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GARDEZ, Afghanistan – The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the first phase of the Paktya Regional Hospital was held Nov. 22.

The hospital currently offers 50 beds and is equipped and staffed for internal medicine, surgical, infectious disease, dental and optometric care. The second phase, scheduled to be completed in about six months, will add 50 more beds and some additional administration and outpatient space.

The hospital, the first of its kind, will service both ANSF personnel as

well as family members of ANA officers; and most importantly any casualty of the insurgency requiring immediate care.

In his address to the ceremony attendees, the 203rd Corps Commander Maj. Gen. Abdul Khaliq expressed his appreciation.

“One of the challenges we faced was treating combat injured soldiers whose evacuation to the central hospital was difficult,” he said. “Fortunately for us, the Ministry of Defense and General Staff accepted the challenge, and we are now all witnesses to the opening of this modern, well-equipped 100-bed hospital here on the 203rd Corps grounds.”

Gen. Bismullah Khan, ANA chief of general staff, shared his pride in being a part of this event.

“I am hopeful that this hospital would honestly serve these

The hospital staff welcomes Minister of Health Sayed Mohammad Amin Fatemi and Gen. Bismullah Khan, ANA chief of general staff.

Regional hospital opens in Gardez



Photos by Staff Sgt. Marelise Wood

The ministers prepare to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to actively work together to improve healthcare in Afghanistan.

people and be useful in solving at least part of their health problems,” said Gen. Khan. “This is one of the most dramatic successes of the last five years in any area.”

Following the opening ceremony, the officials were given a tour of the hospital where they saw demonstrations of the medical equipment, and visited patients.

Following the tour, the Minister of Health gave his stamp of approval.

“This is a sophisticated hospital,” he said. “There is no equal.”

To cap off the event, the Ministers of Public Health, Defense, Interior, Higher Education and Finance, in an unprecedented move, all sat down and signed a Memorandum of Understanding; agreeing to actively work together to improve healthcare in Afghanistan.

They all expressed enthusiasm over the progress that has been made so far in healthcare and have agreed to form a committee to work toward further improvement. 

