



Capt. Brandon W. Anderson makes room for students who will be arriving for the first class at the center for Security & Reconstruction Academy at the Kabul Military Training Center.



# Afghanistan establishes counterinsurgency academy

*Story and photos by Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V PAO  
CJTF Phoenix  
Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Later this month nearly 100 students representing all Coalition Forces in Afghanistan and the Afghan National Army and Police will attend the first Leader Course held at the Afghanistan Counterinsurgency Academy in Kabul.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan established the academy to develop doctrine to specifically defeat the insurgency throughout the country and serve as the focal point for the collection and dissemination of emerging lessons learned. The students will gain an understanding of and implement counter-insurgency planning to focus on the social, informational, economic and political environment in Afghanistan.

“This academy will change how coalition forces think and plan operations with an appreciation of the cultural environment in Afghanistan,” said Maj. Gen. Robert E. Durbin, commanding general of Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan. “We need to understand how our

actions here affect the civilians in Afghanistan.”

The first course will be five days long and will follow the Afghan work-day. Time for prayer will be included. The classes will be broken down into small working groups and tailored to the various regions in Afghanistan. The majority of coalition students will be from Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, including embedded trainers from all levels of command.

“We have made tremendous progress here, and we can’t afford to relax. The insurgency must be defeated,” said Durbin.

Task Force Phoenix’s mission is to mentor and train the Afghan National Army and Police to conduct sustained, independent counter insurgency and police operations to defeat terrorism and promote security within its borders.

CJTF Phoenix consists of 13 coalition countries and includes members from all branches of the military and active duty, National Guard, Reserve and civilian contractors, for a total of more than 6,200 personnel. 