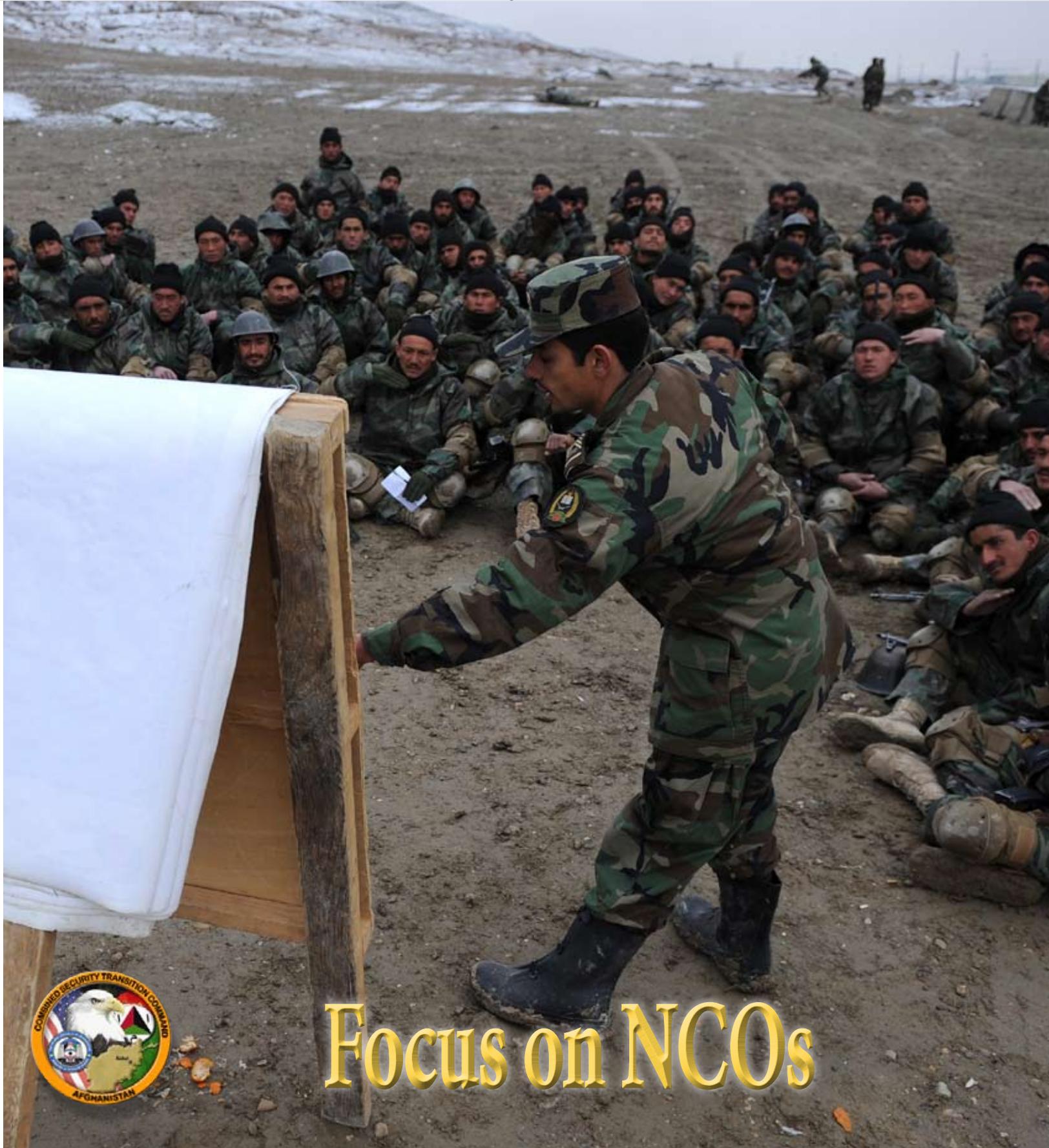




THE ENDURING LEDGER

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan

February 2009



Focus on NCOs



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About the front cover: photo by Canadian Army Master Corporal Robert Bottrill, courtesy of The Crown, Canadian Department of National Defence. An Afghan National Army NCO conducts an outdoor class with ANA Soldiers at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) facility.

About the back cover: A selection of photos from around CSTC-A, the ANP and the ANA of NCOs as they train, mentor and go about their daily jobs. This issue of the Enduring Ledger celebrates NCOs and all that they do for their parent organizations.

Building sustainable capacity and capability

by MG Richard P. Formica
CSTC-A Commanding General

Our CSTC-A task is to partner with the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior to build sustainable capacity and capability for the Afghan National Security Forces—the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police.

This year we plan to sustain the momentum in building the ANA—building it to 134,000 by December 2011. This is accelerated by two years from the approved program.

We will simultaneously add focus on the ANP. Working closely with the Minister of Interior, we will support his efforts to reform the ANP while improving accountability.

At some point we will review the ANP program—and in coordination with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and our coalition partners, will determine if and by how much the ANP should grow and over what time period.

To build sustainable capacity and capability in the ANSF, we will focus on three areas:



MG Formica

One: Ensuring disciplined execution of three key systems:

- Personnel Management
- Logistics
- Financial Management

Two: Sustaining the institutional training base in the Army and continuing to develop one for the police.

Three: Emphasizing the role of Non-Commissioned Officers. If we are to truly build sustainable capacity and capability, the ranks of the ANSF must be filled with professional, qualified and disciplined NCOs who provide the necessary first-line leadership and backbone in Army units and police districts.

In the U.S. Army we acknowledge that NCOs run our Army—so we look to help develop this critical

component in the ANSF.

We will do this in true partnership with the ANA and ANP—and with our coalition partners. And as we do, we are ever grateful for the service and contributions of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Civilians of CSTC-A—and we are mindful of the sacrifices of your Families at home.

Thanks so much for what you do and for being who you are.

Hooah! Yak Team Wahed!



photo by Royal Army Sergeant Andy Cole

An NCO of the Afghan National Police provides security on Highway One, the route linking Helmand Province to Kandahar

The Enduring Ledger is a monthly publication of the Department of Defense and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A). This publication is released monthly by the CSTC-A Public Affairs Office, Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan. In accordance with DoD Instruction 5120.4, this DoD magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of **The Enduring Ledger** are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by the U.S. government or DoD.

Mission statement: The Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan in conjunction with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), the International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan (ISAF) and the international community, and nested with the US Forces - Afghanistan Commander's intent, plans, programs and implements the generation and development of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in order to enable GIROA to achieve security and stability in Afghanistan.

The Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer



CSM Coleman

by CSM Arthur L. Coleman Jr.
CSTC-A Command Sergeant Major

As we celebrate The U.S. Army's Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer, I would like to thank our Afghan counterparts and celebrate this historical and remarkable occasion. The Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have several things in common.

The most common things that stand out are that both want peace, both want a professional military and both would agree that to obtain those qualities, you must have professionally developed Non-Commissioned Officers. We often say that the Non-Commissioned Officer is the "backbone of the Army." As we continue to fight a two-front war, that saying still proves to be true. A professional military is one that is educated, well trained, and well disciplined. The Afghan Army, Afghan Air Corps and the Afghan Police are showing tremendous progress every day in moving toward these goals.

As you read this month's *The Enduring Ledger*, you can see

across the board where CSTC-A along with the ANSF have made tremendous progress with the first-ever Afghan National Police Command Sergeant Major, the first Afghan National Army Safety Sergeant Major, the opening of the first Afghan Sergeants Major Academy and First Sergeants Course. These courses are important to the future of the ANSF and will help develop and prepare senior Non-Commissioned Officers to assume a position of greater responsibility.

As you can see, we've come a long way and we still have a long way to go, but as a team we're making steady progress toward developing our Non-Commissioned Officers as well as our senior Non-Commissioned Officers. I would also like to thank all of our mentors. This would not be possible without their dedication and hard work, as well as their ability to teach, coach and mentor. I would like to welcome all of our newly arrived Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilian contractors to this wonderful command.

Last but not least, we have a wonderful tool for capturing missed opportunities during training. It is known as the After Action Review (AAR). I ask each of you to take every available opportunity to attend an AAR training event. This will help improve, as well as enhance our ability to fight and win.



official U.S. military photo

An Afghan National Police Non-Commissioned Officer pays close attention during a lecture. The ANP is more than 80,000 members strong with an authorized force of 82,000 to bring peace and security to Afghanistan.

Q & A with Sergeant Major of the ANA Rashon

Sergeant Major of the Afghan National Army Rashon Safi is the first man to hold that title within the ANA.

Q: What NCO characteristics are you trying to develop and enhance through training?

A: Right now we are working on the NCOs' development in Afghanistan. A Non-Commissioned Officer should lead by example, should be honest to the constitution and country of Afghanistan, and should obey a lawful order. We are taking that and teaching it at the NCO schools. These are the things that make a Non-Commissioned Officer a good leader.

Q: What challenges do you see in the year ahead?

A: We have challenges in the next year like new weapons and new vehicles, like the HMMWV. Right now we have the new HMMWV for the Afghan National Army and we have started training on both sides: tactically and technically.

Last week I went to the 201st Corps. There were 100 people training with MPRI contractors. They train for eight weeks and go back as soldiers. As for the M-16 training, that is going very well. When I had my Sergeant Major of the Army seminar we had training on the M-16 and new vehicles like the HMMWV. That was a certification for the Brigade and the Corps Sergeant Majors.

When they go back to their commands they hold the same seminars for the battalions, from the battalions to the companies, from the companies to the platoons and from the platoons to the squads and the lowest squad soldiers



Sergeant Major of the ANA Rashon Safi

will know what they are doing. For the next year we are working on cycle discipline. That is, we are working on how we can send soldiers into the combat theater, and then how we can pull them back to train them and to send them back. In the United States you have a fighting Army and a training Army; we are working on that.

Q: How much progress has the ANA made since you became Sergeant Major? What area would you like to see more progress in?

A: If I were to explain in detail it would take a month or two—that's how much progress we've made. As for the progress of the Non-Commissioned Officer, we have the Bridmal Academy. We changed the name from Non-Commissioned Officer to Bridmal, which means "battle-buddy." We have schools for the Team Leader Course, the Squad Leader Course, and the Platoon Sergeant Course.

We have two other courses as well: the First Sergeant course and the Sergeant Major course. One should be 22 weeks, and the other 13 weeks. That's great progress and gives us great hope because we had E-5, E-6 and E-7 ranks but they did not receive the highest education, but now we have

the ranks E-9 and E-8 and we have the schools. The literacy program is going very well and NCOs are learning to write. NCOs are now being certified in their rank, as well.

We have progress in another area as well. Right now I have the J-1 personnel sergeant major and the J-3 operations sergeant major who are my advisors when I have to make a decision. We have a safety sergeant major for the Afghan National Army to work on safety, and we have a training sergeant major to concentrate on training. The Non-Commissioned Officers in the ANA are doing great, and they are joined at the hip with the officers of the ANA.

I would like to add that we are having our first soldier of the year competition. Applicants will be submitted

at the small-unit level and will be narrowed down until each Corps submits a single applicant to a board that will meet at the June Army Seminar.

I will be president of the board, and we will judge the applicants on physical fitness, knowledge of military history, weapons familiarity, first aid, military justice, leadership, risk management, uniform and overall appearance.

Q: What does being an NCO mean to you?

A: Non-Commissioned Officers lead by example with their soldiers and their families. There are three things they must follow: do, be and know. They must follow that, and lead their soldiers in accomplishing their mission.



photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin
Sergeant Major of the Afghan National Army Rashon Safi speaks at the 4th ANA Sergeants Major Seminar at the Kabul Military Training Center.

ANA Bridmal Academy continues to grow

story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard

CSTC-A Public Affairs

Since March of last year, the number of Non-Commissioned Officer courses offered at the Afghan Bridmal Academy continues to grow from its initial three leadership courses. Bridmal, which translated from Pashtu means “battle buddy,” is operated by Afghan NCOs for NCOs, with the help of American and British service members, as well as U.S. contractors provided by Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

The growth of the Afghan Bridmal Academy coincides with the Year of the NCO for the U.S. military. “There is a significant relationship between the NCOs of the Afghan and American Armies,” said 201st Corps Sergeant Major Ziaullaq Amanzi. “For example: in our Army we do our jobs, but beside us we have our mentors. They are advising us. That’s why they are here. In the past, we didn’t have NCO positions in our Army. Now, we do have that position, and it’s because of the support and relationship that we have with the U.S. military.”

The Bridmal Academy serves as a center of excellence for developing successful leadership skills in the NCO corps. “NCOs are the backbone of the Army,” said Sergeant Major Sherzad Hafizullah, the Afghan National Army Personnel Sergeant Major. “NCOs are the bridge between the officers and soldiers. NCOs are the implementers of the plans. NCOs enforce everything which is handed down from the officers. They lead the soldiers and NCOs and are a truly important category for the army of any country, but especially for Afghanistan.”

Originally, NCOs who attended the Academy were divided into three different courses: Squad Leaders, Platoon Sergeants and Senior NCOs. Along with the three NCO leadership courses, two specialized training courses, Battle Staff and Drill Instructor, were also taught.

Recently the Bridmal Academy began offering a First Sergeant Course (FSC) as well. The course is 13 weeks long, significantly longer than any other NCO leadership course offered at the Academy, and is offered in conjunction with the Senior Sergeant Course.

According to the Afghan National Army Training Command course catalog, the FSC provides Bridmal leadership training focused at the Company and higher levels. The FSC prepares qualified Senior Sergeants First Class (E-7) and Master Sergeants (E-8) to serve as Company First Sergeants and senior staff Bridmal in a variety of staff and instructional positions.

The FSC will soon be joined by the comprehensive and far-reaching Sergeants Major Course. This new course begins in April and will be 22 weeks long. The students will learn advanced leadership principles, the organization and management of the ANA, the role of the Sergeant Major in the administration, supervision, and training of Soldiers and Bridmal.

“The morale of ANA is really high and they are conducting very good missions and they are doing their jobs very well,” said Hafizullah. ”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Tim Newborn, CSTC-A PAO, contributed to this report.



photo by Canadian Army Master Corporal Robert Bottrill, courtesy of The Crown, Canadian Department of National Defence
An Afghan National Army NCO conducts an outdoor class with ANA Soldiers at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) facility.

Provincial development added to FDD program

Story and photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard

CSTC-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — With the progress of the Focused District Development (FDD) program, it is only natural new pilot programs will follow. The seventh District Assessment and Reform Team (DART) is an example of FDD's evolution. Recently the FDD Program's seventh DART class participated in a small graduation ceremony. A week later the program's first Provincial Assessment and Reform Team (PART) also graduated as the program expanded its focus to provide training to provincial police in addition to district police.

"Training was a review of the Afghan culture, the current status of the overall Afghan police and how they're doing in regards to operations," said Army Staff Sergeant Gerald Enriquez, one of the PART graduates.

The FDD program began in November 2007 and since the program's inception, districts that have completed the program in all its phases have

shown a 60 percent decrease in local civilian casualties.

DARTs and PARTs are composed of members of the Attorney General's Office, Afghan National Police, ISAF Regional Command, Afghan Regional Security Integration Command (ARSIC) and other agencies as required and appropriate. The eight PARTs will be located in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmund, Zabul and Uruzgan in the south, and Ghazni, Paktika, Khost and Paktia in the east.

The assessment teams implement phase one in the six-phase FDD Program and are responsible for assessing the districts and provinces along with setting the conditions for the successful reform of their police and establishing the rule of law. Once the assessments are complete, the Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) relieves the District Police and assumes control of the district to permit Afghan Uniformed Police members of the unit to depart for retraining and reorganizing at a regional



Afghan National Police Colonel Mohammed Alizay participates in the graduation ceremony after completing PART training as U.S. Army Major Martin Plotner reads the names of the PART graduates.



Deputy Security Minister Lieutenant General Munir Mangal congratulates Army Staff Sergeant Gerald Enriquez and gives him his graduation certificate after completing PART training.

training center (RTC).

Normally district police are reorganized, retrained, and reequipped in an eight-week training period, but the new FDD-Provincial program will provide ANCOP-like training to the eight provincial companies (PCs) being assessed by the PARTs. The PCs are engaging in a fourteen-week training period allowing them to supplement ANCOP in ANCOP-like duties in the future, as well as providing a core of experienced and versatile officers in the eight provinces which need them the most.

The PART assessments began almost immediately after the teams graduated. Provincial assessments should be completed and the PCs should be rotated to the RTCs by late February or early March.

"I'm very excited about the assessment because the concept is very similar to what my job is back in the states," stated Enriquez. "Now I'm dealing with Afghans. The thing I like most about the challenge is that the Afghans still have a lot of work to do and I like being a part of that development process."



photo by Air Force Staff Sergeant James L. Harper Jr.

Afghan Army Air Corps members attend a graduation ceremony for the Afghan Command and Control Center Course in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Command and Control course, taught by U.S Air Force Airmen, is four weeks long and graduated 16 members.

Afghan officers trained on command and control

Story by Air Force Staff Sergeant
Zachary Wilson

U.S. Air Force Central Command Combat News Team

KABUL, Afghanistan — Sixteen senior Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) officers graduated recently from a four-week-long course on command and control operations at the Kabul International Airport.

Air Force advisers from the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing and the 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group (AEG) taught the Afghan Command and Control (ACCC) Center Course as the country's military continues to grow in both size and ability.

"These officers were formerly air defense and radar operators, and I was initially concerned about whether or not they were going to keep moving forward (as we transition to the ACCC mission with them)," said Major General Mohammed Darwan, the ANAAC commander.

"However, these officers are very experienced and talented, and we are pleased with their progress. We will grow this (function) just as we are growing the air corps as a whole," he said.

The Afghan officers range in rank

from captain to brigadier general and will form the initial cadre who will be charged with training the ANAAC members who come after them, according to Major David Milner, a 438th AEG adviser who had a significant role in training the group.

"Having an air corps control center will give the air corps the capability to control all Afghan airpower within the country's boundaries and eventually internationally," said Milner, who is a C-17 Globemaster III pilot deployed from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. "What we have essentially designed here is a small-scale version of a combined air and space operations center. The Afghan Air Corps obviously has a way to go toward getting that capability, but this is the first step."

The current ANAAC is almost exclusively mobility based and the current ACCC reflects that mission. Beginning in 2011, however, the role of the control center will expand to include combat operations capabilities.

"In the far future, I anticipate they should have all the components of command and control needed to have the ability to create air tasking orders as is done in the U.S. Air Forces Central's

Combined Air and Space Operations Center facility," Milner said.

Though the officers were very experienced, there were some challenges that had to be met by Milner and the other Air Force advisory staff.

"They were taught a lot of what they know through old Soviet-era doctrine," he said. "In order to make them effective, we had to show them the Western perspective, and they really learned from it."

By having a centralized location to control all of its air assets and a group of highly trained and skilled air corps leadership, the government of Afghanistan will be able to effectively deploy airpower to its far expanses to support a variety of missions, whether that is troop movements, medical evacuation or humanitarian relief.

"The ACCC is so important to make the air corps the effective and powerful instrument it can be in the future," Brigadier General Walter D. Givhan, the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, told the graduates in English after addressing them in their native Dari language. "Let's go forward together."



Mazullah, an Aviation officer with a degree in computer science, reviews his diploma after it was presented to him by President Hamid Karzai, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in Kabul.

National Military Academy-Afghanistan hosts 1st graduation ceremony

Story and photos by Petty Officer 3rd Class
Tim Newborn

CSTC-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — Five years ago, the Afghan Ministry of Defense and the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., developed a concept plan for the National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) in an effort to produce more efficient, educated leaders within the Afghan National Army. The first class consisting of 84 cadets graduated from NMAA Jan. 25.

Among more than 1,500 spectators was keynote speaker President Hamid Karzai, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak, Afghan minister of defense; General Bismullah Khan, ANA chief of the general staff, and U.S. Army General David D.

McKiernan, International Security Assistance Force commanding general, all of whom spoke at the ceremony.

President Karzai explained that today's cadets are the heartbeat of the entire nation.

"I am very proud to be a part of this ceremony, which is a very important and vital step toward a stable and self-sufficient country," said Karzai. "Today you all are graduating because of the hope of the mothers who have lost their fathers, brothers and husbands while defending this country."

Prepared under the authority of the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan and the Afghan Ministry of Defense, a NMAA Concept Plan was signed in November 2003 by representatives from Afghanistan, the United States and Turkey. Since the

beginning of the Academy, the U.S. Military Academy has sent staff and faculty to NMAA and recently, the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., has also contributed to this effort.

NMAA is an extensive four-year university-level institution. The Academy is often referred to as the crown jewel of the ANA and is designed to educate, train and inspire cadets so each graduate is a competent, courageous and honorable officer.

The concept plan also included a dynamic ethnic distribution throughout the corps of cadets and the staff and faculty to represent ethnicities from 33 of 34 provinces. And although the first graduating class consisted of all males, NMAA officials assure female integration is soon to come.

Upon graduation, each cadet, or

officer in training, completes one of four majors: civil engineering, computer science, general engineering, sciences and legal studies. The cadet is then commissioned as a second lieutenant beginning a career with a 10-year service agreement. During that time, each officer serves in either Infantry, Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Logistics or Communication branches of the ANA. Leadership and management, military history and English majors are planned for future cadets.

Minister Wardak reiterated the importance of today's graduation by stating that the graduates of NMAA will be recognized all around the world.

"The Afghan National Army has written and will continue to write golden pages in the history of this country by serving and dying for this country," said Wardak.

Along with intense academic activities, the physical education infrastructure is also a vital component of cadet training. NMAA provides each cadet with physical education instruction that they use throughout the four-year program in their new weight-lifting room and athletic fields.

The Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, responsible for training, equipping, advising and mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces, currently share



A cadet shakes hands with President Hamid Karzai, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, during a graduation ceremony at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan. As the new second lieutenant shook hands he shouted "zheward" which translates from Dari as "life" part of Afghan military tradition.

student expenses with the Afghan Ministry of Defense, who has pledged to provide all funding in the future.

One graduate said this was the defining moment in his life and he will continue to pursue an even higher education and more difficult training to ensure his soldiers are well taken

care of.

NMAA officials intend to expand their recruiting outreach to encourage under-represented ethnicities to apply. The number of applicants is expected to increase from 360 applicants in 2009 to nearly 2,000 applicants in 2012.



President Hamid Karzai, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, speaks to cadets and guests at the first graduation at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul.



Two newly commissioned second lieutenants—an artilleryman left and pilot right-- pose for a photo and to show their new promotion.

AROUND CSTC-A

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan

Visit www.cstc-a.com for news updates



photo by Canadian Army Master Corporal Robert Bottrill, courtesy of The Crown, Canadian Department of National Defence
Afghan National Army soldiers keep themselves physically fit while at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC) facility in Kabul.



photo by Canadian Army Master Corporal Robert Bottrill, courtesy of The Crown, Canadian Department of National Defence
An Afghan National Army Soldier fires from cover at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC) facility.



photo by Specialist Luke S. Austin
Two Afghan National Police officers receive instruction in combatives from Sergeant Aaron West, Police Mentor Team One, Regional Police Advisory Command-Kabul.



photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin
Four servicemembers from Camp Eggers kneel down as they commemorate their fallen comrade Army Sergeant Carlo Robinson, who died from wounds after an vehicle-borne improvised device (VBIED) exploded outside the walls of Camp Eggers.



photo by Canadian Army Master Corporal Robert Bottrill, courtesy of The Crown, Canadian Department of National Defence
Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) pilot, Major Jangha Wordak, prepares to take an Mi-17 helicopter for a training flight around the Kabul area at the Kabul International Airport.

photo by Canadian Army Master Corporal Robert Bottrill, courtesy of The Crown, Canadian Department of National Defence
Maintainers of the Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) prepare an Mi-17 helicopter for flight at the Kabul International Airport.

National Military Hospital opens new blood bank

Story and photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard
CSTC-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan— A new blood bank opened its doors at the National Military Hospital after nearly a year's worth of work by Afghan National Army medical personnel and service members from Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan's Command Surgeons Office.

Last year the hospital's blood bank collected approximately 1,200 units of whole blood. With the opening of the donor center at NMH, whole blood can now be processed into blood components such as packed red blood cells, fresh frozen plasma and platelets. The introduction of blood component therapy improves patient care and increases the blood bank's inventory allowing one donation to help up to three patients.

"I'm so happy to give blood to other soldiers," stated Hagearat Hajaran, one of the ANA students who donated. "I am a soldier and would do more for my country. We are here to help my people and country, and this is a little



ANA recruits lay back in modern blood donor chairs as Captain Mohammed Aziz affixes needles in their arm and ensures their comfort and health during the first blood drive at the new blood bank at the National Military Hospital.

thing for us. I am happy to see such a nice blood bank."

The NMH, a 400-bed facility, now has the capability to increase its collections by at least 100 percent. Eventually, the increased capacity of the donor center will allow it to support both the NMH and other ANA regional hospitals, laying the cornerstone for a future national system.

"I'm confident that what you see is the most advanced blood bank in Afghanistan," said Navy Lieutenant Jonathan Hoiles, CSTC-A medical

advisor to the donor center.

Nearly \$1 million in equipment was provided by CSTC-A's Command Surgeon's Office, including refrigerators, centrifuges and blood-donor chairs. Blood is now collected in a clean, controlled environment where the staff ensures the production of safe blood products.

Colonel (Dr.) Muhammad Salhik, who is in charge of the day-to-day operations at the blood bank, was the first to donate blood, but only after undergoing an examination. His colleague Colonel (Dr.) Abdul Khaliq performed the exam, which included detailed documentation and a blood sample for later testing.

More than two dozen donors followed Colonel Salhik's example, all were ANA students from nearby schools.

Modern blood-donor chairs with blood mixers and scales provide capabilities for the clinic that are generally unavailable in Afghanistan. Cakes, energy drinks, bananas and figs were made available for the much needed nourishment of recent donors.

Colonel (Dr.) Abdul Khaliq meticulously notes patient information for the first blood drive at the new blood bank at the National Military Hospital. The patient turnout was twice what was expected as ANA recruits volunteered to donate their blood for their fellow soldiers at the new blood bank, the largest of its kind in Afghanistan.





Members of an Afghan National Army Engineering platoon react to a simulated ambush during training at Kabul Military Training Center. In the scenario, Polish and U.S. Army mentors “ambushed” the platoon as they headed out to the ranges for practical demolition exercises. The ambush was part of a week long Situational Training Exercise.

STX challenges ANA officers during a week of scenarios

Story and photo by G. A. Volb

KMTC Mentor Group Public Affairs

CAMP ALAMO, Afghanistan – Three inches of thick mud, the remnants of a Russian occupation, and snow-covered mountains served as the backdrop for an Afghan National Army Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) Situational Training Exercise (STX) here.

The STX, a culmination of everything the ANA soldiers learned during their six-week course, brought nine specialties together to perform as an operational kandak, each specialty participating in test scenarios applicable to their particular mission.

“The students were placed in a field environment and given practical situations to test what they’ve learned,” said BOTC Senior Mentor Major Monty Hodge. “And I’d say they performed very well.”

The exercise also tested their ability to work together as a team.

“They spent the first five weeks working independently,” said 1st Lieutenant Joe Geiselman. “And then they came together and operated as an operational kandak. Logistics provided the beans and the bullets, transportation ran the convoys, indirect fire sections provided fire support and so on.”

It’s also the first time lieutenants in the course experience the taste of being a leader before they’re assigned to an

active unit.

According to Geiselman, this group of soldiers are just the second to complete the STX before moving on. Additionally the entire exercise was run by the ANA instructors.

It’s a great leap forward, emphasized the lieutenant, as American mentors ran the show during the first go around. “They’ve exceeded my expectations this weekend. The training has been very effective and they’ve completed every mission assigned to them.”

Hodge added that the school is still growing and is looking to gain instructors and equipment.

“They work well with what they have,” he said. “But with recent additions to their tashkil (resource authorization), they are hoping to become fully staffed and resourced.”

Hodge said that while the exercises are somewhat based on U.S. doctrine, one difference is that U.S. BOTC training elements are independent, whereas they are all combined here.

Following a final day of live fire drills, the students officially graduate, receive their assignments and head out to their units.

Both Hodge and Geiselman belong to the mentor group here which assumed its duties from the previous Training Assistance Group in December.

Hued Kheyl Clinic opens doors to community

Story and photos by Sgt. James D. Sims
CJTF Phoenix Public Affairs

In December the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health and Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-Kabul Civil Affairs Task Force Phoenix opened the Hued Kheyl Health Clinic.

The Hued Kheyl Health Clinic was built in cooperation with the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health and TF Phoenix in 2008 to improve the quality of healthcare in the village of Hued Kheyl, Kabul, Afghanistan. It was funded with money from the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) and is a symbol of friendship and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States of America.

ARSIC-Kabul Civil Affairs of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), New York Army National Guard has been working on this project for nearly one year.

Now that the 27th IBCT has completed their mission in Afghanistan, the responsibility for following up with the clinic is now in the hands of the 33rd IBCT, Illinois Army National Guard.

First Lieutenant Christopher Dieball,



Hued Kheyl local elders and members of the Ministry of Public Health with Lieutenant Colonel David C. Dunkle, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hued Kheyl Health Clinic

of Chicago, Ill., ARSIC-K civil affairs officer, is in charge of following up with the clinic and ensuring that it is functioning and making sure the villagers are getting the care they need.

“Our primary mission on these projects is to create independence as well as stability in the region,” said Dieball.

The clinic will provide care for approximately 64,000 locals in the Hued Kheyl village, and it will also greatly reduce the dependence on health care

provided by the Camp Phoenix Troop Medical Clinic.

Prenatal care provided by the clinic is intended to help decrease the infant mortality rate in the village.

“It is not only our job to provide proper healthcare to the people, but also teach them what is making them sick or diseased and how to prevent it. The village elders have told me they want electricity and clean water among other things,” said Dieball, of his meeting with the elders after the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Village elders at the Hued Kheyl Health Clinic in Hued Kheyl, which was built in cooperation with the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health and Task Force Phoenix, meet with First Lieutenant Christopher Dieball, civil affairs officer, Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-Kabul. The clinic will provide the community of 64,000 with health care independent of coalition facilities.

February Warrior of the Month



photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard

Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Thompson

Home station: Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

Hometown: Davidson, N.C.

What is your past deployment experience? I served on one Persian gulf cruise on USS Ponce, and I served on three Asia cruises on USS Kitty Hawk

What is your job at your home duty station? Ship Laundry/Barber

Job title and unit: Logistics Embedded Training/CJ4

What is your job here? Transportation Battalion Mentor

What part do you play in the CSTC-A mission? Train ANP

Battalion HQ in move, shoot, communicate strategies, as well as maintain vehicles

Best part of the deployment: Working with the Afghan locals and Coalition Forces (German Police)

Deployment Goals: Physical conditioning and promotion

Life after deployment: Pursue degree in marketing and advertising, hopefully in North Carolina

Favorite quote: "I am that guy"

What are your hobbies? Video games and putting legos together, playing Guitar Hero with my teammates

What do you miss most back home? Mom's and Dad's home cooking, especially the BBQ

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment since joining the military? Getting my surface warfare pin as an E-2

Supervisor says: Petty Officer Thompson is a very dedicated Sailor and puts forth his absolute best effort. His respect for authority is outstanding and he is always eager to learn new skill sets. His dedication to the 125 men of the ANP Trans BN was evident by the battalion's sustained combat operations. He was instrumental in conducting preventive maintenance checks and servicing instructional classes to 28 Afghan National Police (ANP), and winter driving techniques and procedures. His efforts resulted in zero accidents reported on some of the most dangerous roads in Afghanistan, traveling over 750 miles of enemy-infested provinces.

Supervisor name and duty title: Master Sergeant Rod VanLeuven, Senior Mentor Transportation Battalion

Focus on: Logistics Embedded Training Team

Log ETT Mission: provide mentorship and training to the 140 authorized Afghanistan National Police Transportation Battalion (Trans BN) officers. Log ETT serves as the liaison between the Ministry of Interior Technical Center, Intermediate Logistics Facility and Trans BN. They help plan the development of operational, technical and administrative training for the ANP Trans BN.

Commanding Officer: Air Force Colonel Cody Smith

ANP Trans BN Mission: provide line and local convoy support to the ANP to maintain the supply line between the National Logistics Center in Kabul and the five Regional Logistics Centers located throughout the rest of the country. The battalion, when 100 percent equipped, is capable of hauling over 500 tons of supplies while handling its own maintenance and security for convoy movements.

Commanding Officer: ANP Colonel Mohammed Sami

Milestones: Log ETT has helped Trans BN triple their capabilities in the last six months. Six months ago, the ANP Trans BN was limited to controlling local traffic and escorting missions within a 100-KM radius of the capital. Trans BN now runs long haul missions to provinces like Herat, and has been loaned up-armored HMMWVs from the ANA in an example of inter-service co-operation.

Future Developments: The rapid development and success of the ANP Transportation Battalion has brought challenges to the Logistics Embedded Training Team (ETT) as they

plan for the future growth of the program. The 2009 tashkil will ensure that the battalion has 90 percent of its projected equipment needs met. The battalion is also working on new faculties and a school to help the ANP continue to grow in this vital area.



photo by Air Force Staff Sergeant Justin Koontz

Technical Sergeant Shawn Cain and interpreter Najib teach air brake maintenance and draining of air tanks to ANP Transportation Battalion.



FOCUS ON NCOs

