

'Keeping Tabs'

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

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

Working with Afghan Communities

KOJA RAWASH VILLAGE, KABUL –

Camp Phoenix based troops supported another Civil Medical Assistance mission with British allies and Afghan National Army soldiers. The operation took place on Saturday 30 August. It began in the morning and concluded in early afternoon at the Koja Rawash village school in Kabul. More than 900 residents were served. Four ANA doctors and additional medics were on hand. Residents received medicine, vitamins, infant formula, personal hygiene and first aid kits. Once again, staff from the Camp Phoenix clinic also came to guide the dispensing of medicines. The CMA was set up to bolster the growing relationship with the community and show gratitude for residents' cooperation with coalition forces. In preparation for the CMA, task force mentors and staff participated in shuras (meetings) with 6 village elders to first determine community needs and types of prevalent medical conditions and illnesses. The key leader is Yahya "John" Mohammed. A Humanitarian Assistance mission was



Above, Afghan children love being photographed while waiting in line. Barbed wire is used to create lanes for people to follow and to make it difficult for would-be terror bombers to break through. At right, and Afghan soldier assists a blind elder from the village to the front of the line.



conducted there a week prior, during which food was provided for 90 families and two tents were delivered to the school for additional covered space for students. More bundles for 40 additional poor families are being delivered to the elders. ANA soldiers with CJTFP mentors established an outer security cordon and searched passing vehicles. Afghan Police controlled the traffic because even though the site was just off the congested Jalalabad Road, a 5-way intersection of local roads was adjacent to the school. The police also conducted searches of men coming to be seen by medical providers, while British



Afghan boys drive a donkey cart carrying urns down the street in front of the school where the Civil Medical Assistance mission took place.

and Afghan women soldiers screened Afghan women with children. "This one of the smoothest functioning CMAs we have done to date," said CPT John Shannon from Elmira, who helped set up the effort. "The inner process was flawless. Getting in and establishing our security went very well which we attribute to the rehearsals we ran. The service line inside was outstanding. It was one of the best we have ever run," he said. "The line for the men went very well. Near the end there was a rush of more women and children from neighboring communities which swelled the numbers. We

had to cut the line off and disburse the crowd," he added. "We will have an after-action-review shura to discuss with the leaders how it went and what we learned on how to do these better. I'd love to help everybody there, but we can't. It's just part of our limitations. We helped a lot of folks that day and we are getting better on how we organize and run these missions. We are getting much better at doing them," he said noting that this was his last humanitarian support effort as his tour in Afghanistan was coming to an end.

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