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ANA soldiers successfully complete joint training in U.S.

POL-E-CHARKI, Afghanistan
– Forty-two soldiers from the 201st Corps, 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion, who traveled to Fort Polk, La., for 2 weeks of training at the U.S. Army's Joint Readiness Training Center, were recently welcomed back at a ceremony at the 201st Corps headquarters here.

The 14-day joint training was conducted with members of the 82nd Airborne Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team. The ANA team, consisting of four officers, 11 Non-Commissioned Officers, and 27 soldiers, were given the opportunity to hone their skills in patrolling, mine detection, reconnaissance, ambushing, and check point security.

"It is an honor that our officers, NCOs and soldiers conducted a joint exercise with the U.S. forces in Louisiana," said Maj. Gen. Munir Ahmad

Mangal, 201st Corps commander. "They learned different skills, coordination systems and exchanged their ideas with U.S. soldiers."

This training afforded the Afghans an opportunity to learn new tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) while simultaneously creating an avenue for cultural exchange between the Afghans and the U.S. forces.

"We learned very useful and beneficial skills in this exercise," said NCO Delawar, in his address to the attendees at the homecoming ceremony. "We are satisfied with this training and we were very happy with the trainers."

The team leader for the group, Maj. Adam Khan also expressed his satisfaction with the experience.

"It was not only a joint exercise, but it was also an exchange of ideas,"



Photos by Staff Sgt. Marelise Wood
NCO Delawar shares the experiences he enjoyed during the joint training at Fort Polk, La.

he said. "We are very happy and appreciate the U.S. forces who hosted our troops."

Earlier this year, soldiers from the 201st Corps participated in another first when they participated in joint training at another of the U.S. Army's three "Dirt" Combat Training Centers, the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. These training experiences have provided the ANA with realistic training they can use in the fight against the enemies of Afghanistan and allow the ANA to pass along combat-tested TTPs to their coalition partners.

"Training is the key to success," said Maj. Gen. Mangal. "As the elders say, 'sweating in the training field prevents bleeding on the combat field. I was informed that all of the instructors were satisfied with your unique performance and discipline, so I'm expecting you to use what you learned and train the other battalions."

Maj. Gen. Mangal went on to express thanks to the U.S. forces for affording them the opportunity to further establish themselves and their capabilities.



A soldier renders a sharp salute to 201st Corps Commander Maj. Gen. Mangal, signaling the beginning of the homecoming ceremony.