



**RIGHT:** Minister Zarar congratulates a graduate of the ANCOP program.  
**BELOW:** The graduates march in review.

# The first Civil Order Police unit graduates in Mazar-E-Sharif

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**MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan** - The Police Regional Training Center in Mazar-E-Sharif graduated the first civil order police unit in Afghanistan. About 345 new recruits will hit the streets of Kabul to keep order and combat terrorism.

Half of the Afghan National Civil Order Police graduating class was already police officers in the Afghan Nation Police while the other half were brand new to the force. Each graduate bore the Afghan Police badge proudly as they graduated from the grueling course that is set to expand

to other cities throughout Afghanistan. The Afghan National Police is also trying to increase recruiting to ANCOP.

“The course is 16 weeks long and the last 6 weeks focus on civil disturbance operations. The German instructors in this portion of the training ensured the new officers could combat riots and other large disturbances,” said Col. Stan

Shope, Senior Regional Police Advisor.

When a young ANCOP graduate was asked what this graduation meant to him he said, “It is important because we are the first ANCOP class and we have been selected to help the citizens of Afghanistan.” Another graduate added, “I am proud to serve my country in ANCOP because we have had great training and this is our job.”

“I was very impressed with the graduates. They are very disciplined and well trained,” said Col. Jack Stankiewicz, Deputy Director of Operations, Police Reform Directorate. “This force will give the nation of Afghanistan a capability it really needs. ANCOP will fill the gap between the district police and the



Afghan National Army,”

The next class starts on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Mazar-E-Sharif and those recruits will be sent to Kandahar to assist the present police force in that part of Afghanistan. The national training center in Adraskan will open this September.

