



Afghan Minister of Defense visits 203rd Corps soldiers in Paktika

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PAKTIKA, Afghanistan — For the second time in two weeks, Afghan Minister of Defense, Gen. Rahim Wardak, visited an army corps to show support and express appreciation for the soldiers' hard work. On the day before the start of Eid, Wardak made a special visit to Afghan National Army soldiers in the Paktika Province.

Wardak's show of support for the soldiers of the 203rd Corps was significant, as the Corps has been on the frontline, leading the Army's combat on the Pakistan border.

"You are the pride of Afghanistan," the minister told the soldiers. "Your hard work and professionalism is what keeps the defense of our country moving forward and continually growing stronger. God will bless you for your hard work."

Wardak's first stop was in the Bermel District where he addressed



Photos by Senior Airman Ashley DiFalco

Afghan Minister of Defense Rahim Wardak reviews the 203rd Corps soldiers in the Orgun-E district of Paktika Province.

the soldiers and received an update of the enemy situation in the area. Corps leaders briefed the minister on the many missions they conduct. Wardak also presented awards to selected soldiers for their bravery during combat operations.

The second stop during the day was in the Orgun-E district, where he received much of the same

type of intelligence, and gave similar recognition to the soldiers.

"We are the best," Wardak said simply of the ANA. "I believe we are progressing at a fast rate and have identified and worked out most problems in our structure. The biggest challenge facing the Army now is issuing proper equipment for the soldiers."

Wardak has been actively visiting and providing inspiration to the ANA soldiers. Earlier in the month of October, he visited the districts of Kano and Nali in the Konar Province. He told those soldiers the MoD is committed to improving their equipment.

"We are strong and are growing stronger," Wardak said. "I am proud of this army, and everyone else should be too. I wish you all a happy Eid." 🇦🇫



Minister Wardak poses with 203rd Corps soldiers in the Bermel District. He thanked the soldiers for their professionalism and told them, "you are the pride of Afghanistan."