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# ATCO KAF Chronicle

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# PROJECT UPDATE

BY DARREL FECTEAU

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our newsletter, the *ATCO KAF Chronicle*. This is one way that we are trying to further communicate within our ATCO KAF community. I want to thank Dave Carmichael, Judy Reid, Ralph Hammerbeck and all the contributors for getting this newsletter off the ground. I am sure they would welcome your feedback to make future editions something we all look forward to reading.

I am just returning to KAF from my leave and a visit to Ottawa, Canada where I presented the KAF yearend report to AFE and ATCO Structures & Logistics (ASL) Senior Management. At the beginning of the year we were given some operational and financial stretch goals. We did not meet all of the goals but we were very, very close and that is a result of all the hard work and contribution of everyone on this project. KAF attracts a lot of attention from the ASL Senior Management because we are a significant part of the overall business and the diversity of unique services that we provide. I left the meeting with the sense that they were generally happy with the Project's performance and the way we have all dealt with the challenges we faced last year. I want to thank you all for your contributions for a job well done.

This year is already shaping up to be a dynamic year filled with change, challenge and opportunity for growth. As you all know, we are re-bidding the Utilities contract which includes Water Production & Distribution, Solid Waste Management, Sewage and the Wash Rack. The Bid Team has been working diligently and soliciting valuable feedback from our Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) on the ground to develop a winning solution. We are confident that we are well positioned to win the contract again. The customer is pleased with the excellent service we have been providing and our aim is to continue to be the Service Provider of Choice on KAF.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding CATO/ACS over the last few weeks. At this moment we are preparing to ramp-up to meet the US surge which is expected to increase the population on the base to approximately 30,000 by September.

We are currently in discussion with NAMSA regarding at least a one year extension and as soon as I know something I will let you know.

In the short term we are increasing staff in Pass & Permits and are negotiating a one year extension to provide this service until September 2011. We have also won a contract to increase the size of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and build three additional Munsen Burners in the Waste Yard. In the next few weeks four new water trucks will be arriving in KAF along with additional drivers to meet the expected increase in water deliveries.

Next month our Quality Management System will undergo an audit by a Registration organization to verify our QA system meets the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Standard. Achieving this registration will identify our project as meeting this world-wide recognized standard which assures all interested parties that ATCO KAF provides consistent customer oriented services. We will be the first deployed project in ATCO history to achieve this registration. As our Corporate Assurance QA team puts the finishing touches on preparations for this effort please give them your full cooperation.

A lot is happening in 2010 but I am confident we are well able to meet any challenges that arise with the professionalism and ingenuity that I have experienced over the last year working with the ATCO KAF team. Let's continue to rock and roll for another great year.



*Darrell Fecteau is the Project Manager of AFE-KAF. Originally from Brandon, Manitoba, Darrell now lives in Pennfield, New Brunswick. Before working in KAF Darrell worked with the Canadian Standards Association, ran his own business for about seven years doing business management consulting, worked with Serco in Northern Canada and Ontario and was a volunteer fire fighter for seven years. Darrell first worked with ATCO in Bosnia as the QA Manager. When he manages to take a break, Darrell enjoys sailing, golfing and traveling. ●*

# OLYMPIC GOLD

It's a win-win as CATO worker scoops Olympic prize.

BY ANDREW HODGSON

**D**ave Lowe won an all expense paid trip for two to the Vancouver Olympic Games – and donated his winnings to two charities for wounded soldiers.

“I chose to donate my prize to *Help for Heroes* and the Canadian charity [*Soldier On*] because I know the pressure that service welfare organisations are under,” said Dave. “It was my first thought when I heard the good news.”

A veteran of the UK's Royal Air Force Regiment, Dave is familiar with conflict and injured servicemen. “I spent a total of twelve years of my service career in Northern Ireland,” he said.

ATCO's head office in Canada invited all employees to take part in a draw to win a trip to the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia. The winners and guests would go first to Calgary and then on to Vancouver, where they would attend a hockey game and an Olympic Celebration Ceremony. All employees had to do for their chance to win was to e-mail one word they felt embodied ATCO.

AFE-KAF's senior management was very happy to have one of their employees win the prize. When Dave, a Ramp Supervisor for CATO, found out he won, he checked to see whether his prize could be converted to a cash donation to charities for wounded soldiers.

ATCO agreed and Roger Johnson, General Manager for ATCO Frontec Europe, presented the

prize to Dave. He was impressed by Dave's generosity and by the ethos behind Dave's winning one-word entry.

That word was “caring.” Dave felt that it summed up the attitude at ATCO; from the feeling of self-respect and the pride in a hard job well done, to the way we want to treat all those who come in contact with at CATO.

We are the frontline for many people, service

and civilian when they deal with ATCO. We are the first thing they see when they land at Kandahar and the last agency they deal with on the way home. We care because we have to develop long-term relationships with our customers and to do that they need to be educated to know what we can do and what they need to do. It's vital that we have their respect so that we can gain their co-operation.

*Help for Heroes* is a British charity which supports wounded military personnel and helping to provide better facilities for wounded British servicemen and women. It was founded by Bryn Parry, a cartoonist and former



*CATO Ramp Supervisor Dave Lowe (middle) shaking hands with AFE General Manager Roger Johnson, as Deputy Project Manager John McNamara looks on.*

Dave is originally from the North-East of England where football on a waterlogged or frozen pitch is a “real winter sport”. He now lives in Portugal and is the proud owner of a chromed up Harley-Davidson which he is looking forward to riding round his new home country on his next leave. Dave has worked for ATCO since October 2007.

member of The Royal Green Jackets ([www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)).

The *Soldier On* program was founded in 2007 as a joint initiative of the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the Department of National Defence that aims to use sport to improve the quality of life of current and former Canadian Forces personnel who have suffered major injuries ([www.soldieron.ca](http://www.soldieron.ca)). ●

# CHARITYSPIN

**Medical Clinic Manager Ljiljana Talic helped collect school supplies and raise \$1300 for local Afghan children by spinning her wheels at the NATO gym.**

Ljiljana and dozens of other bikers participated in a spinning marathon and charity event on 31 January in support of the students of Pacha High School in Kandahar.

The event was organized by the NATO gym, and with the donations of money and supplies they were able to put together 600 'goodie bags' which included a bar of soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, a small gift such as a teddy bear or calendar and hair elastics for the girls.

Ljiljana has been taking spin classes for a year and says she loves it. For the charity spin marathon she biked two hours and collected \$90 as

well as five large boxes filled with notebooks, pens, pencils and more.

"It was part of my weight loss program and it was for a fantastic cause," she said. "It is one of the best ever cardio exercises."

Her first spin marathon was last November where she biked for four consecutive hours. Ljiljana said she felt great and full of energy after her spin this time around and thanked everyone who helped with donations.

"I can't wait for the next marathon," she said. "I might try and do all eight hours!" ●



Poster advertising the charity spin marathon, with Ljiljana spinning in the background.



Ljiljana's "don't-mess-with-me-while-I'm spinning" stare is very effective.



NATO gym instructor Simone Nielsen showing one of the 600 goodie bags the charity raised.

If you are taking part in a charity event or donating your time to a good cause, please let us know. E-mail [chronicle@atcofronteurope.com](mailto:chronicle@atcofronteurope.com) and we'll send a photographer. Good causes deserve good press.

# AFGHAN HEROES

Separated by more than 6000 kilometers  
from her husband [AFE-KAF's Director of Engineering]  
**Jackie Lawson** raised more than €3800 for *Afghan Heroes*.

WHAT DOES WORKING FOR ATCO at KAF, Spain, and line-dancing have in common? Nothing if you aren't married to Director of Engineering and Infrastructure, Ian Lawson!

But all these elements came together in September 2009 when Ian's wife, Jackie Lawson went to her local line dance classes in Spain.

The previous year her group known as "Charlie's Angels Line Dance Addicts" raised funds for the Marie Curie Cancer Fund by selling a charity CD. This time the selected British charity was *Afghan Heroes*, a newly formed charity set up by eight mothers in the UK, known as the *Band of Mothers*, whose sons all died on July 9th and 10th 2009 in Afghanistan. The charity was launched to support the families of the lost heroes, and to retrain those injured in theatre. As the charity has gained support and funds, it is now aiming to send a gift box to all 10,000 British troops stationed in Afghanistan. No mean feat when you consider that they have to convince manufacturers to donate 10,000 of every item on the wish list!

Jackie Lawson decided that she would take up the *Afghan Heroes* cause and beat the amount of €606 her group raised the previous year. During the next three months she not only sold the new CD single in Spain, but also enlisted Ian's help too. They financed 100 special edition CDs which were sent out to KAF and sold for a special price of \$5 (compared to €5 in Spain). The first of this limited edition was autographed by the artists Charles Cole, local country and western singer and Angie Evans, Jackie's line dance teacher... and duly sent to Buckingham Palace for HRH Prince Harry.

(Jackie was cheeky enough to ask for a signed photograph of the Prince. Buckingham Palace sent back a very nice letter of thanks for the CD, but said they couldn't oblige with a signed photograph as only known friends of HRH Prince Harry receive those. Jackie was not in the least disappointed, after all, how many people have envelopes addressed to them with a Buckingham Palace Stamp, and headed paper from St James Palace? None that aren't 100 years old!)

Ian had been busy as well. He arranged with the



Jackie shows the framed CDs and Reaper certificate that Ian arranged, to be auctioned for *Afghan Heroes*.

RAF to have not just one, but two CDs taken up in the MQ-9 Reaper by 62 Squadron. This is nearly unheard of as they usually only take up flags.

The RAF 31 Squadron also kindly took another two CDs up in a Tornado. There is also a signed certificate which shows the CDs in the aircraft while it is refueling in midair. Both sets of signed and framed certificates and CDs will be going into a special auction for *Afghan Heroes* later on in the year.

The fundraising in Spain started slowly, but by the time Jackie had sent out press reports to all the local newspapers, and had an article published in Brize Norton's *Gateway Magazine*, things started to heat up. Jackie has also done radio interviews with *TKO Gold* and for *BFBS*.

She arranged various events from a fashion show, to a Craft and Gift Fayre, stood in local supermarkets with collection tins, took a line dance troop around to raise funds, had a karaoke evening and finished the year with a spectacular Christmas Gala Night.

It had been three months very hard work, but

(Continued from page 6)

when the coins and notes were all counted up everyone knew that it had all been worthwhile; the total raised was €3,866.32.

“As a wife whose husband is away in Afghanistan for three months at a time, I have some idea what the relatives of the serving troops are going through. You never know from one day to the next whether your loved one is alive. Communication isn’t that great between Afghanistan and Spain so every day you are waiting just for some word to know that you haven’t been widowed. Ian and I have a daughter who is 18, and she could quite easily be one of the fallen heroes. My mind cannot even get around that thought and the loss that is involves.”

“This is what keeps me going – the thought of those babies that are being killed, and the devastation that their loss has brought to the lives of all around them.”

Although the 2009 fundraising finished on December 31st, Jackie has decided to carry on for the heroes. She is building a website – [www.expats4afghanheroes.com](http://www.expats4afghanheroes.com), which will show the upcoming events that expats living outside the UK can participate in. She will also be selling the *Afghan Heroes* wristbands in Spain (available to order for UK residents by going to [www.afghanheroes.org.uk](http://www.afghanheroes.org.uk)).

There are already events planned for 2010, kicking off with a Valentines Night Show, and later in the year a Summer County Fair, Hoedown and Halloween Ball.

If anyone would still like to buy a limited edition CD, there are still a few available from Ian Lawson. Please give generously; these could be our sons and daughters in theatre after all.

**Jackie Lawson**  
**Expats4afghanheroes.com**  
**Events Co-ordinator**



*Ian Lawson is the Director of Engineering and Infrastructure and has been with AFE-KAF since August 2007. Prior to working with ATCO Ian worked in Dubai, the Falkland Islands, Bosnia and Kosovo. Ian and Jackie have lived in Spain since August 2002. Ian is quite proud of his wife who has united many expats in Spain for a common cause and is now the Expats for Afghan Heroes representative outside of UK.*



*“The charity was launched to support the families of the lost heroes, and to retrain those injured in theatre.”*



*Charles Cole, the CD recording artist, at a fundraiser with Jackie.*

*“As a wife whose husband is away in Afghanistan for three months at a time, I have some idea what the relatives of the serving troops are going through.”*

# CHECKMATES

BY JUDY REID

Two ATCO employees who have been playing chess, winning contests and organizing tournaments here in KAF are encouraging more people to discover the game.

Originally from Kabul, Afghanistan, Jelani Ghiacy immigrated with his family to Canada in 1997 and is now living in Kingston, Ontario. Jelani has been working in KAF since June 2007, first with SNC Lavalin PAE (CANCAP), and then with ATCO in October 2008 as a Drafting Technologist in Engineering.

Jelani started playing chess in the 70s, but didn't start to play regularly until Major Regis Bellemare from the Canadian Forces founded the KAF Chess Club for all nations in 2007.

"Now I am a member of Chess Federation of Canada," said Jelani.

Ramel Velasquez is a line crew member of ACS (Aircraft Cross Servicing) who has been working with ACTO since August 2007. Ramel is from the city of Golden Friendship Cagayan De Oro in the Philippines and before coming to KAF he worked in Kuwait with KASCO (Kuwait Air Services Company).

Ramel started playing chess when he was in elementary school for fun, and also as one of his family's games. In KAF he began playing when he joined the Chess Club in 2008 and has already won a couple of tournaments, and came in 2nd place last September.

"Chess is like love, like music," said Ramel when asked why he plays. "It will make men



Jelani Ghiacy and Ramel Velasquez are championing chess in KAF.

happy."

For Jelani it's a hobby which is a good way to meet other players and make friends.

"I like to do something besides work in the camp," said Jelani. "This is good for my mind, it keeps me busy and also makes the time go fast." He describes chess as "the act of thinking".

Jelani played in some tournaments in KAF and then in August 2008 with Major Bellemare as the Team Captain, Jelani participated in the NATO Chess Tournament in Brussels, Belgium as a member of the Canadian Forces Chess Team.

Since then Jelani again participated in the NATO Chess Tournament in 2009 in Hammelburg, Germany and has been running the KAF Chess Club and organizing tournaments for all nations.

Jelani has plans for the chess club, but first things first: "First of all," said Jelani, "I would like to say thank-you to the Canadian gym staff for arranging a room for every tournament." The KAF Chess Club is one of the activities sponsored by the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency through the gym.

The KAF Chess Club does not have its own room. Every Wednesday Jelani carries chess boards and pieces, clocks and



Ramel competing in a KAF chess tournament last September 2009, where he finished 2nd place.



(Continued from page 3)



Jelani at the 2008 NATO Chess Championship in Brussels (front row, third from right).



Major Regis Bellemare (right) in an Afghan Army house outside KAF. Jelani said Major Bellemare built good relations with the Afghan Army through chess – another good reason to promote chess in KAF .



Ramel and Jelani face-off.

books to the second floor of the Canadian PX building where once a week the KAF Chess Club borrows the French TV room 1930 to 2200. Once there Jelani will set up the tables, the chess sets and teach any beginners interested in learning.

With Ramel's shift schedule on the flight line, he can't always make it to the chess club meetings but looks forward to tournaments and likes to play chess online at [www.chesscube.com](http://www.chesscube.com) – when the website isn't blocked. Ramel encourages new players to try out chess and offers some advice: "Patience is the only weapon and practice every day makes perfect."

Jelani said the club has enough chess sets and some clocks. Thanks to Major Bellemare they also have some Canadian chess books, newsletters from the CFC, another chess set and three clocks sent from Edmonton. Jelani has a plan to have a wooden cabinet with glass

doors to store the chess equipment on site so he doesn't have to carry it all from his room every week.

And once the New Canada House renovations are complete, with the help of the Canadian staff Jelani plans to prepare a special room for the KAF Chess Club once a week, complete with a computer and projector, as well as organize regular chess tournaments in the theater room every two to three months.

Besides securing a location for tournaments, the next biggest challenge for the Chess Club is finding sponsors to provide keepsakes for the participants and prizes for the winners. For one tournament, Jelani simply bought the prizes himself when he was home in Canada.

Ramel and Jelani are both hoping to have the next tournament by the end of March. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping to sponsor a KAF Chess Club tournament, please e-mail [jelani.ghiacy@atcofronteurope.com](mailto:jelani.ghiacy@atcofronteurope.com) . ●

# First Principle: Customer Focus

*In the first of a series of articles, Phil Heath our Manager of Corporate Assurance and Change Management, discusses the principles behind Quality Management and poses the question that we all ask when new requirements or methods of work are thrust upon us: "So you want me to do this, but what's in it for me?"*

**MOST CUSTOMERS** vote with their feet.

Have you ever been into a restaurant to find that they can't find your booking or the round table that you specified isn't available, or been into a shop only to find that the sales assistant is simply not interested in assisting you or worse still, you buy a product only for it to fail when you need it most?

Just think about the way that we normally react. We either complain and confront the issue

Customers decide how big our company is. If we do well, if we offer value for money and deliver a consistently excellent service in the eyes of the customer, our chances of growing the size of our business increases. But the reverse is also sadly true; fail to do well, be the most expensive, don't provide value for money and deliver inconsistent service - then watch our customers disappear quicker than the doughnuts at Tim Horton's.

What we clearly need to keep

in mind, whether we are unloading an aircraft, fixing a truck, making a pass or permit, fixing the air-conditioning or purchasing the parts that keep the wheels turning is "What does the customer want?"

In some cases to answer this question

we need to understand specifications or the contents of Statements of Work or even Standard Operating Procedures. But at most times we just need to ask ourselves "What would I want if I were the customer?"

I'd want my aircraft unloaded safely, my cargo protected from

damage and done in a timely manner. I'd want my truck fixed and back up and working within hours, not off the road for days on end. I'd want my air-conditioning fixed in the same manner and I'd definitely want to know when my parts were going to arrive. Commonsense - yes, common practice - sadly not always.

Simply by talking to our customers is a big step to understanding what they want. But they don't always tell you everything first time round and that is why we must always be seeking feedback from them. We simply have to be prepared to ask them, "What should we do differently to improve our service to you?"

So, let's get back to the question "What's in it for me?"

Simple! Speak to your customers, use the surveys that we've started to use across the project, find out whether what you give them is what they want or what you could do to improve the service to them, and then make those improvements. Many of the suggestions are small things that you can fix, and once you do, watch more and more satisfied customers come.

**Focus on customers**

- Give them what they want
- Satisfied customers
- More customers
- More jobs
- **More job security for all.** ●



**Customer Survey Sentinels** - (clockwise from top left) Rebecca Cameron and Aziza Kadirova from Engineering & Infrastructure; Zandro Baquilod and Michael Alain Reveale from Supply Class IV; Ismeta Grahovic from AEVM; and Gjokica Dautovski, Craig Murphy, Ralph Hammerbeck and Yubaraj Khatiwada from Transport.

there and then, or we say nothing but never go back to that particular restaurant, or we buy a different brand of product.

Customers have the ultimate veto; they either decide to buy our service or they don't. In other words they use someone else, one of our competitors.

# Why You Should Belt-up

Vehicle Safety Officer Mark Lestrangle has 11 years experience working as a Police Officer in Britain. In this series of columns, Mark provides advice and guidance to ATCO employees on the road in KAF.

AS A FORMER traffic policeman, the wearing of seat belts is a subject very close to my heart, having had to deal with the consequences of not wearing one. I could recount numerous incidents for you however one accident in particular affected me deeply.

I attended and investigated a fatal traffic accident in the UK which left a 24 year-old mother of two dead and her 18 month-old son fighting for his life. The child survived, but will never walk, never talk and never feed himself. And here's the thing: both mother and son would still be living normal lives had they worn their seatbelts. Incidentally, the speeds involved in this accident averaged only 43 kilometers per hour (KPH).

So how long does it take to save your own life?  
Weeks? Months? Years? Nope.  
Try five seconds.

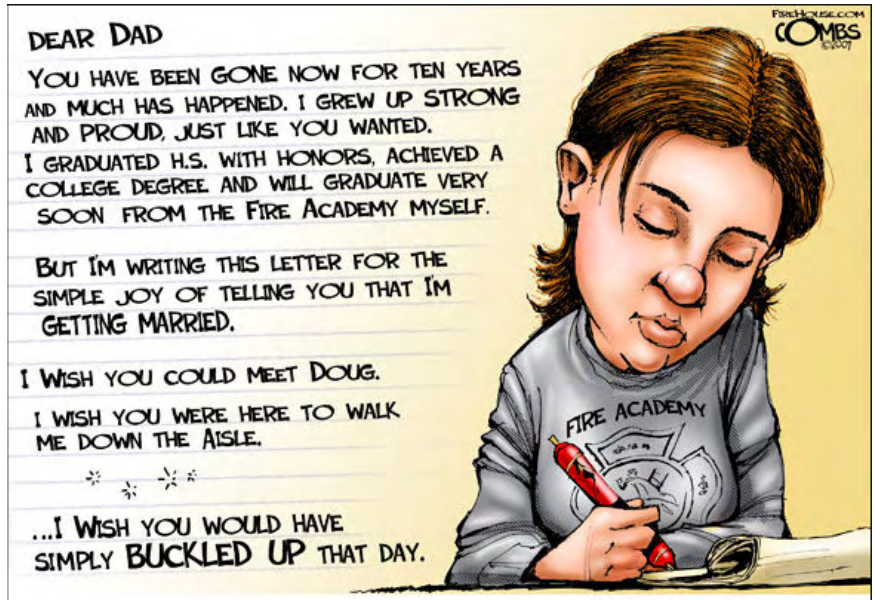
That's about the amount of time it takes to buckle up every time you get into a vehicle, and those precious seconds reduce your risk of death or serious injury in a collision by half.

When a vehicle crashes, there is actually more than one collision taking place:

The first is the vehicle hitting something, which causes it to buckle and bend before coming to a stop.

The second collision is more dangerous. As a crashing vehicle comes to a stop, its occupants continue moving in the direction of the collision. Without a seatbelt you will be thrown around inside the vehicle, putting you in danger of colliding with other occupants or being ejected through a window.

What happens if you are in a 50 KPH head-on crash, and not wearing a seatbelt?



A 150-pound adult will collide with other occupants, strike the inside of the vehicle or get thrown from the car with the same weight as that of a 3½-ton truck.

Ok, so the maximum speed limit at KAF is 20 KPH. Do you drive at that speed? Do the local drivers who fail to stop at junctions? Although speed limits here are relatively low, each and every one of you has seen a speeding vehicle.

So remember, **good drivers get hit by bad drivers everyday!**

And please don't think that it's just you who will be hurt. The fact is you may be the one injured or killed, but think of what you are leaving behind. Think how hurt your mother, father, wife, husband, children or friends will be. If you think you are the only one getting hurt, think again.

Think of that knock on your front door at home. *I'm sorry to have to tell you Mrs. Smith but Gary has been killed in a traffic accident. I'm so sorry...*

**...especially when it was absolutely preventable.**

So please, take those five seconds to belt-up each and every time you get into a vehicle. ●

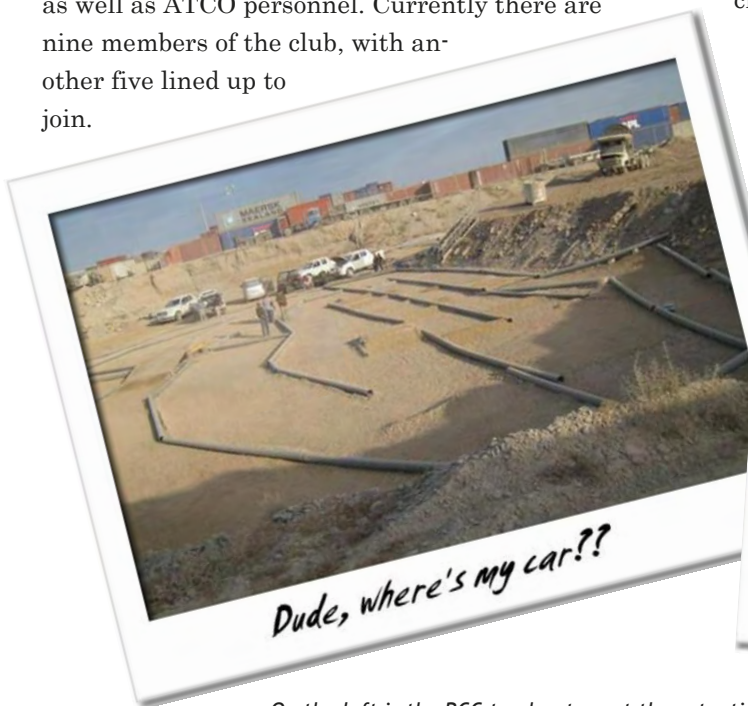


# Remote Control Club

*Every issue of the Chronicle will feature a hobby or pastime of one of our employees. In this article Transportation Manager Ralph Hammerbeck writes about a club that built its own race track, cheers off-roading and encourages high-speed chases in Kandahar Airfield.*

**A SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT** and stress relief for a handful of individuals here in KAF is the Remote Control (RC) Club.

The club was created by a core of die hard RC enthusiasts, most notably ATCO employees Stephen Madden, Don Forrester, Randy Durland, Vlada Musiki, Esmir Pehlic, and Michael Thomas. Since it initially came into being July 11, 2009, there have been new additions to the team from other contractors as well as ATCO personnel. Currently there are nine members of the club, with another five lined up to join.



*On the left is the RCC track set-up at the retention pond. On the right are some of the ATCO RCC members: Randy Durland (2nd from left), Vlada Musicki (4th) and Don Forrester (6th).*

After the initial decision to form the club was made, COMKAF was approached to provide an area in KAF where a track could be constructed and maintained. It was decided that the area called the retention pond could be used. After the first rains set in, it became immediately obvious why the area was named the retention pond, but any true RC enthusiast knows the entertainment value of mud, and the guys rose to the challenge. Since then they have been moving the track to higher ground on the upper level.

There have been many additional contributions to the clubs success so far, and many departments have pitched in. ATCO's Roads and Grounds, AEVM, Facilities, Waste Management, and Transport have all supplied assistance and logistical aid to the endeavor, and Steve made it a point to request that their effort

receive mention. As well, DHL have allowed four flights each year providing Hazardous Goods shipment in order to bring in the fuel required, and Leading Edge Hobbies out of Kingston Ontario have provided cars on consignment, allowing anyone interested in purchasing their own car easier access.

A new initiative is being attempted, designed to allow anyone with an interest in RC to try it out for themselves without the investment required to purchase a car. Steven Madden approached several con-

tractors and Fortune 500 companies requesting funding, in hopes that a pool of user cars be created for temporary use by anyone eager to try it. These would be maintained by club members, and would allow some much needed stress relief to any military or contractor personnel willing to give it a try, and have some fun.

The club meets Saturdays and Sundays, 0900 to 1200, and again from 1400 to 1700. Spectators are more than welcome to come out and watch the fun, and if anyone wishes to go but isn't familiar with where the retention pond is, there is a map in the Transport office.

All in all a tremendous amount of fun for anyone interested, and there's no doubt it will grow as time passes. ●

# So Simon Says

*A KOOL KAT could be the soldier you see riding a unicycle to the DFAC, the guy going to work in a kilt, the girl with a Mohawk or the dude skateboarding down Screaming Eagle. Each issue of the Chronicle will introduce readers to a KAF KOOL KAT who does things just a little (or a lot) differently in Kandahar Airfield.*

**SIMON OLENY** thinks outside the box.

And when I say “outside”, I mean waaaaay outside, as in outside our galaxy in another dimension, far, far away from said box which is located in a separate universe and doesn’t so much resemble a box as it does a dancing fish, or perhaps a reindeer.

Riiiiight.

See what I did there? I made you think “What the #\$\$\*! is that person talking about?” which is often

what I think when talking with Simon.

Simon works for Supply with NDSS (NATO Depot and Support System) and has been with ATCO for almost two years.

Talking with Simon is always interesting, often funny and sometimes surreal. If you don’t know Simon, occasionally you will find him sitting on the boardwalk sketching, or perhaps you already saw him a couple of months ago taking photos of tattoos.

Before Simon went on his last vacation he decided to do a special project for his soon-to-be-wife; a PowerPoint presentation of cool tattoos in KAF. I’ll let Simon tell it in his words, but I have to say, I was again amazed by what we can get if only we would dare ask for it.

And so, for his spectacular show of gumption and courage in asking one hundred strangers to “*Show me your tats*”, I hereby salute Simon Oleny as the *Chronicle’s* very first **KAF KOOL KAT**.



**Where are you from?**

I am a died in the wool-of-my-Cowichan-sweater Vancouver Islander [British Columbia, Canada], where shoes are optional, compassion is mandatory, and we are trained from a young age to wrestle cougars (this comes in very handy when we get older and hit the bars).

**What were you doing before you started working for ATCO?**

I supervised an industrial coatings warehouse Monday to Friday during the daytime, supervised sorting at UPS Monday to Friday during the evenings until midnight, on weekends I was either loading freight for a shipping consolidator or working in a high end picture framery.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

My hobby is sketching. I have a sketchbook with drawings from KAF, the Benelux countries of Europe, Dubai, my wife’s 30 pound purebred wiener-dog, as well as some celebrities and renowned cartoonists who have autographed my sketches of them.

**How did you go about getting photos of tattoos?**

The first night I thought I would go out, I chickened

out. I pretty much realized I wasn’t cool enough to be bothering some of the world’s deadliest people with my little art project. The next day, the DFAC food was so “bleh” that I knew I was headed to the Boardwalk for a burger anyway. I set up at a picnic table and hung my shingle. A lot of people stopped.

Over a week, I gathered pictures from 100 people on KAF, which amounted to 189 images of different tattoos. And even those people with multiple pieces of art didn’t show me all of them. Some were very poetic, very articulate. Others were just fun, or cool looking. All of them had a story of some kind. Some meant a lot when they were designed, and some came to mean a lot over time. All are personal and interesting glimpses of the person under the skin.

**So a lot of people here have tattoos?**

In the days before and the days that followed, I saw scores of tattoos that I never saw in those nights on the boardwalk. With 100 people I barely got the tip of the iceberg, there are so many great tattoos here. Less than a quarter of one percent (0.23%) of the population of KAF had a chance to contribute. I am fairly certain that more than half of KAF wear tattoos. → → →

Simon Oleny: a Kool Kat who photographs strangers, sketches anything & knows his sweaters.



*“This is for my beautiful wife and her 6 cool tattoos. Thanks to all the people of KAF who were so generous with their time and brave with their skin.”*

From the first slide of Simon’s tattoo presentation.

*“I am a died in the wool-of-my-Cowichan-sweater Vancouver Islander, where shoes are optional, compassion is mandatory, and we are trained from a young age to wrestle cougars...”*

**FYI** [Editor’s note] Cowichan-sweaters are iconic Canadian sweaters that have been owned by Pope John Paul II, the Queen, Harry Truman, Bing Crosby and Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and a pair of which were wedding gifts from British Columbia to Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

The aboriginal knitters from the Cowichan Valley, on Vancouver Island, developed the distinctive look more than a century ago, and only an authentic Cowichan sweater, hand-knitted by a Coast Salish artist, can carry the label “Genuine Cowichan Approved”.

The couple pictured on the far right - they’re wearing genuine Cowichan sweaters. But Mr. Starsky? That’s a fake. Book ‘em Hutch!



Three drawings from Simon’s sketch book: #90 - Totem pole at New Canada House, KAF; #121 - Water truck at Boardwalk. Pump mover for new concrete pads. KAF; and #86 - Young Afghani carpet salesman @ Boardwalk.

If you have a suggestion for the next issue’s KAF KOOL KAT e-mail [chronicle@atcofronteurope.com](mailto:chronicle@atcofronteurope.com) . ●

## Be Mine

Ross Crane from CATO is the *Chronicle* roving reporter and photographer. Every issue he will hound colleagues with hard-hitting questions and uncover hidden truths—all while making co-workers smile and say “cheese”. For this issue Ross bravely asked ATCO employees the deeply personal question:

**If you were home on February 14<sup>th</sup> how would you spend Valentine’s Day?**



**Artiza Nelson**  
 • Transport MHE Operator  
 • From Iloco Sur, Phillipines  
 • In KAF since Aug 07  
 • *I would take my wife out for a romantic dinner. We would engage in an intimate conversation. Then we would take a slow walk along the beach. It would have to be a very special place so we could remember the day for many years in the future.*



**Keith Skelton**  
 • CATO Pax Manager  
 • From UK  
 • In KAF since Sep 2008  
 • *Making sure the wife and girlfriend didn't meet by accident... ha ha!*



**John McNamara**  
 • Deputy Project Manager  
 • Feb 08  
 • Ottawa, Canada  
 • *I would head up to the ski hill for the Apres ski with friends. We would enjoy the skiing and work up a sweat and then party hard afterwards.*



**Ram Krishna Khadka**  
 • Supply Asset Tracker  
 • Jul 08  
 • Kathmandu, Nepal  
 • *A lot of fun with someone special.*



**Edgar Eric Anfone**  
 • FCRS Fire Fighter  
 • Jun 08  
 • Cebu City, Phillipines  
 • *Spnding the whole day with my wife and kids.*



**Ed Quedit**  
 • AEVM CATO Mechanic  
 • Aug 07  
 • Manila, Phillipines  
 • *I would take my wife for a romantic meal with lots of candles. I would give her a nice big bunch of flowers. We would then settle down to watch a movie. Afterwards we would take a walk along the beach in the sunset.*

**Rowena Villamia**  
 • Finance Payroll Administrator  
 • Jul 08  
 • Pasay City, Phillipines  
 • *With my love on the beach watching the sunset.*



**Nora Marindo**  
 • Finance Accounting Assistant  
 • Jun 07  
 • Zambales, Phillipines  
 • *I would go out for a meal and get very drunk as I have not done that yet.*

# WORD ON THE DUSTY STREET

Cont'd from page 9

If you were home on February 14<sup>th</sup> how would you spend Valentine's Day?



**Deepak Rai Bantawa**  
 • Supply Warehouse Clerk  
 • Jan 10  
 • Kathmandu, Nepal  
 • *I wish I could spend my time with you on this 14th. Miss you and hope to catch you soon.*



**Dave Carmichael**  
 • APOD Ops Director  
 • Aug 09  
 • Black Creek, Vancouver Island, Canada  
 • *I would spend it with my wife. We would be sat in front of the log fire with a nice glass of wine overlooking the garden*



**Moli Priyantha**  
 • Supply Warehouse Clerk  
 • Jul 07  
 • Colombo, Sri-Lanka  
 • *Enjoying with my wife and kid at the beach down south Sri-Lanka.*



**Ismeta Grahovic**  
 • AEVM Clerk  
 • Jul 07  
 • Velika Kladusa, Bosnia  
 • *I can think of many things that I would be doing but cannot go into any detail....ha ha!*



**Gobinda Murtan**  
 • Supply Warehouse Desk  
 • May 09  
 • Nepal  
 • *Hanging with my girlfriend. And I'd like to give her a beautiful gift. Then I'd tell her how much I love her because when we will leave this world I don't want to hide.*





# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Making history & telling our stories

**CHRONICLE:** (noun) *a historical register or account of facts;* (verb) *to make a historical record;* (synonyms) *history, story.*

It was Ralph Hammerbeck who first suggested that out of the more than 70 entries we received for a newsletter name, that “Chronicle” might be a good one. He was absolutely right.

We are making history here and it is only right that we should also make some record of it. Working in Corporate Assurance I happen to know that this company has all sorts of records, but the records or historical registers I’m most interested in are people’s stories. All our stories.

Growing up in a small mining town in Labrador I day-dreamed about traveling around the world and visiting exotic places I only read about in books. As a teenager, one of those books was *Caravans* by James A. Michener, an epic novel of adventure and romance set in Afghanistan. I never would have believed that one day I would grow-up to live and work in the mysterious country I read about in a paperback when I was 15 years-old.

There are some people who use the word “crazy” when talking about our decision to work here, far away from the comforts of home, friends, family and good red wine. Absolutely we are all here for the money, but does anyone else here not get a kick out of taking part in this adventure? Or meeting people from around the world and seeing things that most folks back home couldn’t even imagine?

Here in ATCO we’ve got co-workers from twenty different countries. That’s right, twenty! Think of all the sofas you could crash if you made friends with only a fraction of the 600 employees we work with. Think of all the stories you could tell when you return home.

In CA we’ve talked about doing a newsletter for close to a year, but it seemed we were always too busy working to do something like write and take photos of what we’re doing here. It wasn’t until we received the “Make it so” command from the top, delivered via Dave Carmichael, that we did something about it. Sometimes all we need to help us start doing what we want to do anyway, is for someone else to give us a kick in the pants. That, and some gracious volunteers (see right).

We have several interesting stories in this issue (and good advice too: we can’t have a company newsletter without advice), only because we are working with some interesting people. Work may be the reason why we come here, but I believe the people we meet is why we choose to stay.

I look forward to chronicling some of our adventures together.

*Judy Reid*



Who is the mystery man? Why, that’s the winner of the *Name Our Newsletter Contest* - John Vincent from Pass Control. John is currently on vacation but we hope he’ll be very excited to learn that he’s won 50 smackeroos to spend how he pleases. If he’s half as excited as our runners-up (Simon Oleny from Supply and Eldar Golas from Travel & Admin) who each won a Tim Horton’s gift certificate for \$10, he may stop hugging himself long enough to put down his shiny accessory and put on an ATCO t-shirt. Congratulations John! ●



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**MAN ON THE MOVE**  
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**WRITER**  
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**WORD ON THE DUSTY STREET  
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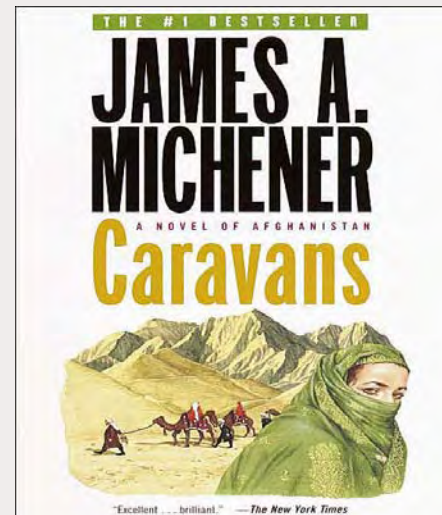
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*The Chronicle is a bi-monthly newsletter created by ATCO employees, for ATCO employees in Kandahar Airfield. Volunteers for the newsletter are always welcome, as are suggestions, comments and submissions.*

*Please e-mail suggestions, comments and submissions to the address above.*

From the Chronicle Reading Room:



# CONTRIBUTORS CORNER



**DAVE CARMICHAEL** is the Director of APOD Ops since January 2008.



**JUDY REID** is a QA Auditor and started working for ATCO in 2000.



**RALPH HAMMERBECK** is the Transport Manager and started working with ATCO in August 2007.



**ANDREW HODGSON** is a Ramp Supervisor with CATO and has been working with ATCO for almost a year.



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