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ATCO KAF Chronicle

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ROGER THAT

Our new Project Manager **Roger Maclsaac** took up the reins of the AFE-KAF project on 12 May. Roger served with the Canadian Forces Navy for more than thirty years and was promoted to Commodore [Army equivalent is Brigadier-General] in 2005. He has held many postings and appointments including Base Commander of Canadian Forces Base Halifax, Commander Canadian Forces Recruiting Group and Director General Military Careers. Last February the Governor General of Canada appointed Roger to the Order of Military Merit for service to his country. In the interview below, our new PM tells us what's surprised him most about KAF, his goals for the project and whether he's ever worn "Saturday Night Fever" disco attire.

Where are you from?

I was born and raised at the Center of Universe – New Waterford, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada. At the early age of 16 years after completing high school I enrolled in the Canadian Forces (CF) by accepting an ROTP (Regular Officer Training Plan) scholarship to attend Royal Military College. After graduation with a BA in Economics and Commerce I started my CF career as a Sea Logistics Officer.

Have you worked in Afghanistan before?

I have never worked in Afghanistan but I did command the Forward Logistics Site [in Bahrain] during the Gulf conflict in 1991. Having been a ship's Supply Officer I have worked and dealt with supply chain issues in many countries around the world from Shanghai to Columbia to Norway.

What is the most surprising thing you've discovered since coming to KAF?

Most surprising is the scope and size of activities here at KAF. Without doubt it is the most complex deployment I have ever experienced.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for AFE and its employees for the next year?

From a leadership perspective it will be the challenge of focusing appropriate attention to day-to-day service delivery while ensuring the protracted rebid process is sufficiently informed to deliver successful bids.

Managers will need to manage day to day with suffi-

cient knowledge of the additional work load challenges of the rebid environment.

Directors need to ensure the balance between delivery on contract and informing the workforce and others of critical production concerns.

What are your goals as PM for AFE-KAF?

Establishing and maintaining ATCO as a contractor of choice (external) and an employer of choice (internal) while maintaining profit margin and setting the conditions for future business development success.

I want to inform and inculcate the knowledge that the team at KAF is pivotal to individual, collective and corporate success, today and for the future.

What is one thing you would like AFE-KAF employees to know about you?

I value people, strive for team work and admire team builders. There is no "I" in the word "TEAM". I enjoy music and still remember how to play some – albeit old – songs on the guitar.

Have you ever worn a John Travolta-ish Saturday Night Live disco suit?

Of course, it was a fashion statement during the days when I met my future wife!

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I am very excited about being PM KAF. I have one eye focused on profitable service delivery and the other on the pivotal success factor: the welfare and performance of the people on the team. ●



Before KAF: Commodore Maclsaac.



After KAF: PM Roger Maclsaac.

SAFETYBREAK



ATCO employees celebrate NAOSH Week.

BY ERIC FOWLER

On Saturday, May 8, ATCO Frontec Europe sponsored an employee “What If” safety activity at Kandahar Airfield followed by a BBQ. Due to a severe windstorm the activities took place inside the AEVM maintenance building. The goal of this traditional week long North American Occupational, Safety and Health (NAOSH) activity was to focus the attention of all employees on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community.

After a safety briefing a series of “what if” exercises were conducted by ATCO employees. These exercises included walking through a short obstacle course with crutches using one leg, tying shoes with one hand, writing with the non-dominant hand, and finally walking and selecting a drink while blindfolded. These exercises were developed to make employees aware of the difficulty in performing some everyday tasks if injured, and to stress that unsafe practices at work or at home can cause temporary or permanent disability.

The out-going Project Manager, Darrell Fecteau, and incoming Project Manager, Roger MacIsaac, were the first to complete the exercises.

A meal consisting of steak, chicken, sausage, pasta, salad and pie was provided at the BBQ immediately after the “What If” activities.

The following safety concerns were briefed to ATCO employees:

- Recognizing heat injuries and knowing prevention tactics.
- The importance of hydration and drinking lots of water daily.
- Wearing reflective belts.
- Taking breaks when needed.



- Wearing safety belts when driving and following the speed limit.
- Identifying unsafe activities in the workplace. Making on the spot correction and if necessary report to first line supervisor.
- Rocket attacks protocol.

Safety is everyone's business! •

HIGH PRAISE

Meet some ATCO employees who are spending their Saturday evenings lifting spirits with soaring songs.

Several ATCO employees have been devoting their time and singing talent to the Catholic church service every Saturday evening in KAF.

The choir, whose members are all from the Philippines, was first formed at the urging of Father Roy, a Filipino-Canadian priest. Their first performance was for the All Saints Day service on 1 November 2008. Since then members have come and gone but currently the choir is fourteen people strong, with eight of them from ATCO and TOIFOR.

“We’re not just choir members,” said Ralph Tom Penas who works with ACS, “we’re friends.”

Tom plays guitar as well as sings with the choir. “Lots of people come to the service,” he said. “More than half are Filipinos.”

Their largest services were last Easter Sunday and last year’s Christmas Eve Mass. Tom estimated they had about 300 people at the Christmas service which was held in an RSOI (Reception Staging Onward Movement) tent.

Tom said they sometimes get nervous when they



have a new song to perform. His favourite songs are “The Power of Your Love” and “Sing a New Song”. The choir used to practice once a week, but now with their work schedules not everyone can make it.

“As long as you can sing and devote your time, it’s not a problem.” said Tom.

The current priest who leads the Catholic service is Father James McKay. Tom said Father James was surprised and happy to find a choir waiting for him.

“It’s a good thing” said Tom, “it makes us excited to be serving the Lord in that way.” ●



Back row, left to right: (1st) Robert “Obet” Arnesto (TOIFOR Wash Rack), (2nd) Bernardo “Jun” Rosal, Jr. (Waste Management), (4th) Phol “Jhun2” Salas (Supply). Front Row: (3rd) Claire T. Pabillo (Supply), (4th) Marlette Tambago (Supply), and (7th) Ralph Tom Penas. Bottom: (left) Jefferson Macario and (right) Cyriel Tingcoy, both from Supply.

BLUECREW

FLAME of COURAGE

FCRS (Fire Crash Rescue Services) can be divided into five services - Crash (responding to airfield emergencies), Structural (responding to emergencies on base), Fire Prevention/Inspection, HAZMAT response and Dispatch. The firefighters are split into two crews - Red Crew and Blue Crew - doing alternate shifts of 24-on and 24-off. **Emilio St. Coeur** is the Blue Crew Platoon Chief (also known as Red Leader), and in the article below Emilio describes their home in KAF, the day-to-day work they do and a few of the 2000 emergency calls Blue Crew has responded to.

Since the start of the contact in November 2007, we have spent two years and six months in the war zone a 24-on and 24-off shift rotation.

We all live in our fire hall; the fire hall in Kandahar Airfield is home. It's where we regroup and pull together as a family. We laugh and fight and interact as a unit just like any family does. We gather ourselves up after a call that disturbs us to the core, that tears us up inside. It's our safe place where we can be ourselves without the prying eyes, without those who consider us to be special role models. We can bring each other back to some kind of normalcy, either through humour (be it black humour or not), or through our team members.

It sure isn't always down time in the fire hall. There always has to be training carried out and equipment checks to be completed, especially if there has been a call on your shift or the shift before. The equipment has to be constantly serviced and maintained at peak efficiency because equipment that is not working correctly has the habit of letting you down at the moment you seem to need it most. Thank God we have Frederick T. Morgan and Norman Ruple as our mechanics. Most importantly, in a place like Kandahar, if it's broken it's not like you can just go out and buy a new one.

During the past 2½ years Blue Crew has been involved in a multitude of emergency responses, ranging from routine calls to the airfield involving aircraft,

structural responses involving fast alarms and building fires of all types and sizes, and the odd vehicle accident.

The following is a summary of some events which Blue Crew experienced at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, as part of the ATCO Frontec Fire Service:

- Over 2000 emergency calls and emergency stand-bys from day one to present.
- More than 100 rocket attacks since November 2007.
- 24 June 08 – Major fire at BFI (Bulk Fuel Installation) which we fought while camp was under

rocket attack.

- 03 Dec 08 – 4 engines fire on US Air Force C-17 at Kilo ramp on December 03, 2008.

- 13 May 09 – British Harrier jet fire with full load of ammunition.

- 19 Jul 09 – Sky Link MI 8 helicopter crash involving the removal of 16 deceased personnel.

- 20 Jul 09 – British Tornado fighter jet crash with full weapons load.

In the last two years most, if not all, Blue Crew members have been provided with a lifetime of firefighting experience which they probably will never encounter in the future. As Blue Crew Platoon Chief, I am not sure when the day will come when this work which I love will finally come to an end, but I would like to thank all members of Blue Crew for never saying, "Enough." ●



Clockwise from top: BFI fire in June 2008; fire out on Harrier in May 2009; Emilio and crew at the site of the MI 8 helicopter crash in July 2009 which claimed 16 lives.

DISCO DARRELL

A FE-KAF bid farewell to Project Manager Darrell Fecteau on 15 May by throwing a disco party and offering employees a couple of real beer.

A few folks really got into the spirit by donning some disco duds, particularly Tommy Fenlon from AEVM and Larrisa Jackson from MDA, who each won \$50 for their outrageous attire.

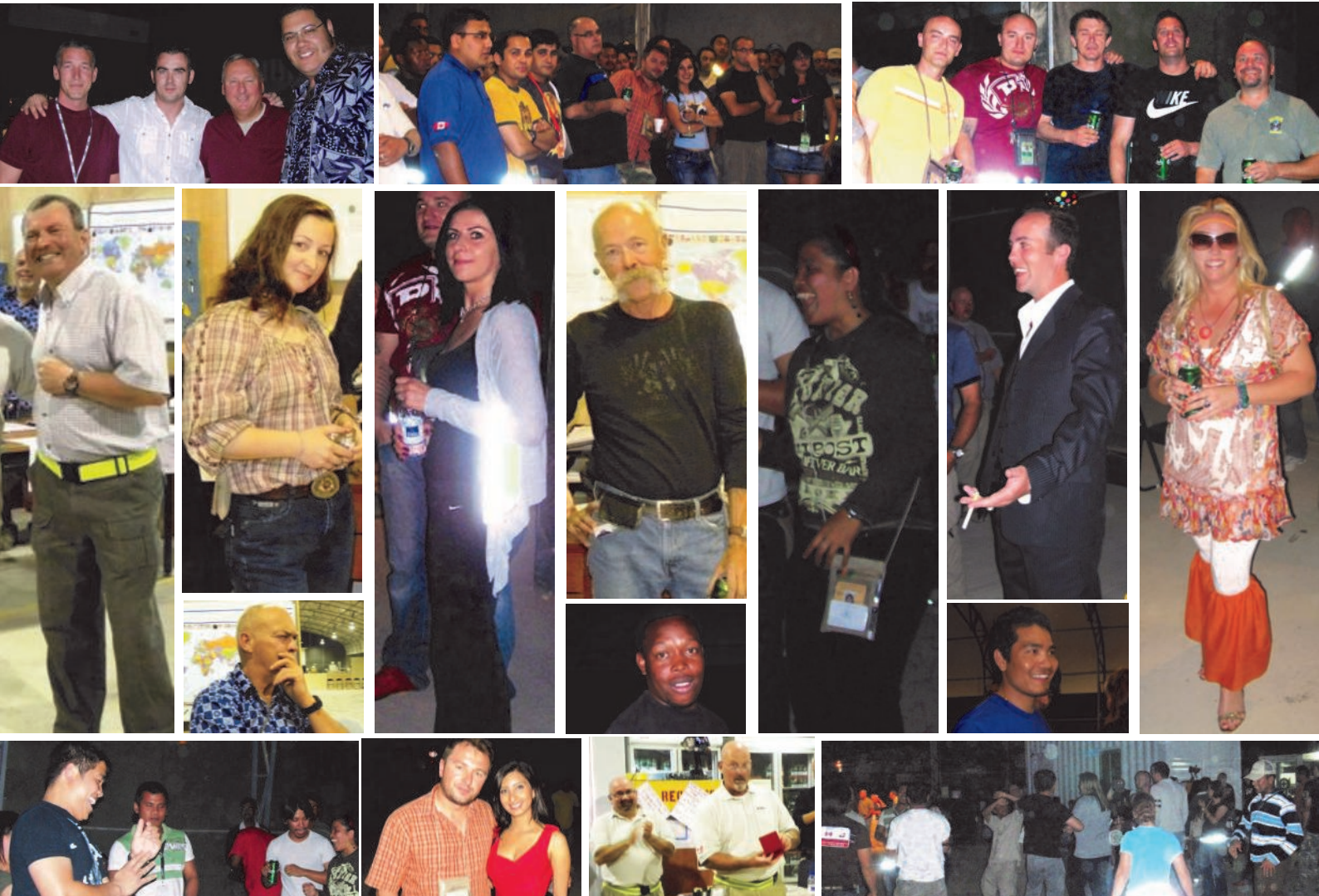
Bob Pratt organized a send-off for Darrell with some words from previous PMs and our offices back in Hungary and Canada, while our new PM Roger MacIsaac presented his “mini-me” version of Darrell, senior manager Barry Silmarie. Darrell of course was presented with the traditional parting gift of the gaudiest wristwatch to be found in Kandahar, and promised he would uphold the time-honoured custom of wearing the “big ugly watch” until he stepped off the plane in Canada.

The disco was graciously hosted by the Supply department. Don Forrester, Elvira Mujcinovic and the entire warehouse staff worked for nearly 10 hours to put everything together for the party, and almost another 8 hours to clean-up. Don would like to especially thank Moli Godamukawithange, Niraj Dahal, Gobinda Muktan, Deepak Rai, Cyriel Nakila-Tingcoy and Edward Gioche who were so enthusiastic about setting up.

A very big thank-you goes out to Pat Trainor from ACS who tracked down the beer and made all the necessary arrangements to get it to KAF and dispense it in time for the party. Thank you as well to Transport and their drivers who carted employees to and from the disco (and hence did not get to take part in the celebration). Thank you to Vlada Musicki for setting up the sound system and Ramon Cardenas for providing the disco ball and lights. One final thank you to everyone who made it to the party. Hope to see you all again soon. ●



*“Look ma, no ID!”
Darrell showing off his ID-free status on his last day in KAF. Keep in touch now, y’hear?”*



'STACHEAWAY

The ATCO Fire Hall recently had a moustache growing competition which culminated into a Moustache SmackDown, with competitors checking their chops and strutting their stubble on 16 May. According to Ryan Maclean, the I/C for HAZMAT response, it's an unofficial fire department tradition.

"A few guys had been asking me when we were going to do it again," said Ryan. "One night Darji was going to cut his off, I convinced him not to if we would have a contest. I went into my room and 5 minutes later we had flyers made."

Ryan donated a photo printer to go to the firefighter with the best 'stache and Fire Chief Bill MacDonald donated a multi-function printer/scanner for the contestant with the worst 'stache.

A BBQ was held on the big day and after the judges finished grading the whiskers, the best 'stache award went to Govardhan Darji and the worst moustache award went to Prabu Gartuala, both from Nepal.

And what does Ryan "Lance Manly" Maclean think of the results?

"I think Darji had the best, but I would say either Rowel [Batac] or Rick [Bustarde] had the worst. You can count the hairs coming off their lips."



Most of the contestants from the Moustache SmackDown pose with judges Ceferina Abulencia from Engineering and Judy Reid from Corporate Assurance.

GAME ON

BY JUDY REID

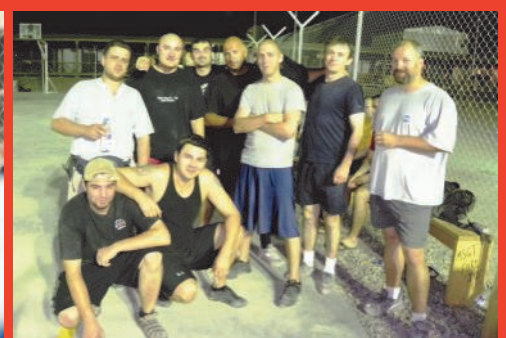
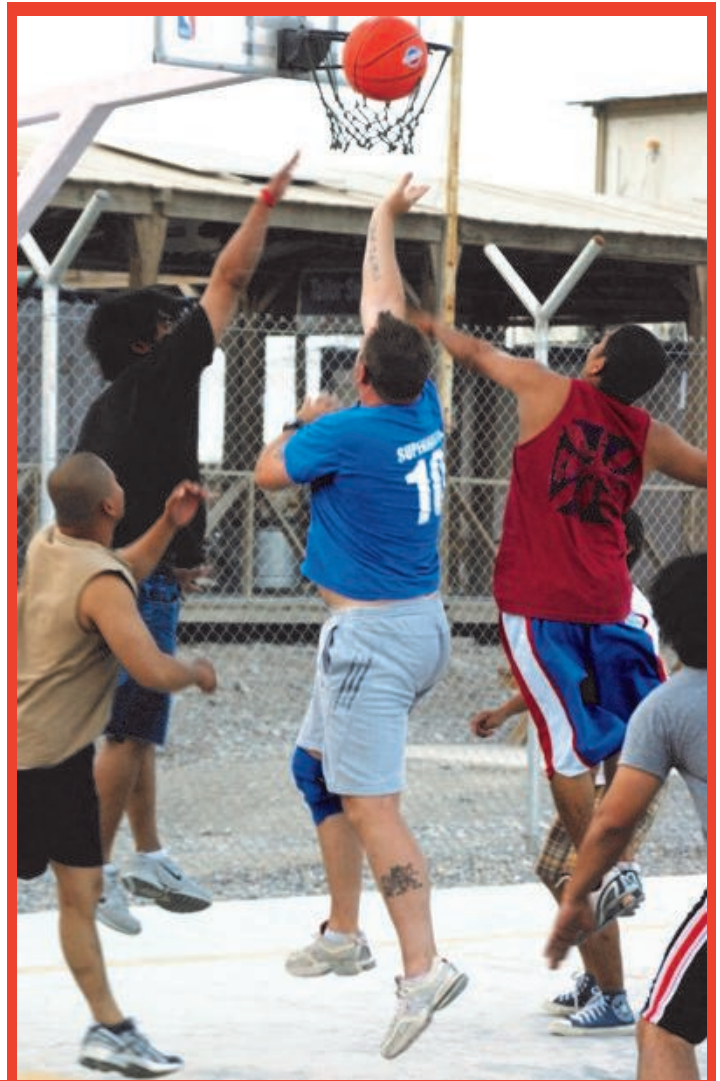
FYI, Amelito Cruz loves basketball. Just in case you're wondering how it came to be that so many ATCO employees started playing basketball, it's in great part because Amelito loves the sport.

Amelito joined the Admin and Travel department this past February. He had been chatting with Mario Husayan and John White, both from CIS, about basketball in general and somewhere in those conversations a challenge was issued: in the middle of the KAF Boardwalk, a Filipino team would challenge "the rest of the world" in basketball.

"Aside from the fun and joy in playing, it also gives us a chance to know each other" says Amelito when asked why basketball is a good thing for ATCO. "Shaking hands before and after the games gives us the freedom to go beyond the barriers in each of us," he says and adds that basketball creates a bond and camaraderie that lasts after the game.

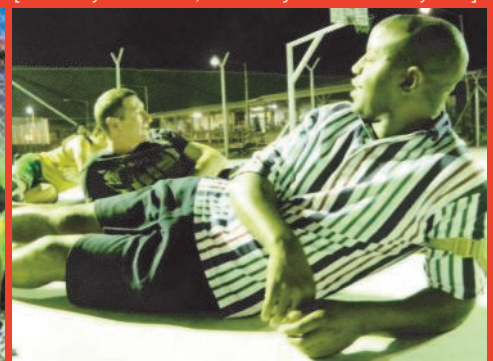
The two teams: *Team Pacquiao* (named for Filipino Manny Pacquiao, a 7-division world champion and the World Boxing Organization welterweight title holder, as well as Congressman-elect who demands breaks from training to play basketball) and *TROTW* (*The Rest of the World*, which was anyone else who wanted to participate) played on May 1.

It turns out plenty of people in ATCO also love basketball. Dozens showed up either to play or to cheer.



(Clockwise, top right) Up, up and away; Balkans team ready for some action; Rocket attack time-out; Score keeping by three amigos; Vedad Jusuafegovic getting ready to enter the fray; Teams Pacquiao and TROTW; Mario Husayan keeping an eye on things.

[Photos by Lisa Lawer, Elvira Mujcinovic and Judy Reid]



It was a true success, and not just because it was a fun game.

“I have now the guts to greet and chat to other ATCO people from different departments, even to managers who were members of the teams,” says Amelito who played for *Team Pacquiao*, “and I believed that’s exactly what happened to other players.”

The next week more employees issued a challenge; *Team Balkans* versus *TROTW*. By this time there were so many people who wanted to play, most people spent only a few minutes on the court.

Amelito says the games would not have been possible without the efforts of John, Mario and Deenah Heudebourck who booked the basketball court and drafted a three-week round-robin between four randomly picked teams. Amelito also wanted to thank the players who hit the court even though it had been years since they last played.

And it’s not just a game for the guys. “Deenah, Elvira [Mujcinovic], Larissa [Jackson] and Judy not only shoot perfectly they can also play guard and grab the ball from you,” says Amelito, speaking from experience, “It was really fun.”

The growing interest in basketball has collided with some obstacles, one of the biggest being rocket attacks. One game was interrupted by a rocket attack, but most players returned from their bunkers once the all-clear was given, and resumed the last ten minutes of the game. One game however was

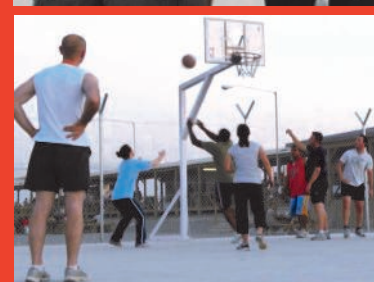
cancelled altogether when KAF came under rocket and ground attack just before the start of a game on 22 May.

The second obstacle is injuries. Employees are reminded of the importance of warming up and stretching, and cautioned against throwing themselves into a fast-paced game like basketball if they haven’t been physically active for some time.

When asked what he likes most about playing basketball, Amelito says it’s the applause and cheers from the onlookers and team mates, the high-fives and even the disappointment when the ball is over-shot. But already Amelito is thinking ahead to bigger and better things.

“I just hope that we could initiate something like this once more, like a sports fest” says Amelito, “and add more games such volleyball, soccer, and cricket”.

FYI, that’s a great idea Amelito. ●



(Clockwise, top right) John White revving-up Team TROTW; Scramble!; Chatting on the sidelines; Amelito Cruz aims for 2; Deenah Heudebourck tries for the block; Elvira Mujcinovic is ready for the rebound.

[Photos by Lisa Lawer, Elvira Mujcinovic and Judy Reid]

Second Principle: Leadership

In the second of a series of articles featuring Quality management principles and linking them to the frequently asked question "So what's in it for me?", Phil Heath our Manager of Corporate Assurance looks at Leadership.

So what elements of leadership are important in delivering better than industry standard or even excellent business performance? Well, in order to lead business improvements that drive the business towards excellence, leaders have to be passionate about customer satisfaction, development of people, creating an environment in which employees can give of their best, as well as demanding continuous improvement. The style of leadership is also important an important element and needs to be consistent, inspirational and clear.

These leadership elements boil down to 5 factors which are:

Creating a climate of change:

- Customer orientation;
- Consistent messages;
- Passion, inspiration and commitment; as well as
- Driving for Quality.

Let's quickly look at each element.

Climate of Change

Change is about improvement and challenging the status quo, the current state of affairs or level of performance. Discussions on improvement and creating these challenges need to be held in a safe non-threatening environment. To do this we need to share a common vision of where we need to take the performance level of the business. Training and aligning HR practices help in creating this climate of change.

Customer Orientation

As we discussed in the first article in this series, focusing on customers and increasing their satisfaction with our services and support is vital to our future business continuity and new business opportunities. This focus is not just about external customers but also needs to be

focused on internal customers as well. An internal customer is anyone that receives the output of your work, whatever that work is, be it a report or simply an e-mail. Senior management needs to establish customer contact and have a complete understanding of customers through creating customer focus groups, participating in complaints review processes, hosting customer visits, seeking customer input into service and process design



as well as evaluating mutually beneficial business initiatives.

Consistent Messages

Communicating consistent messages helps to create a clear direction for the business. These messages have to be clearly linked to business priorities and underpin mission, goals and objectives. Good and bad news needs to be given as well as creating an upward feedback mechanism for employees to express their views so that improvements can be made.

Passion, Inspiration and Commitment

Firstly leaders have to create a personal approach and visibly lead change and improvement. At all times leaders need to demonstrate role model behaviour. In particular they need constantly to use the tools of the improvement process and adopt

a factual approach to decision making. They need to encourage questions, be involved and initiate improvements in business performance.

Drive for Quality

A key leadership trait is being intolerant of non-quality behaviour. To create this, leaders need to have a committed approach to visible performance measurement, coaching of role model behaviour and encouraging corrective action. Leaders need to focus on process orientation and eliminate waste through mapping key processes, review and improve process outputs, and involve customers and suppliers to establish improvement opportunities. Benchmarking of performance against competitor or industry standards in order to establish goals and performance objectives also plays a part in creating a drive for Quality.

So is all of the above just the domain of senior management or managers and supervisors?

For sure it is their responsibility to lead and use the above factors to create excellent business performance, but when it comes to simply challenging our daily performance, anyone of us – every single employee – can use the above leadership elements to drive and lead improve in the things that we do each day.

So what's in it for me?

- Use the above leadership skills no matter what job you do.
- Drive improvement to business performance.
- Satisfy more customers.
- Create a stronger project.
- Win more business.
- Create more jobs and job security.

That's what's in it for me. ●

Defensive Driving

Vehicle Safety Officer Mark Lestrage 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.

SO WHAT IS DEFENSIVE DRIVING? In the simplest terms, defensive driving is the method of driving a vehicle in such a way that you reduce the chances of being involved in an accident, by employing the assumption that **at all times** something could happen. And then being prepared to deal with it.

A good rule of thumb is to assume that:

- Every other road user is a homicidal maniac.
- Something unexpected is **just** about to happen.
- What's around the next bend could jump out and kill you.

About 85% of all traffic collisions are attributed to road user error: bad driving and bad attitudes.

What does it mean when you're behind the wheel? How do you drive defensively? Well, let's start by making the assumption that you **are** a good driver and that you **are** wearing your seat-belt.

Driving is a full time occupation. Activities such as turning your head to constantly talk to your passenger, using a cell phone, drinking a coffee, or otherwise not watching the road and dedicating all your attention to driving, will eventually cause you to be involved in an accident. Guaranteed! It's not that **you'll** do something wrong, we're assuming you're a good driver, remember? Rather, when **something unexpected happens**, like a vehicle pulling out in front of you, or a pedestrian walking into the road. Your attention will be elsewhere and you won't react to the problem fast enough. You'll be involved in an accident that you could have avoided if you had been paying attention.

Assume you may have to stop suddenly or swerve on a gravel or dirt road. You'll often see people driving fast on gravel roads. This is safe provided nothing unexpected happens. But try to avoid a problem when you're going too fast on these kinds of roads and you will have an accident sooner or

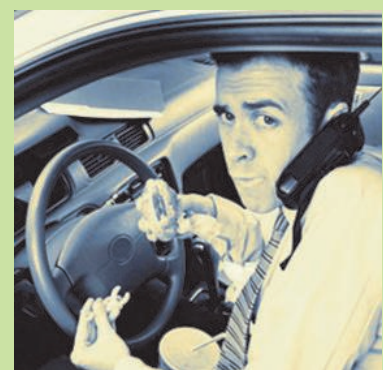
later. If you assume that nothing will happen, you're not driving defensively.

Assume that the driver will fail to stop at the stop sign at the junction, and will pull out in front of you (not you, remember you're a good driver). If you're not ready to react, you will be involved in an accident. Keep your foot over the brake pedal as you approach junctions and be ready to react, just in case.

Assume that something unexpected could happen at any moment. Keep your eyes on parked cars, pedestrians, vehicles appearing from compounds. Something unexpected always happens; be ready for it.

Defensive driving is a simply employed technique which, if utilized every time you drive a vehicle, greatly decreases the chance that you will be involved in an accident. Remember, you are a good driver, but not all drivers are as good as you. So be attentive, expect the unexpected and plan to deal with it.

Drive safely. •



Defensive driving: because bad drivers aren't always this easy to spot.

Romanians Salute Transport & CATO Employees



Yubaraj Khatiwada from AFE Transport stands out in dark blue in a sea of military. Also pictured (in red) is Karen Theriault from NAMSA. Jill Harrison from CATO Pax managed to escape all attempts to be photographed.

TWO ATCO EMPLOYEES have been presented with commendations from the Romanian contingent.

On 30 April, Lieutenant Colonel Alexandroaia presented the commendations on behalf of the Romanian National Support Element to Transport Dispatcher Yubaraj “Yubi” Khatiwada and CATO Pax Lead Hand Jill Harrison.

Yubi and Jill were both invited to attend a BBQ hosted by the outgoing Romanian contingent as an opportunity to welcome the new contingent and to show their appreciation to the people who supported them during their time in theater.

Yubi, who comes from Nepal, said the event was an amazing experience, especially once he realized there were only three civilians invited to this party.

“I don’t know how it is for other nations,” he said, “but awards like this mean a lot to us”.

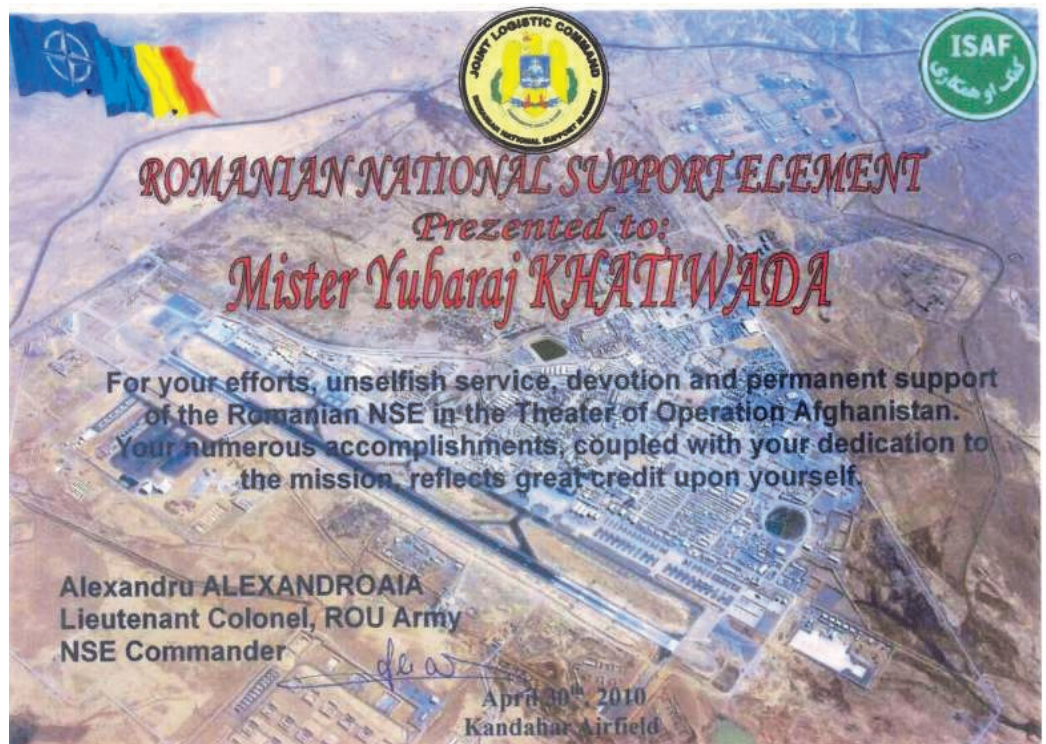
As a Dispatcher in Transport Yubi would sometimes organize transport for the Romanians five or six times a week, three or four times a day, or sometimes there’d be no requirements

for over a week.

Jill Harrison who is from the UK, has been working with CATO since November 2007. She was also presented with a commendation for assisting Romanians and their visitors who have flown in and out of KAF.

Yubi started working with ATCO in December 2007 as an NDSS Operator and has been working as a Dispatcher since February 2009. He said it feels great to be recognized for the work he does and recognition is good incentive for employees.

“And,” he added, “it’s very good for your resume”. •



Bicycle Club

Every issue of the *Chronicle* will feature a hobby or pastime of one of our employees. In this article FCRS Dispatcher **Stephen Carter** tells us about a small club that covers a lot of ground, and encourages others to start one of their own.

PRESENTLY Mervil Boyce (Platoon Chief), Victor Hriech (Dispatcher), and I all work shift work at the Fire Department and we get together every chance we can to ride. On the alternate days we sometimes end up riding alone but that is ok too. We ride between 15 and 30 kilometers depending the time, the weather, etc.

Our schedules make it difficult for others to join us but there are a lot of people on camp that finish work around 5 or 6 pm and these people could start up their own bike club.

The group dynamic encourages participation, provides company and overall helps people shed a few pounds and a lot of tension. I can't imagine a week without riding at least 5-6 times. No matter how the day went after a ride it is just a little bit better. ●



Merv Boyce and Stephen Carter ready to pound the pedals and eat some dust.

ARMY Run Course de L'ARMÉE

(SUMMER EDITION - KANDHAHAR)

Half Marathon & 5km Race

6 June 2010

Cost: \$10 USD

All proceeds going to local Kandahar Mola Abdullah Kariz School Project

Start Times: Half Marathon @ 0600 and 5K @ 0730

Register at Canadian Gym

or

the Boardwalk Stage

(Begins Wednesday 12 May)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

1200-1400

Mondays and Fridays

1900-2000

To the right is a photo from last year's Army Run in KAF. This run is the Kandahar version of an annual race that takes place in Ottawa. AFE-KAF encourages its employees to participate in this worthwhile event.



Half Marathon T-shirts to the first 200 who register and finish
5K T-shirts to the first 375 who register and finish

Race starts at the Boardwalk

09:00 Post Race Bash & Awards Ceremony

Prizes: Top 3 Male/Female, Top Team (5 runners)

Door prizes: ipod Shuffle and many more prizes to come !!!

Volunteers needed: Committee OICs, Road Guards, Water Stop Teams with Spirit (competition for best theme and best dress) T-shirts to at least the first 50 volunteers



POCs: Suzanne.cote@forces.gc.ca
shaela.bresnan@afghan.swa.army.mil
tracy.tyson1@us.army.mil



Full Marathon Option (0400 Start). Please contact tracy.tyson@us.army.mil if you are interested

Photo from www.armyrun.ca for the Army Run event in Ottawa, Canada.



NOTHING GIVES A MEDAL MORE MEANING THAN THE STORY OF ACHIEVEMENT BEHIND IT.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Poi Boy & KAF Climber

A KOOL KAT is someone who does things just a little (or a lot) differently in Kandahar Airfield. It 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. This issue's KAF KOOL KAT is **Dominique Goineau** who hails from Montreal, Canada. Dominique (or Dom) first came to KAF in May 2007 working for CFPSA, then started with ATCO as a pass control officer in December 2008. Even if you haven't met Dom it's possible you may have seen him in the middle of the Boardwalk, twirling and swinging colourful globes in seemingly impossible configurations. This art form is known as Poi, and in the interview below Dom tells us his secret to letting go, discovering his limits and how to get involved in his newest project that will have you climbing walls.

How did you get involved with Poi?

In the summer of 2004 I was taking a walk in Lafontaine's Parc, Montreal. I saw circles of lights in the distance. Arriving closer, I realized it was a boy and a girl playing with fire. They kept my attention, totally. Their bodies were synchronized and flowing in a meditative motion. I stayed until they finished and asked how I could start to do this! They gave me a pair of hacky sacs with ropes and explained the basics. I then practiced and learned from other jugglers in different parks, beaches and online.

What do you most enjoy about Poi?

I'm the kind of guy who is shy to dance and thinks too much while doing it instead of just having fun. But with Poi, my mind unlock and relax. After working on a specific repetition of movement, the body learn and let the head go. All the stress of the day is away and so the inner child can enjoy some freedom. Then, like cooking a good meal, each movement become an ingredient who bring flavor to the mix.

Where is the most fun you've had with Poi?

Olympos Beach, Mediterranean coast of Turkey. I was walking on the sand and looking at the ruins when I saw Poi spinning in the air. I then met Stefan and Sandra who make a living from fire dancing arts (www.art-artistica.de). Stefan showed me different key movements which unlocked all I knew about playing with Poi. I then came back to the beach every day for a week, working on those new combinations. I was suddenly tapping into a whole new dimension of movement that I didn't anticipate before. On that same beach another day, a British video artist came to me with a cam-



Dom spinning flaming Poi at the Boardwalk. For now Dom will be sticking with his LED Poi until he gets a fire permit. . [Photos by Simon Oleny]

era and asked if he could shoot some images with the Mediterranean sky as a background. He then produced another inspiring video loaded with cool effects that you can see on his personal YouTube page (www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYaCTe0uJuA).

What would you tell people who are interested in trying it.

Make it happen, do it. Anything can work: a pair of socks with a tennis ball in each, glow sticks with shoe laces or go online and have a look at what's available (www.homeofpoi.com and www.flowtoys.com). Focus on your hand and wrist to initiate the movement and on having straight angles. Practice new directions like on top of the head or in between legs... then control the transition in between all movements you have in your bank; that will explode into new series that will lead you on a new ground to explore further. Go online and

Dom Goineau: a Kool Kat who juggles blazing balls, defies gravity & needs a fire permit.

get inspired by Poi artists from all over the world like on YouTube. Share your passion with others and be ready to be filled with inspiration!

What project are you working on now?

Building a climbing club! For years different guys have been working on it, a lot has been done so far and we're just about to harvest the results and start climbing.

How can people get involved?

We are now focusing on membership. An email sent to domgoineau@hotmail.com in which we see your full name and your interest in climbing will do. There is a sign-up list at the Canadian Gym as well for those who prefer pen and paper. At the end of the month we are going to submit the membership list. The budget will be set accordingly, so *each* additional signature or email counts.

Why do you think it would be a good idea for ATCO employees to participate or try it out?

Defying the laws of gravity is something quite self-rewarding. From a first try-out to expert training, everybody finds their own limit and works to push their personal potential and focus. While climbing, nothing else matters but the present moment. This might be the right 'pressure release' activity for you. Many compare climbing to meditation in movement; others claim this is one of the most complete physical activities for a balanced lifestyle.

Why do you enjoy climbing?

It's an activity that has the power to drive me to places that are normally inaccessible.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

For those who want to try it out as a first experience or to share their knowledge and skills, *show your interest*. •



[Editor's note] The word "Poi" is the name given to the art form by the Maori people of New Zealand.

The Poi was used many years ago by the indigenous Maori people of New Zealand to increase their flexibility and strength in their hands and arms as well as improving coordination.

The Poi dance was originally used by the Maori women for keeping their hands flexible for weaving and by the men for strength and coordination required during battle.



KAF CLIMBING CLUB

Official Selection
THE BOULDERING CAVE

SHOW YOUR INTEREST

JOIN THE KAF CLIMBING CLUB

SEND US YOUR NAME & RANK

TO: DOMGOINEAU@HOTMAIL.COM

Each Person Makes a Difference





Wedding Bells & Brothers Who Won't Tell

We have a whole lot of families here in ATCO; mothers, daughters, fathers, sons, cousins, sisters, brothers, husbands and wives. With each issue we will introduce you to some of our employees who are lucky enough to have family nearby, and even a few who aren't family... but should be.



Lailani De Leon & Zandro D. Baquilod. Lailani and Zandro, who both work in Supply, were married when they were last home in the Philippines on 22 December 2009. Zandro started working in KAF September 2007 and first met Lailani when she arrived in January 2009. Zandro says it was love at first sight.



Derek & Lailani De Leon. Lailani didn't just have her future husband waiting for her when she arrived in KAF, she also had her "loving little brother" Derek waiting for her. Derek works for Supply section out of the AEVM compound and arrived in KAF July 2009.



Cari Sugar & Honey Lamb. Honey, who works with CATO Pax, and her daughter, who is a tactical paramedic, both started working in Kandahar in 2006 when the camp was much smaller (around 3000 pers). Honey began working for ATCO in 2007 and Cari is presently based in Terin Kowt supporting the Special Forces. Honey and Cari are from the USA and both mother and daughter agree it has been a very rewarding experience and an honor to support the Troops.



Engelbert "Toto", Sammy, Phol & Boyet Salas. The Salas brothers are from the Philippines and all still work on KAF. Boyet and Phol work for Supply at AEVM and arrived July and December 2009 respectively. Sammy who now works for DFS first started with ATCO in September 2007 and Toto who now works with Dyncorp started with Supply in January 2009.

Rodrigo and Ronel Villena. This father and son team is from the Philippines and both work in AEVM. Rodrigo first started with ATCO in August 2007 and was joined by Ronel in January 2010.



Tika Gurung & Ruk Gurung. Ruk started with ATCO/MDA in January 2009 and when he was joined by fellow Nepalese Tika in February 2010 everyone believed they were brothers. And are they really? The 'brothers' won't tell. ☺





Jeny T. Torello, Jefferson T. Macario & Claire T. Pabillo. The three cousins who are from the Philippines all work in Supply. Jefferson was the first to start with ATCO in March 2008, followed by Jeny who started in April 2009 and finally Claire in July 2009. Jeny's and Jefferson's mothers are sisters, and their mother and Claire's mother are cousins.



Lori Anna & Judy Reid.

Judy has been working in ATCO QA since September 2007 and was very happy to have her cousin Lori visit KAF in March 2008. Lori had been invited by General Hillier to come over as part of Team Canada after hearing her sing *Wille McBride*, a song about a soldier who died in the First World War. Lori had been a big support to Judy's family back in Canada and Judy was simply thrilled to spend a few days with her cousin and to hear her perform in KAF.

Congratulations AFE-KAF

On 30 March 2010, ATCO Frontec Europe's Kandahar Airfield project became the first operationally deployed project in ATCO to achieve ISO certification.

NQA awarded AFE-9001:2008 certification for the provision of camp facilities, facilities management, real life support services and airfield operations.

Congratulations to everyone in AFE-KAF who worked together to achieve this milestone, and thank-you to Phil Heath, Will Nix and the Corporate Assurance team for leading the way.



Dancing with the Stars

In every issue Chronicle staff will hound colleagues with hard-hitting questions and uncover hidden truths – all while making co-workers smile and say “cheese”. For this issue we talked to ATCO employees who do nightshifts, and asked the potentially awkward question: If you could dance with anyone in the world, who would it be?



Igor Naskovski
Jan 2010
Transport Dispatcher
Kumanovo, Macedonia

“Monica Bellucci [Italian model and actress]. Why not?”



Pokhrel Chhabilal May 2008
Suman Tamang May 2008
Jeevan Tamrakar Dec 09
Transport drivers from Katmandu, Nepal.

“Michael Jackson!”

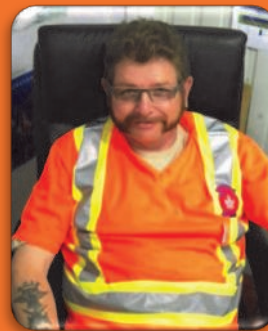


Ishwari Khanal Aug 08, Bharatpur, Nepal
Waste Management Weigher / Gate Guard

Thiriwana K. Amaradasa Mar 10, Balangoda, Sri Lanka
Waste Management Equipment Operator

Ranasinghe Janaka Aug 08, Weligama, Sri Lanka
Waste Management Weigher / Gate Guard

“No beer, no party, no dancing, no problem!”



Derek Bailey
Oct 08
ACS Crew Chief
Airdrie (Alberta), Canada

“I’m not really into dancing, but if I could have a beer and a conversation with someone I’d choose Albert Einstein.”



Georgia Nechita
Feb 10
CATO Pax Handler
Bacau, Romania

“Shakira.”



Alex Rogers
Nov 07
CATO Pax Lead Hand
St. Albert, Canada

“John Travolta from Saturday Night Fever.”



H.K.K. Gunasekara
May 10
ACS Line Crew Member
Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka

“Any woman... except my wife!”



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Beer, Basketball and Books

Have you met a mechanic who judges beauty pageants? How about an asset tracker who speaks five languages? Did you ever chat with an accountant who also holds a sky-diving record?

If not, you're in luck, because they all work for ATCO.

I was recently reminded how much our company has grown and how separated the different departments can be from one another. While eating breakfast with Willie Mungazi and Brian Munga from the PMO, we were joined by Dom Goineau, who happens to be our featured **KAF Kool Kat** for this issue. We were chatting for a bit when Dom introduced himself. Turns out Willie and Dom had not only never met before, they both said they'd never even seen each other... despite both of them having worked for AFE-KAF since 2008.

This is one of the reasons why I believe it's important we have company-wide events such as **Darrell's Bon Voyage Disco**. Unfortunately many of us are so tired at the end of the day that we can't be bothered to spend even more time with our co-workers, so it often takes some incentive to get the majority of our employees out to an event. In this environment it's safe to say that the lure of a couple of 'real beer' is one of the best ways to encourage maximum attendance at a company event. Here's to hoping we can have a few more of them (I meant more events, but I wouldn't complain about more beer either).

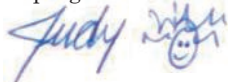
But it's not all about beer; there's basketball too.

One of the things I like best about working on the *Chronicle* is getting to know more about the people I work with and sharing their stories. I found Amelito Cruz's experience playing basketball with other AFE-KAF employees quite inspiring. Sure, basketball may just be a game, but it's also a great leveling field. Interactions aren't based on job titles or pay scales, but on people's willingness to play the game and pass the ball. Employees who had never before said two words to each other now greet each other and joke about whose butt is going to get kicked at the next match.

Another cool thing about working on a story is the discovery of a new and surprising fact. For example, before working on this issue, I had no idea just how wildly popular basketball is in the Philippines. In my research I was pleased to discover a brand new book about this very subject and ordered it online immediately (see below).

I hope I've convinced some of you that volunteering with the *Chronicle* is worth doing. It's a great way to meet people and encourage discussion... and to borrow my new book.

Hoping to hear from you soon,



ps. The record-holding accountant? She actually works at our head office, but if you want to meet her I'll let you know the next time she's here. •



SENIOR MANAGEMENT ADVISOR
Dave Carmichael

EDITOR
Judy Reid

WRITER
Eric Fowler

**CORPORATE ASSURANCE
COLUMNIST**
Phil M. Heath

VEHICLE SAFETY COLUMNIST
Mark LeStrange

PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Judy Reid

E-MAIL
chronicle@atcofronteurope.com

The Chronicle is a quarterly 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.

The Chronicle Reading Room

Pacific Rims: Beermen Ballin' in Flip-Flops and the Philippines' Unlikely Love Affair with Basketball by Rafe Bartholomew, published 1 June 2010.

[from the publisher:] Allured by the idea of an island nation full of people who love the game as irrationally as he does, American journalist Rafe Bartholomew arrived in Manila to unlock the riddle of basketball's grip on the Philippines.

On his unforgettable journey, Bartholomew spends a season inside the locker room of a Philippine professional team, dines with politicians who exploit hoops for electoral success, travels with a troupe of midgets and transsexuals who play exhibition games at rural fiestas, and even acts in a local soap opera.

Sweating his way through hard-fought games of 3-on-3, played with homemade hoops for 50-cent wagers, Bartholomew uses a mix of journalistic knowhow and the hard-court ethics he learned from his dad to get in the paint and behind the scenes of Filipinos' against-all-odds devotion to the sport.



CONTRIBUTORS CORNER



DAVE CARMICHAEL is the Director of APOD Ops. He started working for ATCO in Budapest in January 2008 and started at KAF in August 2009. Dave calls Black Creek, British Columbia home and is the *Chronicle's* Senior Management Advisor.

JUDY REID is a QA Auditor and has worked for ATCO in Bosnia, Canada and Afghanistan since 2000. She is from Newfoundland & Labrador but calls Ottawa home for now. Judy started in KAF September 2007 and is the *Chronicle's* Editor and Designer.



PHIL HEATH is the Manager of Corporate Assurance and started with ATCO March 2009. Phil is from Birmingham, UK but calls Beverly in the East Riding of Yorkshire home. Phil is the columnist for the **What's In It for Me** series.

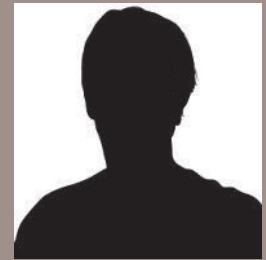
MARK LESTRANGE is the Vehicle Safety Officer and started working with ATCO in January 2009. He is from Manchester, UK but lives in Bad Fallingbostal, Germany. Mark writes the column **One For the Road**.



[YOUR NAME HERE]



ERIC FOWLER is from Stockton, California and started working with ATCO in April 2010. Eric is the Deputy Project Manager for AFE-KAF and wrote the **Safety Break** feature.



[YOUR NAME HERE]

atco kaf chronicle. the only thing missing is YOU.

WORD ON THE DUSTY STREET

FEATURES

HOBBY LANE

KAF KOOL KAT

FAMILY MATTERS

COLUMNS

HONOURS & AWARDS

PHOTOS

BY [YOUR NAME HERE]