

## AFGHAN BOUND



Sir William Patey, HM Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia leaves the Kingdom in April to take up a new post as Ambassador to Afghanistan. Sir William will travel to the Afghan capital Kabul without Lady Patey who will remain in the UK for the duration of the posting. Sir William will lead one of the UK's largest overseas embassies with a co-ordinated military, diplomatic and development presence.

Sir William is one of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's most senior and experienced diplomats. After studying Arabic at the MECAS language school in Lebanon Sir William served in Abu Dhabi, Tripoli, Canberra, and Riyadh. After stints in the UK he was confirmed as the British ambassador to Sudan serving for three years as the country came out of civil war and signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and the

South. After Sudan Sir William transferred to Baghdad as ambassador playing a key role in the establishment of democratic government in the country. Then in 2007 he arrived in Riyadh as Ambassador.

The new British Ambassador will arrive in September 2010. Until then Roddy Drummond will be Chargé d'Affairs

In March this year Sir William held talks with the Prime Minister Gordon Brown concerning his new assignment to Kabul. Speaking after that meeting Sir William said: "The people of Afghanistan deserve security and stability and our role as the international community is to support them in achieving that. I am very much looking forward to arriving in Kabul and taking up this new challenge."