enemies — they are neighbors, acquaintances, fellow countrymen.

Don't get them wrong: The Nebraska and Iowa National Guard members who were photographed, interviewed and videotaped for this article are glad to have served their country in Afghanistan. They are glad to be home, too.

One year ago, Omaha World-Herald photographer Alyssa Schukar and reporter Joseph Morton lived with the Nebraska and Iowa soldiers in Afghanistan, recording the triumphs and the trials of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Today we present five — four men and a woman — trying to readjust at home after nearly a year at war (click on the links below to read their stories).

[Alexis Trucke: "I'd like to deploy again, some day"](#)

[Jeremiah Afuh: Finding a job is "like everything else. You have to fight for it."](#)

[John Kerschner: "I believe in our freedoms, and I believe in taking personal responsibility for them"](#)

[William Gomez: "My dream has always been to become a soldier"](#)

[John Matheson: "Say something nice about my wife. ... She's a hero in my book"](#)

Editor's note: Some of the Soldiers highlighted are members of the Nebraska National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry Squadron, 67th BFSB.



Texas National Guardsmen share best practices with Ugandan airmen and children

Story and photo by SSG Malcolm McClendon, Task Force Raptor Public Affairs

SINGO, Uganda – The road the four U.S. soldiers took to the Singo Training Center each day of their deployment opened an opportunity that they won't soon forget.

"Every morning, I remember passing a school at the entrance of the Singo Center," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Victor Lauersdorf, security officer, Task Force Raptor, 3rd Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard. "It was unique, because the same field the children used for their recess, the Ugandan People's Defense Forces used for their military training."

Lauersdorf, along with U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jason Smith, Sgt. Enrique Icedo and SPC. James Andrew, exchanged best practices with Uganda Air Force airmen in a RAVEN unmanned aircraft system operational skills course held here March 19 – April 7.

"The RAVEN is a small, unmanned reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft," said Smith, a squad leader with Task Force Raptor. "It is flown in support of ground troops, giving commanders an eye in the sky on what may lie ahead."

The RAVEN is a new addition to the UPDF. Ugandan airmen new to the unit took the training very seriously, Smith recalled.

"It's a lot of information for a technology that most of these guys have never seen, but these guys were up to the challenge," said Smith. "We'd give them tasks and homework and the next day they had everything memorized and completed. These men are well prepared for what challenges may lay ahead."

Like their U.S. counterparts, the Ugandan airmen constantly train for possible deployment and to defend their country. They also share the likelihood of being away from family and friends back home.

"The children of the airmen we trained with attended the school we passed every day," Lauersdorf said. "As a father of two children, I empathized with the Ugandan servicemen who could at any time leave their families behind."

Remembering how they felt when they themselves left home for deployments, the guardsmen decided to take the opportunity and pay the Ugandan children a visit.

"We all pitched in a few dollars of our own money and bought some school supplies and soccer balls for the children to use," Smith said. "When we showed up with the supplies, the smiles on the children were priceless. We spent a couple of hours with them playing, shaking hands and taking pictures with them. It was a special experience."

The Ugandan servicemen were also touched by the act of kindness, said Lauersdorf.

"When we asked the leadership if it was OK to visit the school, they said yes and let us know that they were very appreciative of the gesture," Lauersdorf said. "They said they couldn't believe that not only did we come to train with them, but now we are helping out their children as well."

The Texas National Guardsmen recall their trip as not only a military mission, but one of making connections with men and women just like them.

"When my children ask me why I'm so far away, I let them know it's to help out our Ugandan brothers and sisters," Lauersdorf said.



You can follow the unit of Facebook by clicking [HERE!](#)

The Combined Joint Task Force– Horn of Africa official website is located at <http://www.hoa.africom.mil/>.



SGT Enrique Icedo (right) and 1LT Victor Lauersdorf, Task Force Raptor, 3rd Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, visit a local school near the Ugandan Peoples Defense Forces training center on April 3.

Other recent Task Force Raptor articles



Texas National Guardsmen, Mozambique soldiers turn wrenches together (2 Apr 2012)



Djiboutian army, US soldiers share best practices at Border Operations Seminar (28 Mar 2012)

109th MI Battalion, Vanguard of the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

(Continued from Page 2)

As one of those enabler's the 109th was afforded the unique opportunity to train in support of the very SFATs they will be supporting in RC-E.

"It was good luck and timing to link up at JRTC and practice how intelligence will enable these teams and how we can provide them what they need to be kept safe and successful on the battlefield," Woodall continued.

Another unique aspect of the 109th with regards to supporting the SFAT mission is that the commander, command sergeant major and executive officer have all previously deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan as military advisors, so they have walked a path similar to what the SFATs are about to embark upon. This experience gives the 109th an inherent understanding of what kind of intelligence will be truly beneficial to the SFATs and will increase their quality of support exponentially, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Ryan Ramsey, Command Sergeant Major of the 109th.

When asked about how the 109th was being employed during this rotation Woodall elaborated, "A military intelligence battalion is usually a division level asset, here we're paired with a brigade combat team. That's a substantial increase in capability. We've embedded our companies at the battalion task force level and kept our headquarters company as a reserve, should the BCT commander wish to surge a capability, we can."

"By embedding at the battalion task force level we've had opportunity to conduct the situational training exercises (STX) with maneuver companies," said Ramsey. "From the beginning maneuver unit commanders have said our assets were game changers. We've provided early warning on every enemy movement making it extremely difficult for the opposition forces (OPFOR) to be effective against the maneuver companies. The intelligence we provide gives them the edge."

"This is our first time working with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (the BCT battle-space owner) and it's been a great experience. Our guys have to be flexible to adapt to and plug into maneuver units. This is the premier place to do that, a sort of last functions check, being confident at plugging into their formations," said Woodall.

"The brigade leadership has done an excellent job of integrating the two formations," added Ramsey.

About training Woodall said, "We've been training our Soldiers to break the paradigm of 'here's the intelligence guy, put him in the back of the truck.' Our soldiers are experts with their weapons; they can maneuver in convoys and perform the warrior tasks to the same standard as an infantryman. So far during STX the combat arms leaders are coming back and saying, 'these guys took up positions, they rendered buddy aid,' that's what we want. We've got our own vehicles, we can come to combat with our equipment and plug into a maneuver formation. We're not a liability, we're truly a capability. I don't want maneuver commanders to think they have to trade off a force protection capability for us to come along. We bring those ourselves, as well as the intelligence. These young captains and lieutenants are saying they are never going anywhere without us in Afghanistan."

Ramsey added, "At first that wasn't the case but now requests for our capabilities are up 500%. We give them more information about the enemy than they've ever had before. Knowing when and where the enemy will be is something they haven't had before. During one STX, focused on defending an outpost, the OPFOR attacked for three hours. The commander knew when and from where each time they tried. When it was over the OPFOR shook our Soldier's hands, saying that this had never happened before, they've always found a way to penetrate."

"This is a win / win training event," Woodall summarized. "Young maneuver leaders are getting an education about what kind of support they can receive from intelligence, the type of early warning they should be getting and what kind of products they should be expecting. Now they know where the bar is and what kind of intelligence they should be pulling for in the future."

Editor's note: This article can also be found in the Northwest Guardian, the authorized newspaper of Joint Base Lewis-McCord. Click the logo below to read more.



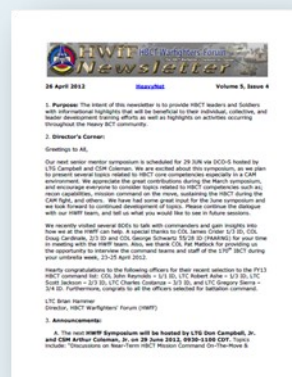
Other WfF Newsletters



SWfF Newsletter (27 Apr 12)



IWfF Newsletter (30 Apr 12)



HWfF Newsletter (26 Apr 12)

If there is another newsletter you think is important for the BFSB Community to read, please let us know, and we will add it to the newsletter.

National Guard Marathon Team performs well at Bataan Memorial Death March

By Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Leisa Grant, National Guard Bureau

WHITE SANDS, N.M. – Members of the National Guard’s All-Guard Marathon Team hit the desert landscape of New Mexico running and marching in the dry heat for the 23rd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March here March 25.

The march serves as a way to remember the sacrifices made by those who were part of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines in 1942, which included members of the New Mexico National Guard. More than 1,800 members of the state’s 200th Coast Artillery deployed to the Philippines in 1941. Only 987 survived.



SPC Rachel Walter, a member of the All-Guard Marathon Team and 58th BFSB of the Maryland Army National Guard, competed in the 23rd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March near White Sands, N.M., March 25, 2012.

“When I brought [the march] onto the team schedule, I wanted to pay respect to our military,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hagen, the team coordinator and Nebraska Army National Guard member.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the team right now,” Hagen said. “With Lincoln [marathon] so close, this was a personal sacrifice for everyone who did this.”

The Lincoln National Guard Marathon, scheduled for May 6 in Lincoln, Neb., is the only annual event for which National Guard members can qualify to join the team. Current members are also required to try out for the team each year.

Hagen said the Bataan event is challenging enough with the conditions alone, but with a short window of time between it and Lincoln, many team members opt out of the march.

“Sometimes you’re freezing or cold in the beginning, roasting toward the end and doing

it all on unforgiving terrain,” he said, adding that the recovery time would be short in between now and Lincoln.

SPC. Rachel Walter, a current team member and budget analyst with the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade of the Maryland Army National Guard, was the only team member who competed in arguably the most difficult category – Military (Heavy) Marathon. This required her to wear her full Army Combat Uniform and a 35-pound rucksack – almost exactly one-third her body weight – for 26.2 miles.

“Friends back in Maryland told me not to do it because I might injure myself before Lincoln, but I realized this is what I needed to do,” she said. “If I don’t qualify for the marathon team because I don’t recover from this event in time, I’m more than fine with this.”

Typically the team runs half-marathons, marathons and ultra marathons – primarily on paved roads or trails – throughout the year; however, this event offered participants several options. Two other members competed in the Military (Light) Marathon category.

Nine team members ran the full marathon in the Civilian (Light) Marathon category, which means they wore regular running attire – lightweight shirts, shorts or running pants, and running shoes – without a mandatory additional weight requirement. This allowed them to move through the course more quickly than most of their uniformed comrades.

Col. Troy Frost, a current team member and commander of the 120th Mission Support Group, Montana Air National Guard, ran the event for the first time and placed sixth overall out of the nearly 7,000 runners and marchers.

Frost said the course was challenging, but nothing like what Bataan marchers had to endure in the Philippines.

“We only got a small taste of real suffering,” he said. “As a military member I think it’s important to honor those who served before us, especially heroes like those who gave their lives or suffered incredibly during Bataan.”

Others on the team shared the same sentiment.

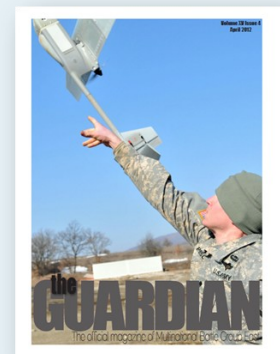
“Soldier to soldier, I wanted to express my appreciation for what they endured,” Walter said. “The 26.2 miles I did pale in comparison to what they went through.”

CATR Information

To learn more about the Close-Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) Program, download the CATR Intro Brief by clicking on the image below (CAC required). CATR points of contact can be found in this document as well.



Click on the image below to learn about what the Multinational Battle Group- East Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 560th BFSB, of the Georgia Army National Guard have been doing lately.



Afghan Border and Uniformed Police hold Spin Boldak security shura

Story by MAJ Anthony Crumbey, 504th BFSB PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan – Afghan Border and Uniformed Police leaders set the conditions for the establishment of police garrisons, improvement of roads, and the integration of U.S. Security Forces Assistance Teams with the 4th Kandak, 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police and Afghan Uniformed Police on April 21 at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak.

The joint shura was a great opportunity for the Afghan leaders to come together to discuss the future of Spin Boldak, Tahktepol, and Shorabak districts. There were enthusiastic discussions among the Afghan National Security Forces and International Security Assistance Force leaders. The key points addressed were the police garrisons and logistics improvements.

Col. Gary Johnston, commander, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, opened the shura by discussing the overall focus of police garrisons for Spin Boldak, logistics and the connections to the people of districts.

Col. Gul Mohammed, commander of the Spin Boldak Afghan Uniformed Police, directed his comments to the improvements in Afghan Security Forces' success in the city of Spin Boldak. "As a result of the hard work, we have good security in the city and the patrolmen are taking advantage of the training being offered by ISAF and the ANSF," said Mohammed.

The shura concluded with closing comments from Brig. Gen. Chris Field, Regional Command South deputy commanding general in charge of Force Development, who reminded the Afghan leaders that while they take the lead, ISAF stands with the people of Afghanistan.

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." - General George S. Patton, Jr.

Army Times article: Building better surveillance brigades

Be sure to check out the Army Times dated 2 April 2012 and read the article "Building Better Surveillance Brigades" on page 24 to learn more about the Battlefield Surveillance Concept and the direction the Brigades will take in the upcoming years. You may also click on the image on the right to view the article, which has been posted to the BFSB Warfighter Forum homepage on AKO.

If you are unable to click on the link, go to this address to download the article: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/27211792>



Photo (left): A 504th BFSB Soldier pulls security as a Task Force Wings CH-47 Chinook helicopter dusts off during a recent operation.