



THE WARRIOR DISPATCH

August Greeting from the Commander *(Personal response to MSG Stevens' July Article on Healthy Competition)*

Have you ever issued a challenge that you thought was a great motivator, sort of a dare? One that you know you are hands down going to win, but you throw it out there for the purpose of encouragement. I'm referring to a challenge between friends or coworkers that is sort of a bet. You know, one that you instigate to encourage and motivate positive change, when the next thing you know your friend/coworker actually believes they have the facilities to win. The whole team starts to get involved with their bets and smack talk. Everyone has their prediction on the winner and all start to get involved in preparations for the contest. You find yourself working harder to ensure your victory, while at the same time already feeling sorry for the one you challenged. The challenge allows us to have some fun while improving our physical fitness, which is a win – win for everyone. Like all bets, there has to be a winner and a loser and it is obvious who the winner will be. Optimism is a wonderful thing, but there is a time for everything and it is time for REALITY! Playing the game is great, but winning is why I'm here!

LTC ROBERTS quotes on winning.

You want me to do something... tell me I can't do it. - Maya Angelou

Energy and persistence conquer all things. - Benjamin Franklin

Winning isn't everything, but wanting to is. - Vince Lombardi

I am too positive to be doubtful. Too optimistic to be fearful. And too determined to be defeated. – Unknown

I wasn't born to follow and I'm not sure if I was born to lead, but what I'm certain is that I was born to fight my way to win. - LTC Roberts

The first rule of competition: In order to win you have to want it more! - Desperate Housewives - for MSG Stevens

My personal favorite - "Winning isn't everything...it's the only thing." - Vincent van Gogh



LTC David Roberts
PRT Khost Commander

Inside this issue:

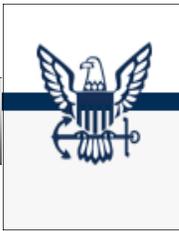
History of FOB Salerno	2
Mission Pictures	4
News Archive	6
Awards and Promotions	9
AG section is staying busy	12
Afghan Info	14



Internet links



<http://www.army.mil/>



<http://www.navy.mil/>



<http://www.defense.gov/>



<http://www.state.gov/>



<http://www.usaid.gov/>

A brief history of FOB Salerno

As the US military prepares to wind down operations in Afghanistan, and we see on the horizon the closing down of this place we currently call home, it is interesting to look back on a little of the history of FOB Salerno.

The FOB was originally established in 2002 by Task Force Panther and named for the beachhead where the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment landed on 14 September 1943. Salerno, Italy, is located fifty miles south of Naples and during World War II was the site of the landings of the Fifth Army on 9 September 1943, the first large scale invasion of the European mainland. It remained a base for future war operations in Italy.

The US Military has had a presence at Salerno in Afghanistan since the beginning of the war in 2001. However, one of the first groups to run operations out of Salerno, beginning in March 2003, was an Italian light infantry group. While here, they conducted the first air assault in Italian Army history, along with the 82nd Airborne, Afghan National Army and US Special Forces. On 15 September 2003, the Italians transferred the FOB to the United States, to the 10th Mountain Division. Salerno has been a US run FOB since then, however it has hosted the militaries of several other nations through the years. The FOB began early on in the war with just a sandbagged perimeter surrounding tents and has evolved to an established base with numerous hardened structures and soldier comforts. Over the years FOB Salerno became famous for its numerous rockets attacks from insurgents. Although much less prevalent now, the base is still known as "Rocket City".

One unique feature of FOB Salerno is an orchard which is near to our Agricultural Team's hearts. Salerno folklore tells us that when the base was being established the local Afghans made coalition forces promise not to destroy the orchard. The orchards date from the rule of King Zahir Shah (1933-1973), who planted numerous orchards and gardens in the area of Khost during his reign. Over the years, the orchard has been intermittently cared for by the Indiana Agribusiness Development Team, and our team on the ground now is back hard at work in the Salerno orchard. It is said that the Afghan locals sometimes refer to FOB Salerno as Sahra Bagh, which means "desert garden" in Pashto.

FOB Salerno is also the place where the 2nd woman in history earned a silver star. Specialist Monica Brown was the first woman in Afghanistan and the 2nd woman since WWII to earn this medal, as a result of her actions during a roadside IED attack on her convoy in 2007.



LTJG Meaghan O'Connell
PRT Khost S4



SPC Monica Brown
Awarded the Silver Star
[more info](#)



The **Silver Star** is the third-highest combat military decoration that can be awarded to a member of any branch of the United States armed forces for valor in the face of the enemy.



We're on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/PRTKhost>



A day in the life of SPC Baker in Afghanistan



SPC Cody Baker
PRT Khost Security Force

A day and a life with the security force element is always an interesting one you'll never forget. You never know what's going to happen or be in store with these guys.

I wake up and get dressed like any other day. The day always starts out with preparing the trucks for mission. Mostly I'm a gunner or dismount. Once I have all my things prepared and ready to go I usually joke around to help get rid of all the jitters and nervousness. I roll "out of the wire" thinking what's going to happen today, and pray for a safe return. I'm scanning my sector and doing everything I can to keep my buddies and everyone safe around me from harm's way. I feel special, important, and honored to be able to protect all my guys.

We roll back onto base and the first thing I do is thank God for allowing everyone to come back with a safe return. I tend to always check my messages from my family and friends as soon as I get in from mission. After that it's nap time until our next mission brief. Right after the briefing I always hit up the gym. I do different exercises to help keep me in shape and to be able to perform at the best of my abilities. I come back and get cleaned up for chow. Then I listen to music while joking around with the guys. Specialist Maldonado's laugh can and is always being heard around the barracks by everyone. He helps keep my spirits up with his laughter. After having a little fun and relaxation, I then tend to nightly activities to unwind and put my mind at ease. I go to chow, watch movies, talk to my family, and pray for the ones I love as well as everyone here. Without God nothing would be possible. He watches over us all and keeps us safe. My ranger buddies, family, and my girlfriend keep me going each and every day. I wake up the next day and do it all over again.

Internet links



[Civil Affairs Command](#)



[Indiana National Guard](#)



[1st Battalion \(Airborne\)
143rd Infantry Regiment](#)

Protecting and supporting the people of Afghanistan

I think the central mission in Afghanistan right now is to protect the people, certainly, and that would be inclusive of everybody, and that in a, in an insurgency and a counterinsurgency, that's really the center of gravity.

- Admiral Michael Mullen, 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Protecting and supporting the people of Afghanistan is the center of gravity in Afghanistan. U.S. Military Civil Affairs units are based upon the principle that civilians in a battle zone cannot be ignored, with a legal basis that includes the [Lieber Code](#), the [Hague Accord](#), the [Geneva Conventions](#), and international law. Throughout U.S. history the U.S. Army was involved in Civil Affairs and civic action and the key is winning the populace. Civil Affairs has its origins in military governments that were and are established when a country is occupied during war. Think the Marshall plan following World War two and you have the classic example of military action to support the civilians and their institutions.

We on the CA team represent the 96% of the Civil Affairs personnel that come from the [United States Army Reserve](#) and are usually tasked to support regular Army units upon mobilization. This allows combatant commanders to utilize reservists with civilian skill sets such as lawyers, city managers, economists, veterinarians, teachers, policemen, and other civilian occupations who are more knowledgeable and better suited for restoration of stability and reconstruction (nation building) tasks than soldiers from the active military.

The Khost PRT CA team comes from a widely diverse background in terms of education and skills and we continue to engage the Afghan populace at all levels and are setting the conditions for the transition of coalition forces from Afghanistan in 2014.



LTC James Blashford
PRT Khost Civil Affairs





U.S. Army 1st Lt. Edwin Kain, an Infantryman with Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team provides over watch during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Army Spc. David Montemayor, an Infantryman with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team provides security during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Army Spc. Michael Ayala, an Infantryman with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team provides security during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Navy OS2 Alex Rios, a member of the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team provides security during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



MISSION PICTURES
from Afghanistan



U.S. Army Spc. Cody Baker, U.S. Army Spc. Jason Mitchell and U.S. Army Spc. Shaun Tanner, Infantrymen with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team conduct their pre-combat inspections prior to their mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Army Cpl. Alfred Ruiz, an Infantryman with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team provides over watch to the security element during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



Mission Pictures *from Afghanistan*



U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Manos, an Infantryman with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team conducts security during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Navy Corpsman Christopher Luna, a member of the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team, provides security during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Army Cpl. Alfred Ruiz, an Infantryman with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team performs a radio check prior to a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)

NEWS ARCHIVE — Khost PRT Winning the Fight in Afghanistan

Original article published by Pfc. Micah E. Clare
on May 30, 2007 (Army News Service)

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - Less than 10 miles from training camps that produced many of the 9/11 hijackers, a team of coalition service members are working together to make sure the area once home to Osama Bin Laden's terrorist organization becomes an environment that will deny such people a support base ever again.

But for this joint service team, spearheading the fight against terrorism in Eastern Afghanistan's Khost province doesn't involve executing tactical military operations, but in providing reconstruction assistance.

The Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team, based in Forward Operating Base Chapman near Khost City, serves as the main effort in rebuilding Khost province by distributing humanitarian aid, mentoring local government officials, planning for construction projects and providing security for important events, said Navy Cmdr. Dave Adams, commander of the Khost PRT.

"We're a reconstruction organization with a military arm," Cmdr. Adams said.

PRTs were established in Afghanistan when it was realized in 2003 that units needed to focus on winning the security fight, and a separate military organization was required to head up the badly needed reconstruction efforts.

The Navy and Air Force answered the call and stepped up to assist, explained Cmdr. Adams, a submarine officer of 21 years who volunteered for this command.

A team of military advisors, United States Agency for International Development and Department of State officials, joined together as a PRT; a board of directors working to synchronize their efforts and resources.

The Khost PRT has brought assistance to the province in the past few years by sending its Army Civil Affairs teams to live in local communities to send back updates on area needs. Many construction projects such as irrigation systems, diversion dams, wells, schools, and roads have been set into motion by the PRT in this way, Cmdr. Adams said.

"These projects serve not only to improve the quality of life for the residents, but also to put shovels in the people's hands, providing them with jobs," he said.

A big part in bringing these quality of life improvements to Khost is the necessity for security, he said.

This is where the PRT security force comes in, typically provided by the Army National Guard.

"Good security is vital for the PRT's mission to be successful," said 2nd Lt. Cory Marr, platoon leader for 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, Arizona National Guard, who provides security and maneuver support to the Khost PRT.

The security is beginning to take care of itself, he said.

(NEWS ARCHIVE — continued on page 5)



(NEWS ARCHIVE — continued from page 4)

The overall security in Khost has improved greatly, which is the result of locals seeing the many improvements that have come in the past year, the fruit of their efforts in securing a safe environment. This has allowed the PRT to extend its reach, he explained.

"There's no place we're afraid to go," 2nd Lt. Marr said. "We work with the Afghan National Security Forces and get plenty of intelligence from the locals. For instance, we stop at police checkpoints as we enter an area, and they update us on the local situation. We always have a good understanding of the areas we're going into."

"In some of the more remote places we go, the locals have become extremely helpful to us," said Spc. Doug Schletz, an infantryman in 2nd Plt. "They used to look at us like we were aliens, but recently they've seen what we're here to do for them, like seeing us helping the ANSF provide security for many of their events."

This increased security is so successful, international reconstruction agencies and foreign investors that have, in the past, shied away from helping Afghanistan due to safety concerns are being drawn back, Cmdr. Adams said.

Recently, a delegation from the United Arab Emirates arrived in Khost City to visit projects they have invested in, such as the city university and main mosque.

Cmdr. Adams was able to confidently assure the delegates that any future projects built by their country would be safe in Khost.

"Security here is stronger than ever," he said to UAE representatives during a meeting at the provincial governor's compound in Khost. "The Taliban no longer have a foothold here. The ANSF can protect anything built here by the U.S. or the UAE."

This is a big step forward in winning the fight in Afghanistan, the commander said.

"We're helping the Afghans create something for themselves the Taliban couldn't: a safe environment, a growing economy and an increasing standard of living," he said.

"This is a terrific mission we can all be proud of," he said. "By helping the Afghans permanently cast off the tyranny the enemy brought to them and to us, we're providing hope to them and their children, and for us and our children."

(Pfc. Micah E. Clare serves with 4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs.)



The former PRT Khost Commanding Officer, Navy Cmdr. David Adams, and Khost province Deputy Governor, Ajab Khan Sangin, re-opened the Shamal bridge after major structural repairs and the complete replacement of several spans. The repairs were badly needed after last fall's flooding caused the fifteen year old bridge to collapse, blocking a major traffic route.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Glenn A. Ftacek Jr., a combat corpsman with the Khost Provisional Reconstruction Team, gives a young Afghan boy a dose of de-worming medication at a medical engagement held June 3, 2007 at the Mosa Khil Health Center in eastern Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Matthew Leary)

PRT organized an Iftar with local community leaders in Bowri Tana



Members of PRT Khost and the maneuver element leadership at Combat Outpost Bowri Tana recently organized an Iftar with local community leaders. Iftar refers to the evening meal when Muslims break their fast during the Islamic month of Ramadan. Iftar is one of the religious observances of Ramadan and is often done as a community, with people gathering to break their fast together. Iftar is done right after Maghrib (sunset) time. Traditionally, three dates are eaten to break the fast, in the tradition of the prophet Muhammed, who broke his fast in this manner. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



Dr. Mehmed Ali, USAID representative, addresses the community leaders prior to the evening meal being served. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)

Mission Pictures *from Afghanistan*



Recent Awards and Promotions



U.S. Army Spc. Jaime Esparza, an Infantryman with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant by the PRT Commander at FOB Salerno. (U.S. AID photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Kristoffer Parris, an officer with the Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team was recently promoted to the rank of Captain by the PRT Commander at FOB Salerno. (U.S. AID photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Robert Skomp, an officer with the Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team was recently promoted to the rank of Captain by the PRT Commander at FOB Salerno. (U.S. AID photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



The **Combat Action Badge (or CAB)** is a military badge worn in the U.S. Army. The emblem features both an M9 bayonet and M67 grenade. The Combat Action Badge may be awarded to any Soldier after the date of September 18, 2001 performing duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized, who is personally present and *actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy*, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement.

The following Warriors received the Combat Action Badge this month from the PRT Commander:

- LTC James Blashford
- MAJ John Spangberg
- MAJ Jonathan Freyer
- SPC Jacob Gutierrez



The **Combat Medical Badge** is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945. The badge is awarded to any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of Colonel or below, who are assigned or attached to a medical unit (company or smaller size) which provides medical support to a ground combat arms unit during any period in which the unit was engaged in active ground combat.

The following Warriors received the Combat Medical Badge this month from the PRT Commander:

- HMC Christopher Luna
- SGT Jose Barriga-Hernandez



The **Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM)** is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States other than General Officers who, while serving in any capacity with the [U.S. Army](#) after 6 December 1941, distinguished themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

The following Warriors received the ARCOM medal this month from the PRT Commander:

- SPC Jacob Gutierrez
- SGT Jaime Esparza

PRT Khost — Operation Enduring Freedom — Afghanistan



Elements of the PRT provided additional security to a maneuver unit after they were struck by an improvised explosive device. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



LTC Roberts and SGM Stafford address the Agribusiness Development Team prior to presenting them with their 25th Infantry combat patch. (U.S. AID photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)



A combat medic from Task Force Steel, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division cleans the wound of a local boy who had fallen and hit his head while playing with his brother during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



PRT Khost and elements of the Route Clearance Package Platoon conduct a joint mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



Local Afghan children watch the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team convoy pass their village during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



MISSION PICTURES

from Afghanistan

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Carlos Saldivar, an Infantryman with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team provides security during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Navy OS2 Alex Rios receives a haircut from U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Carlos Saldivar at Forward Operating Base Salerno. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Army Sgt. Erick Crawford, a Civil Affairs NCO with the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion assigned to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team provides security during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Major Jonathan Freyer)



U.S. Army Lt. Col. James Blashford speaks with a local villager about their issues and concerns during a recent mission in eastern Afghanistan. (U.S. AID photo by Dr. Mehmed Ali)

PRT Khost — AG section is staying busy

The AG section has been very busy revitalizing the old ADT Greenhouse, a nearby orchard, and a new “North Farm”. These areas will be key training tools so the Afghan Agriculture Extension Agents can come to the base and see, touch and feel the training. The demonstration of modern techniques in the exact environment of the Afghan farmers lends great credibility to the acceptance of the training.

The greenhouse is doing well due to the efforts of SPC Rybolt, SFC Spurgin and SFC Wellborn, but the plastic needs replacing. Getting funding for the plastic has been tedious to say the least. They have planted, corn, wheat, okra, melons, tomatoes, pumpkins, jalapeno peppers, peas, spinach, cucumbers and carrots. Some of the crops are doing better than others. Due to a bad bug infestation (aphids and mites), the melons and cucumbers were mostly destroyed. The corn is doing very well.

The new demonstration “North Farm” has a few features that would be foreign sights on Indiana farms. This mainly would be the bomb shelter we needed to construct for safety reasons. I guess they aren’t very much different than tornado shelters, just above ground. We have two, 5000 gallon water tanks to provide flood irrigation as the local farmers do, so conditions are similar. Plans are to mechanically plant wheat to demonstrate the differences from the local surface broadcast technique. Another greenhouse is being also being installed.

The orchard had been neglected and was badly overgrown. There are orange trees and mulberry trees existing in the grove. There were several overgrown scrub trees and the trash had been accumulating as no one took responsibility for the area. Several pick-up truck loads of junk and trash were hauled to the dump. Tools were begged, borrowed, but not stolen, to accomplish the task of tree and brush removal and weed whacking. The team, with some help from other PRT members, have put a lot of real “sweat equity” into the projects!



CPT Paris, SPC Rybolt, SFC Spurgin, and CPT Skomp display a custom made American Flag off the front of Ft. Awesome. The flag was a gift from Erica Miller’s second grade class at Floyds Knobs Elementary in Floyds Knobs, IN. The flag came with boxes of goodies and handwritten notes from all of the kids represented on the flag. Ms. Miller went to great lengths to support Conner Paris through class projects as his Dad prepared for deployment. We appreciate the support and are proud of the flag.



MSG Sharla Stevens participates in the Forward Operating Base Salerno bench press competition on 29 July 2012. As a professional, MSG Stevens trained for over 3 weeks to be rewarded with a Bronze Medal in the Women’s Middle Weight Division, benching 120 pounds.



SPC Rybolt conduction Bee Keeping Training at the DAIL compound in July. CPT Skomp (left) is his assistant. Bees are an important part of agriculture for pollination.





SFC Wellborn conducting greenhouse training at one of the FFA (Future Farmers of Afghanistan) schools. The Province's Director of Education (DOE) was in attendance along with the Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Land (DAIL), and the local Agriculture Extension Agent (AEA). The training was geared for the high school instructors and older students.



MISSION PICTURES

from Afghanistan



MAJ John Lake viciously assaulting defenseless weeds with a gas powered weapon while cleaning up the orchard. There was about an acre of knee high weeds to be dealt with. We're looking into awarding a "Weed Whacker" tab. Note he is wearing proper safety equipment, gloves and eye protection.



MAJ Motz cuts off a scrub tree in the orchard, while 1SG John Mesiroff stacks the brush. MAJ Motes enjoyed the hard work outside the office, as he said, to "work off some frustrations". It was probably the first time most of us did yard work armed!



A strong hail storm photographed out the back door of the AG office. This storm produced hail stones larger than an inch in diameter. The hail dented the PRT's NTV's (non-tactical vehicles) and broke the windshield of one. It also devastated the old plastic of the greenhouse.



Amirzai Sangin, son of Amirgul Gulshakhel was born in Urgun, Paktika province on 6th June 1949. Mr. Sangin attended primary school in Urgun and secondary school in Gardiz and high school in the Telecommunication Training College, Kabul.

In 1969 Mr. Sangin went to the United Kingdom for higher studies and In 1973 he obtained his engineering degree in Telecommunications and Electronics from South London College, London.

Mr. Sangin started working as lecturer in the Telecommunications Training College, Kabul from 1975 till 1978 and between 1978 till 1980 he served as the General Director of the Telecommunications Training College.

As a result of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Amirzai Sangin left Afghanistan in 1980, and become political refugee in Sweden. In 1982 he joined Swedish Telecom. He worked with the communications project of King Khaled International Airport, Saudi Arabia as project team member from 1982 to 1985. For the next five years, up to 1990, he was involved in the design, development and implementation of mobile networks in Sweden. During 1990-2001, Mr. Sangin, a founding member of Swedish Telia International; took part as a leading team member in international bids, winning 8 GSM licenses in Estonia, Latvia, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Namibia and India.

While in Sweden, Mr. Sangin was also an active member of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, which has played a major role in helping Afghanistan in the education, agriculture and medical sectors during the last two and a half decades.

Mr. Amirzai Sangin returned to Afghanistan soon after 9/11. He headed the evaluation committee for the award of the first GSM license in 2002 in the Ministry of Communications. In February 2003 he was appointed as the Senior Advisor to the Minister of Communications. As the Senior Advisor he was responsible for the development of the Telecom and ICT policy and the Telecom Law, coordination of efforts for issuance of new licenses, preparation of the annual development plans for 2003 and 2004, preparation of proposals and presentation for donors and consultative groups, overseeing the process of tenders and contracts for the development projects and finalization of major financial and cooperation agreements with international donor agencies and Governments.

Mr. Sangin was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the government owned telecommunication company Afghan Telecom in July 2004. As the CEO of Afghan Telcom, his role has been vital in the establishment of the company, passing the decree and the By Laws, building the organization, developing new processes and procedures, and the implementation of the technical development plans.

Mr. Sangin was appointed as Minister of Communications and Information Technology in December 2004 and has been in this post for the last 5 years. During this period, under the visionary leadership of Mr. Sangin, there has been tremendous progress in the Telecommunication sector. The telecom sector has attracted the biggest Foreign Direct Investment totaling to \$1.5 billion and annual revenues to the treasury are over \$100 million. Telecom services cover over 80% of the population and there are over 15 million phone users in the country. Broadband digital networks are being implemented in major cities and most parts of the country as well as neighboring countries are connected via optical fibre networks. As a result of this progress, the telecom sector today plays vital role in the lives of the Afghan people and in the economic development of Afghanistan.



Links to other Afghan Government Ministries:

Ministry of Communication
<http://mcit.gov.af/en>

Ministry of Commerce and Industries
<http://moci.gov.af/en>

Ministry of Finance
<http://mof.gov.af/en>

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
<http://mrrd.gov.af/en>

Ministry of Justice
<http://moj.gov.af/en>

The Embassy of Afghanistan— Washington D.C.
<http://www.embassyofafghanistan.org/>