



# ANSF's future discussed among Ghazni leaders

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**GHAZNI, Afghanistan** – The governor of Ghazni met with leaders from local tribes Dec. 4 to discuss the current security of Afghanistan and the role its people serve in stabilizing the nation.

Officials from the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police were on hand to outline steps to increase security and promote higher recruitment numbers.

One fundamental step in boosting recruitment numbers is the cultivation of pride in the Afghanistan National Security Forces.

It is important to foster in the Afghan youth a sense of obligation to their country, said the governor. The elders need to encourage them to support and become members of the ANA and ANP.

In addition to gaining community support, the Soldiers and police should also have a sense of commitment to Afghanistan's security and not be motivated by salary incentives.

"Soldiers should be trained with a sense of nationality. Salary incentives should not be the driving force behind recruitment," said Gen. Qasemi, former commander of the ANA's 14<sup>th</sup> Division. "We need to foster a sense of pride, commitment and honor; these should be the main motivators."

The governor cautions that there should be patience with the Afghan people since having an established military and police force is a relatively new concept and not one the people



Photo by Senior Airman Stacia Zachary

**Gen. Qasemi, former commander of the Afghan National Army's 14<sup>th</sup> Division, discussed creating a sense of pride among the Afghan youth at a meeting with Ghazni leaders and the Afghan National Security Forces Dec. 4.**

are yet familiar with.

"Nationalism is a relatively new phenomenon here. It takes a strong person and a strong government to achieve this," said the governor. "A strong and well-equipped army (and police force) is absolutely necessary to achieve this. We must be forgiving with new recruits because this is a new way of life. We must not destroy their hope because we are impatient."

This patience should not be seen as a source of weakness. The people must know beyond a doubt while there is understanding, there is also commitment to Afghanistan's security and bright future. The leaders of the Ghazni province must lead the way and show that the ANA and the ANP will be successful.

"We must have a strong commit-

ment against terrorism and an even greater commitment to our own security success. The strength of the Taliban is our weakness," said Governor Pathan.

"If we do not practice what we preach, how can we expect the people to follow? We must be their example and we must remove the fear so we can accomplish so much more for our Afghanistan."

The key to Afghanistan's success is contingent upon the brave sons and daughters of the country's new security forces.

"We need to revive patriotism here and instill that former pride in our youth and motivate them to join (our security forces) because its success means our success as a nation," said the governor. 

Photos available upon request to TallmanR@cfc-a.centcom.mil