

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY 2009

ENGAGING AFGHAN TRIBES

AFGHAN PRESIDENT HAMID KARZAI recently proposed a new project, called Community Guard Program which aims to help communities and tribes protect their homes against militants operating in the area. The project has also received support from the United States, and will be piloted in the southern and eastern areas of Afghanistan.

Tribal chiefs and community leaders can sign up to take part in the program. These volunteer recruits will then be trained by the Afghan government to defend their villages from militant attacks. Afghan and foreign forces will provide clothing and other support, as well as assistance and reinforcements should the need arise.

This program was used successfully in Iraq as well. Iraqi tribesmen were engaged to help fight terrorists resulting in a reduction in the level of violence in the area.

PAKISTAN LAUNCHES OPERATION

MILITANTS AND OUTLAWS IN PAKISTAN have been attacking supply lines to NATO and U.S. forces operating in Afghanistan. Pakistan has responded to these attacks by launching a major security operation in the Khyber Pass region. To curb the militancy, Pakistani security forces are fighting on the ground, and helicopter gunships are backing these troops. Meanwhile, the entire region remains under curfew.

The region, situated in the north west of Pakistan, is an important strategic position. It is the most important district on the Pakistani-Afghan border, and is the main supply route for NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Pakistani soldiers recently blocked shipments of containers loaded with supplies for NATO forces in Afghanistan. These shipments will not resume until the major highways passing through the Khyber Pass have been cleared of militants.

The militants began attacking in this region early in 2008. Since then, the number of enemy combatants has greatly increased, and they have extended the scope of their activities. They are now allegedly providing shelter to militants from other regions.

THE YEAR OF THE NCO

NATO has designated 2008 as the Year of the Non Commissioned Officer to promote the profile of the contribution made by NCOs. The message is clear: NATO highly values the leadership, professionalism, and initiative of NCOs. Moreover, NATO is committed to developing the role of NCOs, and highlights the vital role they play within the organization. NATO has also proposed that all future NCOs be trained to make decisions and take initiative.

Last month in Brussels, NATO held the closing ceremony of the Year of the NCO. Members from 24 nations attended this special event.

The concept of an "international NCO" was introduced, sending the message that, irrespective of nationality, language, or culture, NCOs from around the world are equally dedicated.

ITALIANS TRAINING IRAQI POLICE

THE ITALIAN CARABINIERI have just completed their sixth specialized course in Police Leadership Course at Camp Dublin, Baghdad. The Italian Carabinieri provided training to members of the Iraqi National Police under the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

The eight-week course aimed to increase the strength and autonomy of the force. During that time, participants developed numerous policing skills, which included operational planning, police procedures, intelligence, counter-insurgency skills, First Aid, police ethics and human rights

Increasingly more provinces in Iraq are transferring these law enforcement tasks to the Iraqis. By reducing the number of illegal weapons caches, the Iraqi National Police are hoping to make communities safer.

U.S. Backs Plan for Engaging Afghan Tribes, *Radio Free Europe*, December 30, 2008

http://www.rferl.org/content/US_Backs_Plan_For_Engaging_Afghan_Tribes/1365132.html

Khyber Operation Seeks to Secure NATO Supply Route, *Radio Free Europe*, December 30, 2008

http://www.rferl.org/content/Pakistan_Suspends_NATO_Supplies_To_Tackle_Militants/1365003.html

2008 Year of the NCO Recap, *SHAPE News*, December 16, 2008
<http://www.nato.int/shape/news/2008/12/081216a.html>

551 Iraqi Police Officers graduated from Carabinieri training,

SHAPE News, December 2, 2008

<http://www.nato.int/shape/news/2008/12/081202b.html>

This page has been downloaded from www.campaignmilitaryenglish.com.

It is photocopiable, but all copies must be complete pages.

© Macmillan Publishers Limited 2009

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY 2009

Student Worksheet

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 to pilot | a) without consideration or regard |
| 2 tribe | b) to pre-test something |
| 3 to arise | c) believed to be true |
| 4 to engage | d) to launch or advance |
| 5 outlaw | e) to support |
| 6 to curb | f) to reduce or limit something which is harmful |
| 7 to back | g) independence |
| 8 allegedly | h) to move from one person, place, or situation to another |
| 9 to promote | i) to involve, to enter into combat |
| 10 irrespective | j) a criminal or a fugitive |
| 11 autonomy | k) a large group of families who live in the same area |
| 12 to transfer | l) to begin or come into being |

Task 2: comprehension check

Decide if the following sentences are true (*T*) or false (*F*).

- 1 Community Guard Program aims to reduce militancy in Afghanistan.
- 2 Community Guard Program will use new Army recruits to fight the insurgents.
- 3 Pakistan is responding to the increasing attacks against a strategic position.
- 4 Pakistani paramilitary are helping to deliver the shipments of containers into Afghanistan.
- 5 NATO wants to communicate to key audiences around the world the value of NCOs.
- 6 NATO is suggesting that NCOs be given more responsibility.
- 7 The Italian Carabinieri is performing more and more tasks which were previously done by the Iraqis.
- 8 The Iraqi government aims to task the Iraqi National Police force with law enforcement.

Task 3: discussion

The first article in this month's Campaign News Digest talks about engaging tribal chiefs and community leaders to defend their villages from militant attacks. Do you think it is a good idea to engage civilians in armed conflicts against enemy combatants? Your teacher is going to divide you into groups to discuss the pros (positive aspects) and cons (negative aspects) of this practice.

Task 4: writing

Leadership and professionalism are two characteristics used to describe a Non Commissioned Officer. Write an essay of about 300 words describing some of the positive attributes of a Non Commissioned Officer. Discuss the contribution NCOs make to your military service.

This page has been downloaded from www.campaignmilitaryenglish.com.

It is photocopiable, but all copies must be complete pages.

© Macmillan Publishers Limited 2009

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY 2009

Teacher's Notes

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right. Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 to pilot | b) to pre-test something |
| 2 tribe | k) a large group of families who live in the same area |
| 3 to arise | l) to begin or come into being |
| 4 to engage | i) to involve, to enter into combat |
| 5 outlaw | j) a criminal or a fugitive |
| 6 to back | e) to support |
| 7 to curb | f) to reduce or limit something which is harmful |
| 8 allegedly | c) believed to be true |
| 9 to promote | d) to launch or advance |
| 10 irrespective | a) without consideration or regard |
| 11 autonomy | g) independence |
| 12 to transfer | h) to move from one person, place, or situation to another |

Task 2: comprehension check: short answer questions

Decide if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1 True
- 2 False The program will engage tribal elders and leaders from Afghan communities.
- 3 True
- 4 False The shipments have been suspended until the area is cleared of militants.
- 5 True
- 6 True
- 7 False The Italian Carabinieri are teaching the Iraqis policing skills to increase their autonomy.
- 8 True

Task 3: discussion

Although the use of civilians in armed conflict is becoming increasingly more common, the issue raises a great deal of controversy.

As a lead-in, brainstorm, as a class, different situations in which civilian groups have been used against enemy combatants.

Then divide the class into pairs and ask them to come up with arguments why it is and isn't a good idea to engage civilians in armed conflict. Use the following questions to prompt students if they are struggling;

For example, does this really only revive militias? Should these civilian groups be volunteers? Should they be armed? If so, who should be responsible for arming them? What are the implications for the national and foreign forces who back these groups? What kind of support and reinforcement should national and foreign

This page has been downloaded from www.campaignmilitaryenglish.com.

It is photocopiable, but all copies must be complete pages.

© Macmillan Publishers Limited 2009

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY 2009

forces provide during the conflict? Does forming these groups create problems in countries where ethnic, tribal and local rivalries often pit one village or tribe against another?

Conversely, does the resulting decline in violence justify the use of civilians in armed conflict? Given that there are often not enough troops on the ground to protect all of the villages from enemy combatants, is this an effective strategy? Isn't it true that for centuries, governments have relied on tribal chiefs and community leaders for protecting their villages?

Collect ideas on the board to help students during the discussion.

This exercise aims to practise speaking fluency skills and the use of argument strategies. You may want to review the language of politely agreeing, disagreeing, interrupting, and expressing personal opinion before the students begin discussing.

Divide students into two groups to debate the pros and cons of this issue. The pros group will defend the use of civilians in armed conflict, while the cons group will argue against this practice. Give the students some time to prepare and then divide them into small groups or pairs to have a discussion.

To correct eventual grammar mistakes, take notes of errors in grammar and pronunciation, and compile a worksheet of anonymous errors to correct as a class after the individual presentations. When the students have reached the end of the activity collect feedback on the ideas discussed.

Task 4: writing

The aim of the exercise is to write a short character description. Intermediate students will write a more factual, concrete essay, while the writing may take a more abstract form in higher level students, so guide students accordingly.

As a lead-in, brainstorm various adjectives used to describe NCOs (e.g. capable, dedicated, motivated, etc.) and write these on the board. This will help students divide their ideas into paragraphs.

Once students have enough ideas to write about, ask them to write an essay. You may need to remind students about general essay organization (introduction, development, and conclusion).

You may want to review or introduce your how ideas are divided into paragraphs. Explain this by writing an example of a topic sentence on the board:

E.g. *NCOs are professional*

Explain that the other sentences in the paragraph develop the topic sentence. Then elicit the rest of the paragraph from your students (How are NCOs professional? Can you give examples or details?)

E.g. *They are competent, honest, they have good work ethics, they work hard, they follow the rules.*

Finally, review some common sequencing words (firstly, moreover, in addition, etc.) before your students begin writing.