

OPERATIONAL MENTOR AND LIAISON TEAM (OMLT)

“Omelet... It’s not just for breakfast anymore”. Drawn primarily from 3 PPCLI, the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) will have a critical role this February when they take over the task of mentoring the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) as part of Task Force 1-08. As part of our strategy for success for Afghanistan, Canada is taking more of an active roll in helping to build a domestic security force capable of supporting the Afghan government, and the soldiers of 3 PPCLI will be right in the thick of it in February of 2008 – making this one a true “Western Omelet”. Four-man teams and headquarters elements will be integrated into the ANA and ANP from the company level up and will help to plan and execute operations against the Taliban, while at the same time mentoring their Afghan counterparts on every aspect of professional soldiering such as combat service support, training, intelligence and personnel administration.

With such a rigorous task ahead, work-up training began almost a full year prior to deployment and with Canada’s changing emphasis on the role of the OMLT, our maxim throughout has been that change is the only certainty. The unit started out a third of its present size and has been constantly expanding while undertaking a rigorous and diverse training plan. The OMLT deployed to detachment Dundurn, Saskatchewan, in May 2007 for individual battle drills during Exercise TERRE SEWEL, to Hohenfels, Germany for the US Army NATO Embedded Tactical Training Course in July, to CFB Wainwright for Combat Team level live-fire during Exercise DESERT RAM in September, and to CFB Shilo for unit-level training and Exercise DESERT MENTOR in October. All the while the OMLT changed composition, shuffled personnel and adjusted the training plan to accommodate our constant and rapid growth. The result now, weeks prior to deployment is a robust and highly capable organization, drawn from the most experienced soldiers in the Canadian Forces and chief among them are the Patricia’s.



Team 3 from Kandak 1 pause for a coffee during counter-ambush training.



Maj Campbell and Capt Unfried discuss the route for a forced march in Shilo.