



# 205th Corps selects NCO, Soldier of the Year

By Commander Chad Snee  
205th Corps Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** – The Afghan National Army's 205<sup>th</sup> Corps selected two outstanding Soldiers for special recognition in a recent ceremony at Camp Shir Zai.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Babrak Jan of Jalalabad was recognized as the Non-commissioned Officer of the Year while Soldier Mahfooz Khpalwak of Parwan was selected as the Soldier of the Year.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kaifayatullah, 205<sup>th</sup> Corps command sergeant major, read the Soldiers' citations as Maj. Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi, 205<sup>th</sup> Corps commander, presented the awards to the recipients.

"I'm very proud that we have such motivated Soldiers in our ranks," said General Raufi. "I hope we can continue to recruit more Soldiers of this (caliber)."

Sergeant Jan, 30, joined the ANA three years ago and was pleased with his selection as NCO of the year.

"I'm very happy with this award," said the sergeant. "It is our duty to be the best we can be for our country and for our people."

Soldier Khpalwak, 21, whose youthful appearance masks the dedicated and determined warrior within, is also a three-year veteran of the ANA.

"It is powerful for me and my brothers to be selected for this award," he said. "I will continue to do my best. I know my fellow Soldiers will try their best to be nominated next year as I will try to keep

this honor."

The selection of the two Soldiers was the result of a long process where each nominated Soldier was required to stand before an evaluation board conducted at the company, battalion, brigade and finally corps levels, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Al Jellum, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 205<sup>th</sup> Regional Corps Assistance Command.

"The Soldiers were evaluated on their military and leadership skills within their company," said Sergeant Jellum.

Other areas under scrutiny included uniform appearance, military bearing, general military knowledge, and cultural and religious awareness.

"The boards also asked questions pertaining to training and operations, land navigation and map reading, communications and first aid," added Sergeant Jellum.

Sergeant Jan and Soldier Khpalwak were the two Soldiers who stood out most among the other candidates.

"Given the significant conflict in this part of the country, it is impressive that they diligently continue to study and prepare for the boards," said Sergeant Jellum.



Courtesy photo

**Sergeant 1st Class Babrak Jan and Soldier Mahfooz Khpalwak were recently selected as the ANA's 205th Corps top Soldiers.**

General Raufi adds that it is important to hone skills and continue furthering personal education.

"Keep working on your education and continue to train hard," he said. "Keep fighting to ensure our borders, country and people are safe."

One final piece of advice from the general was for the Soldiers of the ANA to emulate examples of Sergeant Jan and Soldier Khpalwak, and continue to work effectively with coalition forces.

"Learn from your brothers and learn from our allies – this can only serve to make us stronger and more efficient," said General Raufi. "Your success will be the encouragement our youth needs to enlist."

Photos available upon request to [TallmanR@cfc-a.centcom.mil](mailto:TallmanR@cfc-a.centcom.mil)