



WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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Cacti pride for our Nation's patriots

By Maj. Joe Walsh, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt.

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan -- I know many of you have been watching the news and hearing quite a bit of information about American forces being in contact with the enemy and suffering losses.

In recent battles, the Soldiers of the Cacti battalion, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, have had their fair share of these contacts and have been knocked around a bit, but not knocked down.

The battalion is finishing up its latest mission, Operation Silver Torch, and has made significant progress in the Zabol Province and the outlying districts in the way of security, regional stability and voter registration.

Of the 12 districts in our area of operation, 10 now have operational governance and legitimate police forces willing to take a stance against insurgents.

The Cacti, with support from brigade headquarters, local and national agencies are assisting in providing the essential weapons and munitions critical to providing the force protection to these new founded districts and governmental and police agencies.

The people are looking forward to a new Afghanistan and have assisted us greatly in providing the battalion with information leading to the identification of improvised explosive devices set up by Taliban to kill U.S. and coalition forces.

They have also provided our troops with information leading to the recent arrests and capture or destruction of known insurgents.

Afghan National Army forces are proven combat multipliers providing our battalion with an Afghan face and local presence other than U.S.

The people in the region are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel, this is good, and the Cacti-battalion is proud to be a part of this process.

I stated earlier that the battalion has suffered some casualties, approximately 10 all together since our arrival in theater some four months ago.

One Soldier died and nine others have received wounds that they will all recover from in time. Some of these men are already back in the saddle conducting combat operations and itching to get some pay back.

I'm proud of these men. They have and continue to serve the battalion and the country they love so much with the utmost of honor and distinction.

It is impressive and humbling to me sometimes when I think of these men and others like them (past and present) that are so selfless in their actions to place their lives on the line, daily, for the very freedoms that we hold so true to ourselves.

I am surrounded by not just these ten patriots, but a whole battalion, more than 750 men of equal stature. This unit is strong and will prevail. It is strong because of its leadership at all levels.

It is strong because of the Soldiers themselves, and the intestinal fortitude they bring to the fight.

It is strong because of their families at home, the unit's support structure and readiness groups, and spouses providing the critical comforts for those families in need.

The Cacti-battalion will continue to press the fight to the enemy wherever he hides, we will seek him out and destroy him outright and, or, his will to fight. We will prevail and complete the mission at hand, I assure you of this.

Be proud of these men, my Soldiers and your sons and spouses. They are our Nation's patriots.
"Cacti-5"