



Tribal elders discuss topics with Afghan National Soldiers during the roadshow in Kandahar.



Photo by Senior Airman Stacia Zachary

## Security top issue at Helmand and Kandahar Roadshows

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Asselin  
Combined Security Transition Command — Afghanistan Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** — The Deputy Minister of Interior and members of the Ministry of Defense visited Helmand and Kandahar Provinces Jan. 13 and 14 to discuss with local elders ways to strengthen the Afghan National Security Forces.

“The new Afghan government, after the fall of Taliban, started from zero,” said Ahmad Wali Karzai, speaking on behalf of the Kandahar Provincial Council. “There were no police or army -- even all equipment and furniture from the government offices were looted. After five years of the new government, we have accomplished many achievements: A properly trained army and police force, improved security, and we have the international community beside us to rebuild our war-torn country.”

The security provided by the Afghan National Police in Kandahar is better than the security offered in many countries; however, the police still need the support of the

people, according to Karzai.

“The government needs to work closely with shoras (local councils) to select commanders and recruit people into the police force,” he said. “This will certainly prevent infiltration of insurgents and increase security in the area.”

The Deputy Minister of Interior said the police still have many problems ahead which will take time to work out, but much progress has already been made.

“Recently, we relieved more than 40 high-ranking police officials as part of the reform process in the Afghan National Police,” said Deputy Minister Abdul Hadi Khalid. “This

process continues, and only loyal and good people will remain on their posts in the ANP. We now have a proper screening system in our recruiting program for the ANP that prevents undesirable people from joining the force. We select only capable people as commanders and officials who can properly lead the ANP.”

Maj. Gen. Jan Khan, Ministry of Defense deputy director of operations, discussed progress in the Afghan National

**“This process continues, and only loyal and good people will remain on their posts in the ANP.”**

— Abdul Hadi Khalid  
Deputy Minister of Interior



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Asselin

Top: Tribal elders listen to presenters at the roadshow in Kandahar. Below: An audience member comments on the importance of the local community helping the ANA and ANP.



Photo by Senior Airman Stacia Zachary

Army and how local elders can help with future progress.

“Reform processes to rebuild the Afghan National Army have already been completed,” Khan said. “We have stepped-up different measures to enhance the fighting abilities of our soldiers. There are trainees from around the country at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan and the Kabul Military Training Center. Brave Afghan sons (and daughters) are joining the ANA through our recruiting centers in all 34 provinces.”

Currently 8,000 soldiers are in training, with more new recruits in reserve until additional training slots open up.

“Currently our troops are joining their international colleagues in planning all combat operations in the country,” the general added. “We are trying to increase our abilities to independently conduct and lead all our operations. The ANA is here to serve the people. I urge you to support them and convince your sons, brothers (and daughters) to join the ANA.” 