



Sgt. Maj. Baqee Tanha, Afghan National Army noncommissioned officer, grades a candidate on his pushups and offers advice on how to perform the exercise properly during the final officer candidate selection for 2006 at the Kabul Military Training Center.



Final test: ANA holds last 2006 selection for officer corps

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KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan National Army recently held its final officer candidate selection for 2006 at the Kabul Military Training Center. More than 300 Afghans showed up hoping for a chance to make selection and become members of the ANA officer corps — more than double the expected number. People from the outer lying provinces of Kapisa, Wardak, Parwan, Lagman, Herat and Logar, as well as the others from Kabul, attended the event here.

“We need strong Afghans to step up and take their place in the ANA,” said Gen. Aziz Rahman, ANA Recruiting Command commanding general. “You have taken the first step in making Afghanistan free and secure.”

Those with the correct forms were allowed to take the written exam and physical tryouts for a chance to become

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— Muhammad Fullah,
31-year-old OCS participant

an officer. Participants with the highest test scores and best fitness standards will be offered a slot into OCS. Those who showed great potential but were not selected will be considered for positions as noncommissioned officers in the ANA.

“Even if you do not pass this test, we will consider you for an NCO slot,” said Rahman. “We want you in our Army, and I want the dedication you displayed in coming here today.”

The written portion of the selection consisted of a 45-question aptitude test. The physical portion tested the applicants on their ability to perform as many push-ups and sit-ups in two-minute increments. Next, the men lined up for a 2,000 meter run. Ill-

equipped for the physical portion of the selection and despite the winter temperatures, many men ran barefoot.

One Afghan remarked on how nervous, yet honored, he was to have an opportunity to represent his country by serving in the ANA.



Two prospective officer candidates perform as many situps as possible in two minute. A rater counts the correct sit-ups for a final tally. This score, combined with the push-ups and timed 2,000-meter run, is used to determine physical fitness in the selection process. This is later combined with the written portion, and the top candidates are chosen to move forward in selection.



A participant in the final officer candidate selection of 2006 takes the entrance exam. The exam was a 45-question aptitude test.

“The test was not easy since it has been a while since I was in school,” said 31-year-old Muhammad Fullah. “But I hope to become a soldier and help make my people safe again.”

After the results of the written and physical portions were added together, the raters announced who would move forward in the selection process for Class 004, scheduled to begin in the upcoming weeks.

One hundred eighty-four were invited to the next step in the selection and compete for one of the 120 available slots. They will be competing against members who received invitations after initial officer candidate selections were conducted in Konduz, Mazar-e-Sharif and Jalalabad.

“I look forward to seeing all of you and I wish everyone the best of luck,” said Rahman. “We need strong officers and we need your strength to make us great and stand up for Afghanistan.” 