



Housing opens for ANA Air Corps

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KABUL, Afghanistan — A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the recent opening of two newly-constructed living facilities for Afghan National Army Air Corps security forces Soldiers at Kabul International Airport.

The living facilities, housing up to 128 soldiers per building, surround the flightline at the airport, where the Air Corps security forces live, eat and work.

“These living quarters provide better conditions for our soldiers,” said Brig. Gen. Wahib Wardak, Kabul Air Field ANA commander. “Better conditions mean higher morale, and better work ethic. These soldiers protect our airfield and deserve to live and work in a good environment.”

Prior to the construction of the new living facilities, the Air Corps security forces soldiers were living in old, inadequate storage units or in their offices.

Some even slept in the open during the summer months. It took just under three months to build the living areas, which were prefabricated off-site.

“At one point, I was sleeping outside my (office),” said an ANA soldier. “It became more difficult when the weather got colder. Now I don’t have to worry about where I am going to sleep for the night because I have such a fine place to live now.”

“The (old) conditions were not acceptable, and so we changed that,” Wardak said. “It is important that we take care of our people and that means giving our soldiers a place to stay and something to be proud of.”

The Air Corps has more than 100 soldiers who protect the KIA airfield. The soldiers both live and work at the facility. Each prefabricated building costs \$1 million and built offsite. This is the second of five barracks contracted for the ANA Air Corps at Kabul International Airport.



Brig. Gen. Wahib Wardak, Kabul Air Field ANA commander, looks through a room in the new security forces’ barracks. They can house up to 128 soldiers. (Inset) Each unit comes complete with a bunkbed and a desk as well as two wall lockers.

Each room comes complete with wardrobe, two beds and desk space with a maximum occupancy of two people per billet. Original plans called for the same space to be used by four people until quality of life concerns were factored into the equation. Instead, more barracks were added on to allow for a better lifestyle for the soldiers, Wardak said. 