

‘Keeping Tabs’

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27th Brigade Combat Team --- Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

Partnering for Afghanistan’s future

UD KHIEL VILLAGE, KABUL – More than 1000 residents of Ud Kheil village were treated by Afghan medical staff and received medicine, vitamins and personal items through a joint medical assistance operation on August 7th.

It’s the latest project in a growing partnership between the community and its closest neighbor – Camp Phoenix and Afghan Forces and coalition allies.

The operation was held at the girls’ school, a project completed along with the boys’ school in the spring. That work is part of Camp Phoenix’s ongoing outreach to the Afghan people.

“We actually requested that Camp Phoenix provide us medicines,” said Haji Farid, the village elder and district representative through an interpreter. “That is why the people are happy that U.S. forces are doing this,” he said. “They have asked for our assistance and we have been able to provide it,” said CPT John Shannon from Elmira. “And, the reason we are able to provide it is because we have this great cooperation with the Afghan Army, the police, our British allies and our troops are doing a fantastic job.”



Top photo, CPT John Shannon with the caretaker of the Ud Kheil Girls’ School as the assistance visit was about to begin. Below, CPT Joseph Merrill directs a local father where to bring his son for an examination. Children of all ages wait the chance to be seen by a doctor.

“We have worked with the U.S. before at the Ali Khail School, when I first got here in May,” said Capt. Lizzie Winchester, education and training service officer assigned to the 2nd Scots Regiment, British Army. Her Kabul patrol company conducted mounted surveillance, while Task Force Phoenix SECFOR covered an outer cordon. The inner cordon around and inside the school was run by Afghan personnel. “This one’s working really well,” she said, adding that she and her team was “enjoying working together once again – supporting each other and the Afghan National Security Forces to make things a bit safer.”



CPT Judy Izard, Camp Phoenix pharmacist from Buffalo cradles a child with an infected foot condition as the child’s mother awaits medications.

“Our security measures are paying off for us today,” said CPT Shannon, who was quick to point out that Afghan units had leading roles. “We are just the outer piece and they are doing the real hard work of making sure that anyone who gets into the clinic to be seen are secure,” he said.

“We go to the shuras (meetings) to talk to the elders about the health problems of the men, women and children of the community,” said LTC Martin Scott, a nurse from Long Island, from the Camp Phoenix clinic. His team meets later to plan and pick the right combination of medicine and supplies that will be needed. Then they mentor and support the Afghan medical staff. “We allow them to take care of their people. We provide the medications and advice on prescribing and then dispersing them,” he said.

“The primary thing we need built in our area is a clinic,” said Mr. Farid, expressing gratitude that both a boys’ and girls’ schools has already been built. His community has more than 4,500 homes with an estimated population of 25 to 30,000 people. “And now we are happy that the U.S. forces will build a clinic in the village for us, and they are already starting to work on it,” he added.

“They are doing good things,” he said. “Camp Phoenix is our neighbor. When we are meeting and discussing different issues – security and clinic, schools, bridges, ditches... they are the only organization helping us,” he explained. “And, when we need to talk about the issues, if we give them a call they invite us, sometimes we invite them because we think they are from our own village. They are part of our own people.”

Keeping Tabs –

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