

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES⁵³

By Colonel Mark T. Lisi

Kabul, Afghanistan – Summer is the busy time of year here in Afghanistan. The bad guys have ease of movement along the borders and they ply their craft in a region known here as “Indian Country.” Their weapons of choice are the improvised roadside bomb, the mortar and the rocket-propelled grenade. However, when they want to make a point they come out to fight or we locate and fix them. Vigilance is the most important tool in our bag of collective tricks. The old saw, “you fight like you train,” is very evident here. Just because it’s quiet doesn’t mean you’re alone or aren’t in danger. CAVEAT!

Summer is also the season of state matches in most places, and the time when shooters talk their wives into a road trips to matches in other states.

This is not always an easy sell. Shooting sports – even action pistol – are not very exciting to watch. However, there are ways: for instance, my wife doesn’t like me to drive long distances alone, and she enjoys the Bend, Oregon, area. So Bend, which has a world-class shooting complex, is a prime road-trip destination for us. The flyaway shooting trip is a bit more complex. If at all possible, select a destination

where your wife has family or an activity that interests her, and make it a getaway. Your wife (of course) will be wise to this gambit, but if it gets you out to the range and off on a mini-vacation with your honey, it’s a good deal for everyone concerned. I have to miss the big summer matches this year, as I’m here on the backside of the world doing my bit for the nation. My duty here is a small price to pay for me to live in a country where the girls can carry guns (Ain’t America Great!), and let’s all thank Mike Dillon for putting them on the cover of his magazine.

As long as I’m on the subject of girls with guns, I have an interesting anecdote for the readers of *The Blue Press*. The March cover of *The Blue Press* has Miss Cathy leaning over a red Ford GT wearing a small-of-the-back holster on her belt with

some sort of Glock in it. So popular was the cover that Dillon produced a poster of it. We, the men of the Directorate of Resource Sector in the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan, have one of those posters in our office. Lest we be chastised for violating some rule about having a “girls with guns” poster on the office wall, Cathy’s place of duty was on the back of the office door. I took a photo of the boys clustered around the poster and sent it to Dillon as a thank you for the poster. To my utter surprise, Miss Cathy sends me an e-mail expressing her thanks for our service. It was a remarkably personal e-mail that touched all who read it. We are going to make Miss Cathy an honorary member of DRS and send her home a flag flown over Camp Eggers. We do, hereby, with great fanfare, promote Miss Cathy to Great

American First Class, and commend her for looking after her boys in the Ghan.

I have been given another job. In addition to my duties as the Deputy Director of DRS, I’ve been assigned Director of the Recruiting Assistance Team. This simply validates the rule that “no good deed goes unpunished.” The RAT is responsible for the creation of the recruiting infrastructure of

the Afghan National Army. Most of the heavy lifting has already taken place and the system is delivering recruits from across the country. The new job will require me to get out and around the country to ensure that operations are taking place as they should, and that the contracted building and support operations are taking place. I’ll be required to visit recruiting stations in every region of the country. I’ve already been up in Nuristan on the Pakistani border and out on the Iranian border. This job will add a new dimension of excitement to my life here. The RAT is also getting new hardened SUVs for ground travel and I will log some flight time. All of which will help pass the time here. The best part of this job is that I will have four U.S. Marines who will work for me, in addition

...continued on Page 69



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