



*By Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Cohen
Combined Security Transition Command –
Afghanistan Public Affairs*

HERAT, Afghanistan – In October, a new era started for the Afghan National Police in Afghanistan's western region. The Individualized Salary Program was initiated, with more than 3,000 police receiving payment, in-full, from six branch and district offices of Da Afghanistan Bank.

The ANP's entire Western Regional Command — including Herat, Badghis, Farah and Ghor provinces — will be operating under the new payment program by mid-November.

"I'm very happy with the new process, I received all my money," explained Said Ahmad, a police officer in Herat. "We trust the bank to give us all our money and on time. It allows me to focus on being a police officer and not worry about my pay."

Rokhshana Hamidi, chief of the Family Intervention Unit in Herat, has been on the police force for four years, and left the bank with a smile.

"It is a very good process," she said. "We are now going to receive our salary on time and in full."

Getting paid on time raises the morale of the ANP members and helps them progress as professionals, she



Photo by Senior Airman Ashley DiFalco

An Afghan National Policeman from Herat verifies his credentials at Da Afghanistan Bank under the newly implemented Individualized Salary Program. added.

ANP members previously had their pay delivered to them by financial representatives, who were not as reliable. Now officers line up at the bank and show their identification to the bank teller and receive the appropriate amount of cash. This is the first step in a centralized payment program, with an end goal of electronic fund transfers into the officers' private bank account.

Abdul Rahimi, the general administrator for the Afghan Central Bank

is overseeing the ISP and said the program's first day in action went smoothly.

"We were a lot busier than we expected to be," said Abdul. "Nearly 250 more people than expected showed up to get their pay, but the procedures went well."

There are three targets to the new pay program. First, make sure the officers receive their entire salary. Second, the officers will receive their payment on time. The third target is to stamp out corruption, said Abdul.

With the new program, the Herat police can worry less about their pay and concentrate on stomping out crime in our region, added Abdul.

The new ISP is an initiative backed by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Finance, supported by the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan. A total of 19 out of the 34 provinces are now enrolled in the ISP system. 



Courtesy photo

ANP members from Herat line up at Da Afghanistan Bank to receive their monthly pay. The ANP's entire Western Regional Command will operate under the revised payment system by mid-November.