



CENSA National Security Teleconference Series:

**Friday, April 24, 2009
12:00pm – 1:00pm EST (+5 GMT)**

**On the Ground in Eastern Afghanistan:
Insights from Two Battalion Commanders in Wardak Province**

Featuring

LTC Mike Gabel and LTC Kimo Gallahue
US Army Battalion Commanders
Wardak Province, Afghanistan

Dial-in Number: 1-309-946-5100
Participant Access Code: 113370

Overview: Lieutenant Colonels Mike Gabel and Kimo Gallahue will discuss their experiences with the establishment and development of TEAM WARDAK-- a holistic effort to synchronize the efforts of security, governance and development actors in Wardak province. The two commanders occupied the same area of operation and combined many military functions to synchronize their efforts. By establishing a common framework they have been able to identify overlapping initiatives and then build on that momentum to establish working groups that maximize the potential to achieve results on the ground with their Afghan counterparts. This has also allowed the commanders to fully integrate their conventional forces (both Afghan and coalition) with Special Operation Forces, an international Provincial Reconstruction Team, Department of State, Non-Government Organizations and Afghan military and governmental institutions into a combined team.

Information: The National Security Teleconference Series is one of CENSA's flagship programs, developed to offer timely analysis of current topics related to international affairs, national defense, and U.S. foreign policy. Opinions expressed by speakers are personal and do not necessarily reflect the view of the organization.

Please RSVP to James Kirkhope at james.kirkhope@censa.net.

Speaker Biographies:

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Gabel

Currently the Commander of 4th Battalion 25th Field Artillery part of 3rd Brigade 10th Mountain Division, forward stationed in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. He is a current member of CENSA and, in fact, a member since 2001. LTC Gabel has commanded a Field Artillery Battery and has held a variety of staff positions at all levels in the Department of Defense including Joint Staff Intern, Army Staff Intern, Aide-de-Camp for US Army Security Assistance Command, and NATO international Staff Officer for the Land Board. LTC Gabel has deployed as a Regimental Fire

Support Officer, Brigade Operations Officer and Brigade Executive Officer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 4-25 Field Artillery Battalion is currently conducting operations in Wardak and Logar Provinces as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of 3rd Brigade 10th Mountain Division and has responsibilities for Governmental, Economic, and Infrastructure development in Wardak Province. 4-25th is also conducting partnership training with the 201st Corps Afghan National Army Artillery and the Wardak Province Afghan National Police.

Lieutenant Colonel Kimo C. Gallahue

Lieutenant Colonel Kimo C. Gallahue is currently the commander of 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, part of the 3rd Brigade 10th Mountain Division, forward stationed in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. He was commissioned in the Infantry in 1990 from the United States Military Academy. LTC Gallahue's first assignment was with the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry at Fort Benning GA where he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Company Executive Officer. In 1995, LTC Gallahue was assigned to Vicenza Italy where he served as the Aide-de Camp to the Commanding General, Assistant S3 for the 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, and Commander, Company C, 1-508th ABCT. LTC Gallahue was then assigned to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk where he served as an Observer / Controller. LTC Gallahue's previous assignments include key staff positions within the 82nd Airborne Division, in particular as a battalion operations officer (in Iraq in 2004) and brigade operations officer for 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. In 2005 LTC Gallahue was assigned to the Multi-National Corps-Iraq for OIF III serving as the Maneuver Planner. He then served as the XVIII Airborne Corps, Chief of Training until assuming command of 2-87th Infantry at Fort Drum, NY. He and his battalion are currently deployed with the 3rd Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division with security responsibility for Wardak Province.

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