

Providing the Best for Our Troops



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“An Army marches on their stomachs.” – Napoleon

Air Force Maj. E. Jay Kilpatrick, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), based at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan, ensures that our troops are fed and have what they need to perform their best. Maj. Kilpatrick is serving as a quality assurance representative for life support and supply services provided under the U.S. Army’s Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) contracts. “Whether it is a three star commanding general, the lowest ranking military member, [Department of Defense] civilian or our coalition partners, we ensure they have all their basic needs met and more, so they can effectively combat terrorism,” said Maj. Kilpatrick.

According to Maj. Kilpatrick, our troops are provided with all the possible creature comforts that they might have at home in the United States. These items and services provided under LOGCAP contracts include morale and leisure time activities. “We have PlayStation™ and X-Box™ games, computers for e-mail and Internet, a library, magazines, a game room, two gyms, video rentals, a movie lounge that seats 20 people and even sewing services,” said Maj. Kilpatrick.

The most sought after item at Camp Eggers is whatever is cooking on the grill manned by Chef Danny from Peru. “His food is so good it is sinful,” said

Maj. Kilpatrick. “He has the skill to take very basic ingredients and make a meal that is truly something special. The troops swear they are eating four-star restaurant quality food. All that is missing is a little garnish,” he continued. What are Chef Danny favorites as voted by our troops? Lasagna, burgers and the incredible four-cheese stuffed peppers; the lines are long at Chef Danny’s grill, but everyone patiently waits.

Not covered under the LOGCAP contract but also important to our troops are the outreach efforts with the local Afghan people. Maj. Kilpatrick and other members of our U.S. Armed Forces participate in a volunteer community relations program that reaches out to the local population. A recent fire destroyed the Afghan Street Children and New Approach School in June 2006, leaving them without critical supplies. Various organizations from all over the world donated backpacks full of school supplies for this school and others. “We work with a group associated with Mission Afghanistan that



(Right) Air Force Maj. E. Jay Kilpatrick, DCMA, in Kabul, Afghanistan, with Afghani children.

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scouts out the sites where assistance is most needed and a location where we can travel to safely,” said Maj. Kilpatrick. “We go to these sites twice a month, delivering food and clothing. As

an added bonus, we get to interact with about 50 to 200 children. This fosters relations with the Afghani people and reinforces that we are here to help,” he continued.

Maj. Kilpatrick is due back home to his position as a deputy team lead for the F-35 *Lightning II* (Joint Strike Fighter) program at DCMA Lockheed Martin Ft. Worth, Texas, by September 2006. What is he looking forward to most when he gets home? “Seeing my family, no question about that; it has been difficult while I was away — my son has lost two teeth, my daughter is walking and saying her first words and my wife is pregnant with our third child. I can’t wait to play with my kids.”



Napoleon famously said, “An army marches on its stomach.” Clearly, military personnel need to eat well to perform well. But what Napoleon was really getting at with this maxim was the importance of the supply line. Logistics — getting food, clothes and spare parts to the front — is often what makes or breaks a conflict. The truth of this was illustrated by Napoleon himself when, in June 1812, he tried (and failed) to invade Russia with a force of 500,000 men. Because the Russians removed most of the food and crops in advance, Napoleon’s army couldn’t live off the land as they had in previous campaigns.

Despite this, his forces made it to Moscow by September, but they were too emaciated to hold their position and in October went into retreat. Napoleon failed to live up to his own dictum about supply and, as a result, his bid for continental domination was thwarted.

Today logistics are just as important, if not more so.

(Top) Chef Danny, working the grill at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan, where he creates spectacular meals for the troops. **(Above)** The Afghan Street Children and New Approach School, which was destroyed by a fire in June, is one of the organizations receiving volunteer assistance from Maj. Kilpatrick and other members of the U.S. Armed Forces.