



Members of the Afghan National Auxillary Police practice firing the AK-47s while in the prone position. This training help familiarize the new graduates with the weapons.



On patrol: Newest ANAP graduates provide security in Kandahar

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The country of Afghanistan is another step closer to ensuring the safety and security of its people. One hundred ninety-nine more Afghan National Auxiliary Police recruits have recently graduated from training in Kandahar.

Now 2,004 officers strong, the ANAP is still growing. More than 2,500 recruits are now in the training pipeline in Farah, Helman, Uruzgon, Zabul, Ghazni and Kandahar. The training centers are continually producing quality ANAP officers, according to Afghan National Security Force officials in Kandahar.

The ANAP program molds new

recruits into competent and capable police officers with two weeks of rigorous training, said Brig. Gen. Zarifi, Kandahar ANAP camp commandant.

The focus of ANAP training is to equip the recruits with community policing skills. All ANAP recruits learn operational police techniques and Afghan constitution law as well as firearms and tactical training. Additionally, ANAP officers will be required to complete quarterly training. At the end of one year on the job, all ANAP officers will have received the same training ANP officers receive, according to ANAP officials in Kandahar.

A typical day has recruits out of their bunks well before sunrise. At 4 a.m. ANAP recruit leaders, a select group

of recruits given leadership positions within the class, awaken their fellow recruits to polish boots, eat breakfast, clean their barracks and pray.

This program has recruits constantly moving throughout the day learning new skills at various training locations on the compound. At any given time, a group of recruits will be firing their new AK-47s on the range while another group gets familiar with the light tactical vehicles they'll be using once they graduate.

At the end of the day when the sun sets and training comes to a close, recruits file into the dining hall for dinner and evening prayer. Many recruits spend time at night practicing marching skills or reviewing lectures.

The strenuous training routine

Photos available upon request to stacia.c.zachary@afghan.swa.army.mil



(Above) Members of the Afghan National Auxillary Police receive instruction prior to weapons training. (Below) An instructor shouts warning orders to the recruits prior to a firing drill.



doesn't seem to bother those in the program. "The instructors are teaching us good things ... they help us through the training so we can graduate and protect our country," said Noor Mohammad, a 24-year-old ANAP recruit from Kandahar province.

Becoming a member of the ANAP has special meaning for many of the recruits. Bacha, a 40-year-old Kandahar native, was recently living in Iran until he heard of the ANAP training. "I joined the ANAP because of my country ... I will defend (Afghanistan) to my last breath."

When recruits were asked if they were afraid of fighting the Taliban or Al Qaeda once they graduate, a 20-year-old recruit from Kandahar, summed up a common feeling for the class. "Why should I be scared — this is my country," said Ali Mohammad. "The insurgents are hiding like robbers." Ali joined the ANAP to fight the insurgents and create a safe environment for his family.

With each graduation more ANAP officers join the ranks of the ANSF team. Along with their partners in the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, the ANAP is serving a crucial role in ensuring a prosperous future for Afghanistan, said General Zarifi. 