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KABUL, Afghanistan – In the most recent stop of the Afghan National Security Forces' (ANSF) "Roadshow," the religious leaders, provincial governors and elders targeted came from far and wide to hear the word. This is the third time that leaders have engaged with Afghan people.

The purpose of the roadshows is to promote ongoing and planned security initiatives and programs that are throughout Afghanistan; showcase reform efforts and increasing effectiveness within the ANSF and; offer a forum to explain and discuss the regional approach to security and leadership that is occurring as the Joint Regional and Provincial Coordination Centers are stood up.

Senior leaders from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense and ANSF used this opportunity to explain some initiatives.

"I want to explain why we have established the Central Zone," said Minister of Interior Zerar Ahmad Moqbil. "The main purpose of establishing the Central Zone is to allow better coordination between members of the Afghan National Security Forces in that zone. Although we currently have 17,125 police in the Central Zone, this covers Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Bamyán, Nuristan, Laghman, Nangarhar, Logar, Wardak and Kabul, so we still need your help in recruiting more."

Dr. Yusuf Nuristani, 1st deputy minister of defense, in his address, echoed this need for support.

"The ANA needs your support," he said. "The ANA is made up of your sons and daughters who are dedicated to providing security and stability to the people of this country. Help them get prepared to join the ANA and serve as soldiers, NCOs, and officers."

As further incentive to join the ranks of the ANSF, Minister Moqbil and Dr. Nuristani elaborated on the reform the ANSF is currently undergoing.

"The ANP is making great strides in reform," said Minister Moqbil. "There have been rank and pay reforms. Salaries are now commensurate with rank. We have a good plan in place for payment of officers and soldiers. All soldiers and officers will have bank accounts that their salary would go into. This will eliminate people not receiving their money or false claims resulting in more than one salary going to the same person."

He went on to talk about the need for weeding out corruption in the ranks.

"This is step four in our reform process and by its completion we plan on solving the people's concerns of misuse of police, mistreatment and abuse of uniform; countering this by assigning honest, loyal police who are not involved in corruption or drug trafficking."

Dr. Nuristani urged the attendees to "talk with opponents to ANSF about not working with terrorist groups and



An attendee poses a question to the panel at the Kabul Roadshow.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Marelise Wood

201st Corps Commander Maj. Gen. Munir Ahmad Mangal looks over roadshow slides with other attendees.

to join the government instead. If they choose not to leave the opposing forces and they fight against the government, leave them alone," he said. "It is the job of the ANSF to fight against enemies of peace and stability, so if they will not stop their destructive acts, report them to the ANSF."

Following the addresses, attendees were given the opportunity to voice any concerns they had and ask questions, which were then answered by the senior leaders on the panel.

The next roadshow is scheduled for Herat. 