



Dole Institute Photo Journal
**"BOOTS ON THE GROUND:
 AN INSIDE LOOK AT AFGHANISTAN"**
 Featuring just-returned members of the 10th Mountain Division,
 who were involved in training the Afghan military and police.
 February 3, 2011



DURING WWII, BOB DOLE SERVED IN THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN I COMPANY, 85TH MOUNTAIN INFANTRY REGIMENT. ON APRIL 14, 1945, DOLE WAS GRAVELY INJURED DURING COMBAT IN THE APENNINE MOUNTAINS OF ITALY.

LT. COL. MICHAEL LOOS, LEFT, AND CMD. SGT. MAJOR MIO FRANCESCHI SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS FROM AFGHANISTAN. THE MILITARY TRAINING LEADERS ARE WITH THE 2ND BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION AT FORT DRUM, N.Y.



Afghan army trainers relate tough mission

By George DeBorja
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American military training leaders said Thursday that the Afghanistan National Army made strides in 2010 and that it was a big step forward for the country.

"There was an advancement of skills, of competence and of confidence just in their own ability to do the job well," said Lt. Col. Michael Loos, commander of the Army's 2nd Battalion at the 22nd Infantry Regiment for the 10th Mountain Division.

Loos and Cmd. Sgt. Major Mio Franceschi spoke about their 12-month training mission to about 60 people Thursday afternoon at the Dole Institute of Politics on Kansas University's West Campus.

They said it was a tough transition as the battalion was preparing for combat in Iraq before commanders were told just months before they left that they



LT. COL. MICHAEL LOOS, left, and Cmd. Sgt. Major Mio Franceschi share their experiences and insights from Afghanistan Thursday at the Dole Institute. The military training leaders are with the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.

would be given a training mission instead. They spent grueling days cour couring a training center in Kabul and 20 regional training sites across the country's rough terrain.

The battalion was among the first to enter Afghanistan early in 2001 as part of a troop

"For what we did for them I think they did very well. They're not at the first step anymore, but they're not at the top of the stairs either."

— Cmd. Sgt. Major Mio Franceschi on Afghan soldiers he has trained

"I feel that individually and organizationally as a battalion that we made a huge difference tactically, personally-person, and strategically," Loos said. Franceschi said he could see a difference in 12 months, for example, in the way the Afghan soldiers marched.

"It was tough" at first, he said. Then toward the end Americans would more often stand back and make spot corrections as the Afghans took the lead.

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