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San Diego-area man returns from month-long training trip with the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team in Kabul

Fallbrook, CA – February 25, 2015 – Representatives of Afghanistan Water Polo (AWP) recently returned from a month-long training program in Kabul, where they worked with staff and athletes of the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team. Jeremy Piasecki, Head Coach of the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team and Executive Director of AWP, of Fallbrook, California, was joined by Bill Richardson, Assistant Coach of the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team, of Detroit, Michigan, and Scott Caruso, Director of International Relations of AWP, of Chicago, Illinois.

During AWP Training Camp, Piasecki, along with Richardson and Caruso, led daily practices with the national team and local athletes, mentored coaches and support staff, and visited such sites as Qargha Reservoir; the Kabul and Sultani Museums; Skateistan, a nonprofit organization connecting youth to education through skateboarding; and Amu Pool, Afghanistan's largest pool. They also promoted the team and AWP through several media appearances, including interviews on Channel 3 Sport and Tolo TV's *Bamdad Khosh*. Following the Training Camp, the national team will continue to train with local coaches as they prepare to play in more formal game settings in international competition.

As a reserve Marine, Piasecki currently resides in Vicenza, Italy, and is married with two children. He has been coaching swimming and water polo full time for the past 11 years in southern California, Germany, and Italy. He created the first water polo team in Afghanistan, 201st Corps Swim and Water Polo Team, in 2008, and a swim and water polo team in Helmand Province followed in 2010. Since 2008 and again in 2013, the Afghanistan National Olympic Committee tasked Piasecki to lead the national water polo program. His involvement in Afghanistan Water Polo stems from a desire to serve the global community through promoting peace and stability in a volatile region.

"The beginning of 2015 was incredible for Afghanistan Water Polo. During our recent one-month training session with the national team, we saw tremendous improvement of the individual players and the team as a whole," Piasecki said. "Plus there is development of youth and disabled players in Kabul, Herat, and Mazar-e-Sharif. The future for water polo in Afghanistan is bright, and we look forward to the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team players achieving their dreams."

Donations in support of AWP can be made online at www.afghanistanwaterpolo.com.

About Afghanistan Olympic Dream: The Afghanistan Olympic Dream is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to provide financial support to Afghanistan Water Polo.