



ANSF welcomes new medical assets to team



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SENIOR AIRMAN STACIA ZACHARY.

On of the ninety-five graduates of the three-year residency program at the Armed Forces Academy of Medical Sciences receives his certificate in a ceremony Dec. 28 at the National Military Hospital in Kabul.

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KABUL, Afghanistan — Ninety-five physicians, physician assistants, nurses and medical technicians of the Afghan National Security Forces graduated from a three-year residency program at the Armed Forces Academy of Medical Sciences in a ceremony Dec. 28 at the National Military Hospital (NMH) in Kabul. The event marked the 25th year of students graduating from the institution.

Gen. Bismullah Khan, chief of the general staff of the Afghan National Army, one of the key speakers at the graduation, congratulated the students and thanked all the individuals and organizations involved with the program. “The National Military Hospital is not just a military institution; it is a scientific center for all of Afghanistan,” he said. “This graduation represents a positive step in the development of

the Afghan National Army and for training young doctors,” said Bismullah Khan.

The graduates represented various specialty disciplines including stomatology, pharmacology, obstetrics and gynecology, and medical laboratory and electrocardiograph technologies. Sixty-one of them became new second lieutenants in the ANA upon graduation and will be stationed at the NMH, or any one of the four regional ANSF hospitals, which are located in Gardez, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e Sherif, or one of the several ANSF clinics located at military posts throughout Afghanistan.

Nineteen of the graduates had already spent time in the ANA with different job specialties before joining the medical program. Fifteen of the graduates wore the uniform of the Afghan National Police and will also work at the NMH and regional ANSF hospitals, as well as clinics that serve ANP officers and their beneficiaries.

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



PHOTOS BY LT. CMDR. JOHN DANIELS

(Above) Some of the newly trained physicians, physician assistants, nurses and medical technicians of the Afghan National Security Forces proudly wear their new medical pins after graduating from a three-year residency program at the Armed Forces Academy of Medical Sciences in a ceremony Dec. 28, at the National Military Hospital in Kabul. (Inset) The AFAMS graduates received a medical pin that's worn above the upper left pocket of their uniforms.

Newly pinned-on ANP second lieutenant Daryush Zakiry, who graduated as a laboratory technician, said he hopes to be stationed at the Central Hospital, but the actual location isn't important, he said.

"I wanted to join the police force because since childhood I have wanted to help my country and my people," said Zakiry.

Fowzia Safi, one of 10 women in the class, graduated with top honors and was selected to speak at the ceremony as class representative. After thanking the commanders and the instructors, she spoke of each class member's intention.

"I want to assure you that we will work with loyalty in service to our country," she said. "We are ready to work in all circumstances, in every situation."

In the three years at the school, Safi studied both medical and military subjects, including how to shoot a weapon. She said she joined the ANSF in part because she wanted to convince the people of Afghanistan and the world that women can also play an important role in the security of her nation, and although she doesn't yet know where she'll be stationed, she is willing to go anywhere.

"I simply want to serve the people of Afghanistan as an

ANA soldier," she said. Her parents agreed with the decision of joining the military for both Safi and her younger sister, who was also a graduate in the class.

Ghulam Rabany Nazber, chief of the medical department for the MoI, also spoke at the graduation. "I'm very proud to participate in this ceremony," he said. He congratulated all the graduates and also thanked, in particular, the Afghan

Ministry of Public Health and the ANA for making positive changes to the medical system for his ministry. By working together, more successes have been achieved, he said.

Also during the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Ahmad Zia Yaftali, surgeon general of the ANA, spoke of other medical training accomplishments, providing details about changes to the program that allow ANSF doctors to earn specialty degrees.

After ANSF doctors serve for two years in regional commands or corps, they may be eligible, after passing an entrance exam, to go through a program to become specialized in their field of choice, he said. Similar to this program is one administered with the help of the international community. "Right now we have ANA doctors in China, Germany, France, Turkey and the United States taking part in specialist training programs." 

