THE ENDURING LEDGER

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan March 2009

THE ENDURING LEDGER

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About the front cover: Photo by Specialist Luke Austin, Camp Phoenix Public Affairs. One of Kabul's Afghan National Police commanders talks to local villagers about the ANP's humanitarian aid mission at the Kabul soccer stadium, Kabul, Afghanistan. The ANP gave out bundles of household goods to local families.

About the back cover: Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard, CSTC-A Public Affairs. An Afghan Soldier and graduate of the 11th corrections course at Pol-e-charkhi Prison, having just exchanged the green beret of the ANA for the black beret of a correctional officer, proudly marches forward to claim his graduation diploma.

In partnership with the Afghan people

by MG Richard P. Formica
CSTC-A Commanding General

CSTC-A is a complex command with an exciting, challenging and exceedingly rewarding mission—to build sustainable capacity and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces. To do so, we must be trusted partners with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior.

We achieve this first and foremost by showing genuine respect for the culture, the people, and the character of Afghanistan.

On a personal level, we embrace the notion of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. We must take time to build personal, lasting relationships with those we mentor, advise, and assist. And we do that by "listening to the mountains." In CSTC-A, we appreciate that the "mountains" and the Afghan people have been here a long time. And that we must listen to them.

A reasonable Afghan solution executed fully by them, in the long run, is much better than a western solution executed marginally—or not at all because they never bought into it—or because it simply didn't fit in their culture. We may help shape how they operate but we should make no effort to change who they are.

Organizationally we demonstrate respect by seeking opportunities for Afghan lead of operations. This is their country—they have an inherent responsibility and a vested interest in protecting it, its wonderful people, and their way of life. We should avoid the expression and the mindset of "putting an Afghan face" on an operation. To me, that smacks of putting a mask on what really is a coalition operation. Rather, we should seek to put a "coalition butt on Afghan operations." With Afghans in the lead, U.S. and Coalition forces provide the support that they need to succeed. The better they become, the more we can support from a distance. But always together—Yak Team Wahed.

Last year, the Afghans assumed the lead role for the security of Kabul. Now, incidents of violence are down. During the Feb. 11 attacks on Kabul, the ANSF responded quickly and decisively. The attacks were over in about three hours. The ANP and ANA secured their city once again. One of the photos that emerged from that day depicts the ANP climbing ladders to regain control of a ministry building— not of the terrorists or insurgents taking over the building. And Kabul is a city that's alive and busy. It's poor— no doubt— and will benefit from continued development. But it's not a city seized by fear.

We are proud of our partnership with the ANA and the ANP. We cherish the trusted relationships that we maintain. And we remain committed to our mission to build sustainable capacity and capability for the ANSF in order to bring stability and security to the Afghan people.

MG Formica

I close with three thoughts:

First, thank you so much to each and every one of you for all that you do for this command, for your nation, and for Afghanistan.

Second, on March 21, we shared with our Afghan partners in celebrating their New Year and we extend our best wishes for a more prosperous, more peaceful, and a happy Solar Year 1388.

Third, as always— we pledge to work together with our Afghan partners for our common and noble cause.

Yak Team Wahed!

Photo courtesy of Afghan Ministry of interior

Afghan National Police during the Feb. 11th attacks in Kabul.

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Mission statement: Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan plans, programs and implements the generation and development of the Afghan National Security Forces in order to enable the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to achieve security and stability in Afghanistan.

After Action Reviews key to mission success

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

CSM Coleman

First of all I would like to say congratulations to all of our new arrivals: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and contractors. Congratulations to all of you for your selection to this command. The timing couldn't have been better for your selection. From where I sit, the opportunities for you to utilize your experience, training and expertise in your own individual areas are nothing short of astonishing. This is the right time, the right command.

This month, I would like to focus mostly on our mentors in the field who do a wonderful and superb job month by month mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces. I would personally like to say thank you for what you do and how you do it.

I would also like to mention After Action Reviews (AAR), and what an important tool they are in assisting our Afghan counterparts, especially in the areas of planning, reinforcing, and systems. The AAR process is a dramatic, candid and professional discussion of training that focuses on the unit's performance. An AAR is not a critique. An AAR does not grade success or failure. There are always areas to improve and areas to sustain. I would encourage all of you to look deep into this process.

Finally, I would like to discuss Battlefield Operations Systems, a technique that is useful in training our staff sections. From where I sit, we have improved tremendously, but we still have more to do in the areas of reinforcing and identifying key events, reinforcing the planning and preparation processes, and determining how and when to conduct an AAR. A proper planning process and AAR require site reconnaissance and selection; things to take into consideration include terrain, a terrain model, map blowups and training aids.

Again, as a professional military, we and our coalition forces have been fortunate to have training centers that utilize these tools on a consistent basis with the oversight of an observer controller and the AAR process. This is what has helped to sustain us as a professional force. It is my hope that we can pass this on to the Afghan National Security forces. As a senior enlisted leader, there is no doubt in my mind that they will benefit from this process.

As always, I would like to emphasize weapons accountability, combat survivability and stress management.

Air Corps Generals assume new leader positions

Story by Army Colonel Jim Brandon
Air Corps Advisory Group Commander

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Edward Vasquez

Bridmal (Sergeant) Farooq, Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) mans a Russian PKT machine gun in an ANAAC MI-17 helicopter during a routine training exercise.

The future of the Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) shined brightly at the ANAAC's new Northside Compound on Kabul International Airport recently as four of its senior officers discussed their vision for future development and celebrated the changes of leadership.

Brigadier Generals Mohammad Barat and Abdul Wahab Wardak conducted a transfer of authority as the Kabul Air Wing and Air Corps Chief of Staff. Additionally, Brigadier Generals Sayed Asadullah and Amir Jan exchanged positions as the Kabul Air Wing Vice Commander and Operations Group Commander, respectively.

All four ANAAC officers are seasoned pilots and leaders, playing vital roles in transforming the ANAAC into a powerful force of air and support components with increasing capability.

Major General Mohammad Dawran, the Air Corps commanding general, hosted the change of command ceremony. Dawran commented that this ceremony is a significant step toward the future development and focus for the Air Corps. He also said that everyone within the Air Corps at all levels must work as a team and always strive for progress.

Dawran pointed out how fortunate the ANAAC is to have such good facilities and challenged all within the Air Corps to take care of them so they will serve the Air Corps and the Afghan nation for many years. He concluded his remarks by wishing all officers success in their new positions and emphasized the importance of safety for all operations within the Air Corps.

Q & A with ANP Sergeant Major Karim Khan Momand

Sergeant Major Karim Khan Momand has been the Sergeant Major of the Afghan National Police (ANP) for approximately six months. In his capacity as the senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the ANP, he has guided his officers through a tremendous time of change and growth in Afghanistan while strengthening the NCO corps of the ANP. He was born into a large family with two sisters and five brothers in Nangahar Province in Afghanistan. He is married with one child and currently resides in Kabul.

ANP Sergeant Major Karim Khan Momand

Question: In your opinion what do you and your NCOs contribute to the ANP?

Sergeant Major: An NCO represents the most important means of instruction for the police officer in the ANP, and it is the NCO's responsibility to work hard and set an example for the ANP and for Afghanistan.

Question: What NCO characteristics are you developing and enhancing through training?

Sergeant Major: The key characteristics that we want to instill in our NCOs through training are honesty, hard work and especially professionalism.

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

Sergeant Major: I think the greatest challenge we face is the presidential election this year. We have enemies that don't want see peace and prosperity in Afghanistan. They will try many different activities and tactics to destroy the peace and destabilize Afghanistan, and will try to interrupt the presidential election that is going to be held. We are fully prepared to forge ahead and deal with this challenge, as well as with the enemies of Afghanistan.

Question: How much progress has the ANP made since you became Sergeant Major and where would you like to see more progress?

Sergeant Major: The ANP has made tremendous progress in the last few years. For instance, in the past the ANP did not even have a certain or specified uniform. They would try and deal with the daily challenges of Police work with very little equipment. Now they have one uniform specified for the ANP—a nice uniform even—and they have enough equipment to meet the challenges.

Question: What does being an NCO mean to you?

Sergeant Major: An NCO is a person between the high ranking officers and the patrolman; he is the bridge that connects the two and enables the orders of the officers to be carried out by patrolmen.

Question: Is there anything you would like to add?

Sergeant Major: I just want to say that Afghanistan is our country and our country is our mother. Our national police have to defend our people and our prosperity and we can not afford to let anybody destroy the peace of Afghanistan.

Photo courtesy of CSTC-A Public Affairs

Sergeant Major of the ANP Karim Khan Momand reviews a graduation certificate with another Sergeant Major while in his office.

ANP provides security for voter registration

Story by Kin LaFate
Ministry of Interior Voter Registration Office

ISAF Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Monica R. Nelson

FARAH, Afghanistan — Salh Mohammad of Farah registers to vote at the Voter Registration Center for men, Jan. 8. Between the male and female registration sites, 300 to 400 Afghans registered to vote in Farah each day.

KABUL, Afghanistan— The Afghan National Police (ANP) successfully provided security for nearly 800 voter registration sites throughout Afghanistan. More than 4.3 million Afghans successfully registered to vote. Now ANP are preparing to meet national security challenges in support of this summer's elections.

In April 2008, the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) began the planning process for voter registrations to be held in Afghanistan later that year.

President Hamid Karzai stated he wanted Afghans to register to vote for the presidential and provincial council elections in 2009 and the Wolesi Jirga elections in 2010. The Independent Election Committee (IEC) of Afghanistan announced in July 2008 that the citizens would be able to register to vote starting in October.

Voter registrations were conducted in four phases dependant on climate and security situations in the provinces. The voter registration process began in October 2008 and was completed at the end of February. Eligibility criteria included persons who moved to new provinces, those who lost registration cards, or those who had turned 18 since the first election in 2004.

President Karzai asked the MoI to provide for voter registration security. The MoI tasked the ANP with securing the voter registration sites. The ANP developed the plan to successfully secure 797 voter registration sites, spanning all four phases.

The ANP developed their concept of operations in July 2008 and their plan was approved by MoI. The primary objective of this plan was to ensure safety and security during a free voter registration.

Voter registration sites for all four phases were identified, and the ANP Plans department developed a security plan for all the sites.

During the early stages of voter registration, MoI coordinated with the Ministry of Defense (MoD), IEC and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Once MoI received the Presidential Decree and the ISAF Joint Order, synergy and staff coordination propelled the process forward towards success.

The National Police Command Center (NPCC) also developed command post exercises to test reaction to potential incidents and emergencies.

"This is a great program with exception to only a few challenges," said Colonel William Morris, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Director of Operations. "The MoI Voter Registration initiatives provided for a safe & secure registration process with security as the over-arching goal. The After Action Review process resolved potential problems and ensured that the lessons learned are incorporated into plans for subsequent future operations."

Afghans celebrate new Solar Year

Photo by Rahim Zada

BAMYAN CENTER, Bamyan Province — Thousands of revelers crowd around a sacred wooden pole at the Bamyan Center in Bamyan province.

The heavily decorated telegraph pole is raised to mark the beginning of Afghanistan's New Year each spring.

The crowds hope to touch the pole, for good luck. Scarves and shirts that touch the pole are torn into tiny pieces so as many people as possible can take home a relic of the ceremony.

The Solar New Year began March 21. Celebrations often last three days and include pilgramages to sacred sites such as the Blue Mosque.

Afghan National Army Soldiers dance in celebration after the Kandak (battalion) 100 graduation at Kabul Military Training Center in Kabul, Afghanistan. The graduation marked the century milestone in graduations at KMTC for the ANA.

KMTC celebrates 100th Kandak graduation

Story and photos by Specialist Luke S. Austin
Task Force Phoenix Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan – The Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) marked a major milestone when more than 1,200 Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers completed the 100th ANA Basic Warrior Training Course (BWTC) February 19, and capped the event with a graduation ceremony.

"Every graduation from KMTC brings hope for the people of Afghanistan people who have endured 30 years of civil war," said Colonel Mohammad Hashim, KMTC Training and Education Officer. "There is great pride for the KMTC staff in the hard work put in by the Kandak 100 graduates. The Kandak 100 graduation was another significant step in the growth of the ANA and I am optimistic about the future of the ANA because the ANA consists of all ethnic groups and is trusted by the Afghan people."

KMTC trains multiple classes of 1,200 ANA soldiers at any given time, and over 10,000 soldiers in various types of training are processed through KMTC monthly. Managing such a large number of Soldiers and recruits in such a short span of time has provided many challenges for the training staff. Over time, KMTC has adapted to these difficulties, and perfected the process.

The first class to graduate from the BWTC was small compared to the current sizes: a mere 414 soldiers. Original class sizes were as small as 300 and peaking at just over 2,000. They currently fill at 1,200.

"Kandak 100—the graduating class—represents the growth of the ANA to approximately 80,000 soldiers over the past seven years and 100 classes since the Basic Warrior Training Class began at KMTC in 2002," said Lieutenant Colonel Brian C. Redmon, the Task Force Phoenix commander for the KMTC mentor group.

"To get to this point, KMTC has had to overcome major obstacles. This area was heavily bombed, mined and booby-trapped," said Redmon. "Before any training could start, the area had to be de-mined, cleared and then major construction projects were undertaken to prepare for the increasingly larger classes."

With the large number of Soldiers cycling through the BWTC, one of the biggest challenges has been the lack of cadre. Though the cadre is staffed at 65 to 70 percent, they still provide excellent training.

The ANA has fielded five Corps and is in the midst of a major force modernization program that includes fielding of NATO weapons and up-armored HMWWV's.

ANA strengthens health care system in Paktia

Story by Navy Lieutenant
Samuel G. Hudson
ARSIC-East Public Affairs

Photo by Air Force Technical Sergeant Robert G. Mills

Afghan National Army Colonel Sultongal, Commander of Paktia Regional Military Hospital, performs an appendectomy surgery on an Afghanistan National Army soldier.

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – Located high in the mountains at an elevation of 8,000 feet, the Paktia Regional Military Hospital boasts an in-patient capability of 50 beds, which will soon expand to a 100-bed facility. The hospital serves the Afghan National Army (ANA) in the region including approximately 3,000 troops and several thousand family members.

Combined Security Transition Comand-Afghanistan's (CSTC-A) Medical Embed Training Team (METT) has worked hard in support of the Paktia Regional Military Hospital. "The mission of the METT is to strengthen the ANA healthcare system's ability to improve healthcare with rapid response by trained, knowledgeable and experienced medical personnel," said Air Force Captain David Barker, Medical Service Corps, METT Facility Manager.

The METT is a multi-discipline unit responsible for the development and training of their Afghan counterparts. The team consists of 15 Active Duty and Air Force Reserve personnel.

"The skills of the ANA nursing staff are at or below those of newly-minted Air Force medical technicians," said Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Joanne R. Ruggeri, chief nurse, medical ETT at Forward Operating Base Lightning. "As the chief nurse mentor for approximately 30 Afghan nurses, my emphasis has been geared toward nursing education."

This training will assist the ANA in reaching western standards.

The ANA, with support from the METT, developed a basic nursing course covering the foundational knowledge of nursing, geared towards improving patient care. Checklists were developed to ensure a patient's history and physical exam, lab tests, EKG and all other pertinent orders were completed.

For example, ANA nurses now administer and document the amount and type of medication given to each of their patients. "This is a safer practice that has reduced medication errors. Previously, a patient's medication was placed at the bedside and the patients self-administered their own meds," said Ruggeri.

Wound care management has also seen a significant increase in quality, according to Ruggeri. Cleaning and infection control measures were not well addressed prior to American mentorship. The Afghans are now learning how to deliver health care. The professional proficiency of the Afghan nurses has improved tremendously and with their continuing growth, the standard of care continues to improve.

The METT recently conducted mass-casualty exercises, including evacuating patients to the next echelon of care in the ANA and coalition system. The ANA medical staff has also successfully managed multiple injuries and casualties resulting from insurgent engagements and motor-vehicle accidents.

"We use the medical evacuation system with helicopter flights to Bagram and Kabul major medical trauma centers for higher level of care," said Ruggeri. "We have trained them how to safely treat and transport injured patients from outlying medical facilities."

The METT has also supported and strengthened the counterinsurgency strategy with the completion of three Joint-Coalition-Afhghan National Security Force humanitarian medical missions in local villages led by special forces. In addition to receiving medical treatment, clothing and food was distributed to local villagers.

"These missions allow the ANA and Afghan National Police to forge lasting relationships with the Afghan civilian population, promoting a governmental and nation-building effort," said Ruggeri. "These missions work to restore the confidence of the local population in the strength and capability of the new Afghan government."

According to Barker, the American METTs are trained Air Force medics working together to build Afghanistan's health care system.

"Air Force medical personnel are bringing American ingenuity to rebuild a trained, skilled and knowledgeable ANA professional medical cadre," said Barker.

"The efforts are turning the rebuilding challenges into a success by building strong partnerships between the Afghan and coalition forces vital to winning the global war on terrorism."

Weapons acountability:

Afghans conduct weapons inventories, emphasize proper procedures

Staff Report

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) have procedures to properly account for weapons provided to the ANSF, the spokesperson for CSTC-A stated recently.

From 2002 to August 2007, weapons provided to the ANSF were accounted for by quantity. Since then, CSTC-A receives, registers, issues and accounts for all weapons by serial number, according to Lieutenant Colonel Chris Kubik.

CSTC-A personnel assist and mentor their Afghan counterparts in proper weapons accountability procedures, verify compliance with Afghan ministerial decrees to report on weapons accountability, and report the results during monthly readiness reporting to the CSTC-A Commanding General. According to Kubik, for their part, the Afghan National Security Forces have demonstrated a commitment to properly account for weapons. The Ministries of Defense and Interior have formally established programs in place, with senior Ministry emphasis, to verify weapons accountability.

photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Edward Vazquez

An Afghan National Army Soldier verifies the serial number on an AK-47 assault rifle at Weapons Depot Zero during a routine inventory for weapons accountability.

In addition, said Kubik, Afghan Minister of Defense Wardak has verified proper documentation of weapons inventories by serial number in Afghan National Army Corps formations since late 2003, based on a long-standing tradition of weapons accountability. The date also coincides with the beginning of the Defense Ministry's reform.

In a recent Government Accountability Office audit of accountability of weapons provided by the United States and the international community to the ANSF, Afghan National Security Forces and CSTC-A personnel physically accounted for 296 of 330 weapons (90 percent) in a random sample, without full access to all areas in Afghanistan due to security. Kubik added, "I am confident that we have systems in place and are taking proper steps to ensure weapons accountability. Additionally, any speculation that significant numbers of weapons have fallen into enemy hands is not true."

CSTC-A leaders, trainers and mentors at every level continue to assess and adjust mechanisms and systems, in accordance with current policies and procedures, to ensure proper accountability of weapons.

Chief Petty Officer Kathryn Dirickson, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, helps to inventory weapons for a weapon accountability inspection held at Weapons Depot One in Kabul.

Soldiers from the Afghan National Army inventory weapons for accountability at Weapons Depot Zero in Kabul during a routine inventory of AK-47s.

FOCUS ON...
634th Forward Support Battalion Security Company

Homestation
Illinois National Guard: Joliet, Ill.
Personnel
183
Commanding Officer
Captain Matthew Morse,
Infantry
Senior Non-Commssioned Officer
First Sergeant Richard Lozano, Engineer
Motto
"Protect the Castle"
Mission
To provide force protection for Camp Eggers and the New Kabul Compound. They provide a quick reaction force for the Kabul Area of Operations in order to ensure the security of CSTC-A personnel, USFOR-A, Task Force Phoenix and elements of CJTF-101.

photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Edward Vasquez

Specialist Ryan Labedis of the 634th FSB stands watch during a routine fueling operation on the streets of Kabul.

"The unit, like any Guard unit, is really unique. You have people from all walks of life here."
—Captain Matthew Morse

Sergeant Robert Helms of 634th FSB Security Company directs traffic during a fueling operation on the busy streets of Kabul. Security for fueling is just one of the many tasks that the company performs in order to keep Camp Eggers and the New Kabul Compound running.

Duties and Responsibilities

•24 hr Quick Reaction Force

•Maintenance Section: provides maintenance for all HMMWVs on Camp Eggers.

•KBR Escort: provides escort to maintenance contractors when they leave Camp Eggers.

•Movement Control: tracks all vehicles and personnel that leave Camp Eggers and travel about Kabul. They maintain awareness of the general location of all Camp Eggers personnel, and can direct the Quick Reaction Force for evacuation or search of personnel, as well as for security escorts, fuel security and presence patrols

•Base Defense Operation Center (BDOC), which provides intelligence analysis, camp defense and communications

•ISAF Escort: on NKC, shuttle for ISAF personnel

•Fueler Team: responsible for the transfer of fuel to camp stockpiles

•Force Protection on the New Kabul Compound

Unit History

The battalion was established in March of 1993 as the 634th Forward Support Battalion, headquarters, and headquarters detachment. Alpha Company was a supply company with capabilities to provide food, fuel, ammunition support to the entire brigade. Bravo Company was maintenance support, and Charlie Company was medical support.

The battalion was restructured in 2005 and the battalion became a Brigade Support Battalion, expanding from approximately 350 soldiers to over 900 soldiers. The battalion went from just three units to eight units throughout Illinois, adding forward support companies.

Each forward support company, like Echo Company, 634th, supports a combat arms maneuver battalion. Members of the battalion have deployed in support of flood control operations in 1993, Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002, Operation Crescent Relief in 2005 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006, and currently Operation Enduring Freedom.

Afghan National Security Forces In Action

On Feb. 21 - 22, massive flooding affected families in Deh Daddi Village, Balkh Province. With 25-50 homes destroyed, Civil Affairs Teams of the 209th Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) responded within 24 hours to pump flood waters out of the village and arranged multiple humanitarian assistance air drops.

More than 400 women officers, Soldiers and civilian employees of the Ministry of Defense and Army General Staff institutions joined to celebrate International Women's Day.

The ANA graduated its 100th kandak (battalion) on Feb 19, adding 1284 soldiers to the Army. KMTC is the home of the ANA Basic Warrior Training Course. 28,800 ANA soldiers graduate from Basic Warrior Training every year. Over 84,000 ANA soldiers have graduated since 2002.

The Afghan National Army delivered 327.7 tons of wheat seed, 166,400 fruit trees, and 669.4 tons of fertilizer to 8534 farmers in 12 districts throughout Herat Province. Distribution was monitored by the Herat Governor's office, the Minister of Agriculture and U.S. forces.

The Farah ANP Provincial HQ and a Police Mentoring Team (PMT) conducted a Humanitarian Assistance (HA) mission in an area known for insurgent activity

The ANAAC supported the national funeral for Afghan President Daoud Khan and his brother on March 17.

The 1/3/203 Kandak of the Afghan National Army (ANA) conducted a Humanitarian Assistance (HA) mission in the village of Niazollah in Ghazni Province on March 8, providing the village with welcome food and clothing.

In Nad Ali District, Helmand Province, the ANA and ANP provide security for poppy eradication operations.

Video still capture courtesy of Afghan Ministry of Interior

An Afghan National Police Officer helps evacuate the Ministry of Justice during the initial minutes of the February 11th attacks in Kabul.

Afghan National Security Forces respond quickly to February 11th attacks in Kabul

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class
Clifton Williams
CSTC-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — Quick and decisive actions by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) during the February 11th attacks in Kabul demonstrated both increased capability within the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP), and also increased coordination between the forces. The ANSF responded to the attacks at the Ministries of Justice, Education, and Foreign Affairs demonstrating Afghan capability in providing security for Kabul.

The ANSF swiftly rescued hostages and thwarted further attacks at the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and other possible targets. Security was restored in Kabul within hours in a well coordinated and proportionate ANSF response.

The attacks began at approximately ten a.m. Eight attackers, armed with Kalashnikov rifles, grenades and suicide vests, targeted three separate government buildings simultaneously. Five gunmen attacked the Ministry of Justice while two other attackers attempted to assault the Prison Department building in a suburb north of Kabul.

The final attacker attempted to infiltrate the Ministry of Education, but was stopped by nearly instantaneous police response and killed before he could detonate his device. The quick response proved to be a mitigating factor in the other two attacks as well, as the ANP swiftly evacuated civilians from the buildings. One of the two assailants at the prison building was also killed before he could detonate his bomb, as was one of the five assailants at the Ministry of Justice.

After the first few minutes of the attack, the ANP evacuated the area while the ANA established a cordon and prepared to assault the remaining attackers. The ANSF gained complete control of the situation in only about three hours.

The Taliban claimed responsibility shortly after the siege began. All eight attackers died, said Afghan Interior Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar. Fifty-seven people were wounded in the terrorist attacks, he said.

EUPOL - Afghanistan Mission update

Stories and Photo by Andrea Angeli and Aziz Basam
EUPOL Press Office

In the framework of its comprehensive approach toward Afghanistan, the European Union launched an EU Police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) in mid-June 2007.

The mission aims at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements under Afghan ownership and in accordance with international standards. More particularly, the mission monitors, mentors, advises and trains at the level of the Afghan Ministry of Interior, regions and provinces.

EUPOL Afghanistan builds on the efforts of the German Police Project Office and other international actions in the field of police and the rule of law. It aims to bring together individual national efforts under an EU hat, taking due account of relevant community activities. Its activities aim at covering the whole of Afghanistan.

Mission Statement

"EUPOL Afghanistan shall significantly contribute to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, which will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system, in keeping with the policy advice and institution-building work of the Community, Member States and other international actors. Further, the Mission will support the reform process towards a trusted and efficient police service, which works in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law and respects human rights."

Photo courtesy of EUPOL

(from left to right) EUPOL Head of Mission (HoM) Kai Vittrup and Major General Richard P. Formica, Commanding General of CSTC-A along with Deputy-HoM Operations Peter Horst discuss the continued partnership between EUPOL and CSTC-A to mentor the Afhan National Police.

Helmand Province Launches Crime Stoppers Phone Line

HELMAND, Afghanistan — The new Crime Stoppers Line in Helmand Province was recently launched with the support of Governor Gulab Mangal and the aid of EUPOL Mentors Brian Flanagan and David Wright.

The new initiative uses mobile phones located in a dedicated office at the new Provincial Police Headquarters at Lashkar Gah. The line is staffed by ANP personnel and a dedicated interpreter, and is overseen by two representatives from the governor's office. A call to 110 110 now allows Afghans to report everything from bribery to suicide bombings.

So far the new line receives an average of 70 calls a day which are generally subdivided into three categories:

•**Genuine calls —** where the caller gives his or her identity and details of witnesses or documentary evidence. This normally constitutes 5 to10 percent of the calls.

•**Nuisance calls —** such as missed calls or the caller hangs up. This constitutes 60 to 70 percent of the volume.

•**General enquiries —** These constitute 20 to 30 percent of the calls.

Helmand forms anti-corruption unit

HELMAND, Afghanistan— Governor Gulab Mangal has initiated the formation of the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) to address potential police corruption, as well as corruption within government offices. Alistair Black is the lead EUPOL mentor for the formation and development of the PSU.

Envisaged as an independent unit capable of carrying out arrests of Afghan National Police (ANP) offenders, the PSU is intended to have a complement of 24 personnel drawn from ANP, Afghan National Army and National Directorate of Security. A priority is being placed on selecting literate, ethical officers who are adequately trained for their role before being deployed.

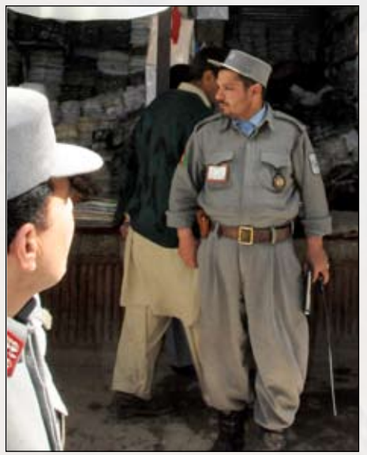
Independent investigation and prosecution processes are considered essential to ensure the transparency and effectiveness of the project.

Afghan Police Provide Security for a Thriving Kabul

photos by Petty Officer Second Class Paul Dillard

The Afghan National Police continue to actively patrol the streets of Kabul. For the citizens of this vibrant city, day-to-day life is marked by an economic boom fueled by security and stability.

Each morning the streets of Sarai Shahzada Market are alive with merchants and shoppers. Sarai Shahzada



Market is one of many centers of commerce within the city. 117 different types of foreign currency are traded here. Business is conducted out in the open without fear.

ANP officers can be seen working quietly through the crowd, ensuring the security and safety of Kabul.

ANA opens new fuel depot in Kabul

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class
Edward Vasquez
CSTC-A Public Affairs

photos by Air Force Major Carie Parker

Afghan National Army Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Adris captures fuel in a clear glass coffee mug as its off loaded from a fuels truck prior to accepting delivery Feb. 17 at Khuja Rawash in Kabul. The inspector raises the mug, once full, looking for sediment. Colonel Adris is an operations officer and fuels tester.

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan National Army (ANA) recently opened the new Khuja Rawash fuel depot facility near the Kabul International Airport, which will bring new capabilities to the ANA. The new depot will reduce the ANA's dependency on other facilities, ensuring the ANA's self-sufficiency.

The fuel station will also play a vital role in the security mission of the Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC).

"Words really can't describe this. It is an amazing and awe-inspiring project," said Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Chetan Sawhney, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) Logistics Embedded Training Team (LOG-ETT).

The new facility increases Afghan capabilities so that they are on par with U.S. Air Force systems, and will help improve the response time and capability of the ANAAC.

With this new storage capacity, the ANA increases the total amount of fuel it can provide to 3 million liters up from the previous 500-thousand-liters capacity. The new station also features a retail dispensing system similar to commercial gas stations.

"This new facility will have more fuel and will allow the Afghans to increase their customer base," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Jason Williams King with CSTC-A LOG-ETT. "It will be more like what the U.S. is using right now, and be important to the ANA because it will reduce its dependency on other facilities, making it more self-sufficient."

The Khuja Rawash fuel station replaces the old control system with central controls. A push-button operation transfers fuel from storage tanks to issue points by means of electric pumps.

"This new facility will be a major upgrade. Now they will be able to push more fuel out to the units faster," said Air Force Technical Sergeant Brett Rudish, CSTC-A LOG-ETT.

The fast-fading ruins of war lay in plain sight of the previous fuel station. The area is littered with remnants of artillery shells, small arms, ammunition and missiles.

Previously the ANA had only the Khair-Khana fuel station, a Soviet-era fuel depot and Russian stronghold.

"At Khair-Khana, the ANA could only provide a limited amount of input and out put. Khuja Rawash will have about a 500 percent increase. For the first time they will be supporting the Afghan Air Corps," said Sawhney.

The old Khana depot has rudimentary technology that is manual and gravity-fed with no pumps or electricity. The new Khuja Rawash fuel station is based on central controls and a push-button operation that transfers fuel from storage tanks to issue points by means of electric pumps. The new state-of-the-art system cost approximately $14.5 million.

The depot will also have a retail propane storage and distribution center. This is an important added resource for the civilian population who may have limited access to heating and cooking fuels.

"The reason why propane is important is that there are not many trees around here. About 30 percent of all of the trees have been cut down in this area, so they are trying to change from using wood for heating and cooking to propane. This is a drastic shift and this facility will provide much needed propane for the Afghan National Army and the civilian population," said Sawhney.

The transition to the new station incorporates a new jet fuel distribution system, a first for the ANA, and provides a storage facility with enough capacity to sustain both the Afghan National Army Air Corps and the ANA.

Inspectors check one of the Class III fuels depot pump houses Feb. 17 at Khuja Rawash in Kabul while Air Force Staff Sergeant Jason King watches.

ANA improves operational communications

Story and photos by Senior Master Sergeant Brett J. Kolasch
CSTC-A CJ6

Soldiers from the Afghan National Army (ANA) Communications Support Element (CSE), alongside mentors from Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A), are steadily improving the operational capabilities of Afghanistan's tactical signal battalion, according to the ANA CSE commander.

"I am very appreciative of the CSTC-A CJ6 [communications] staff and the CSE team, and look forward to future opportunities to support real-world ANA operations," said Brigadier General Qasim, ANA CSE Commander.

Improving CSE doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, facilities and personnel has been a key focus, according to Qasim. The ultimate goal is to increase CSE's tactical communications capabilities, allowing them to provide communications support for all Ministry of Defense requirements.

Combined Afghan and Coalition efforts have helped improve the CSE support capability significantly. The CSE has improved from less than 50 percent of the targeted proficiency requirements to more than 85 percent in just six months, according to Qasim. This is despite the fact that the unit had an estimated 80 percent illiteracy rate.

ANA personnel have also coordinated the delivery and distribution of more than 750 equipment items and $2.3 million worth of vehicles. Their effort alone significantly increased the percentage of "on-hand" equipment in communications units from 26 to 87 percent.

CSE successfully executed their first real world mission recently, providing command, control, communications and computer systems (C4) services directly to the ANA chief of staff, six general officer directors and the National Military Command Center during the ANA's semi-annual Command Post Exercise. The CSE's efforts enabled senior ANA leadership to command and control ANA forces involved in the exercise.

Afghan National Army Soldiers from the Communications Support Element raise a communication antenna during an exercise.

Afghan National Army Soldiers from the Communications Support Element assemble a communications array during an exercise.

"The Comm Support Team has shown excellent progress in increasing their Capability milestone ratings." said Colonel Dennis Lisherness, CSTC-A CJ6 Commander. "This is mainly due to the ANA G6 communities' great leadership, but it is also due to the excellent training and mentoring of the USAF CSE team."

"We need to better market to the Corps' commanding generals the amazing tactical C4 capabilities this team allows for the ANA operations," said Brigadier General Howard, then CSTC-A Assistant Commanding General, Afghan Development [B.Gen Howard turned over his command to B.Gen. Paul Wynnick on March 16]

B.Gen Howard was impressed with the level of training at the CSE and praised military and MPRI mentors for their hard work. He suggested that the CSE to look for opportunities to train with ANA corps headquarters, providing a projection of the headquarters element during forward operations. This would be an opportunity not only to gain practical experience, but to integrate the CSE into the Corps to showcase critical services and capabilities provided by the CSE, according to Howard.

Lisherness stated that "The ANA CSE is on track to achieve operational self sufficiency to provide assured tactical 'anywhere, anytime' C4 services to the ANA's six Corps, within the next 12 to18 months."

Air Corp Pilot Candidates prepare to take flight

Story and photo by Petty Officer Second Class Edward Vasquez
CSTC-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — Sixty aspiring Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) pilot candidates are in the final preparations to attend training in the United States beginning in April 2009, with an expected completion and return to the Air Corps approximately 30 months after arriving in the U.S. In 2010 and 2011, 50 additional pilot candidates each year will start training in the United States through the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training Programs (UPT).

The U.S. Army and Navy will train rotary-wing pilots, and the U.S. Air Force will train fixed-wing pilot candidates. ANAAC pilots and aircrew expand the capabilities of the Afghan National Army (ANA) by conducting troop movements, casualty medical evacuations and logistic support throughout Afghanistan, among other vital missions in support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan including Presidential airlifts`.

"This is a great program for Afghanistan because with it we will not have a gap of pilots in the ANAAC, especially with all of the new aircraft (Mi-17s, C-27s) that we are getting," said Temorshh Rigrwal, Director of the Kabul Air Corps Training Center located at the Kabul International Airport.

Captain Sadat Amin, ANA, said "I chose to become a pilot candidate. I liked the job; my time here has been terrific. This is a superb program. When we get to the U.S. we will have to do a lot of studying, but I would like to see some of America too."

Approximately 190 Afghan pilots currently fly either rotary-wing or fixed-wing aircraft in the Afghan combined inventory. These pilots completed a banner year for flight operations in 2008. With only 35 aircraft, the Air Corps flew a record-setting 6,754 sorties; 469,706 kilograms of cargo was hauled; and 80,653 passengers were flown in support of numerous Afghan ministries, while putting the Afghan National Army and Police directly into the fight. The current Air Corps pilots are quite experienced, but they are not trained to fly at night or in inclement weather. Once the new pilot candidates return from the United States and complete mission training in Afghanistan by U.S. instructors, the Air Corps will be capable of performing any mission required by the Afghan Military.

"The Air Corps' ability to fly and support its expanding aircraft inventory and execute its missions has required the selection of pilot candidates from throughout the Afghan National Army. These candidates represent the next generation of the Air Corps and will be the first large group of Afghan pilot candidates to attend pilot training in the United States," said U.S. Air Force Major Leslie Y. Forrester, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) 438 Air Expeditionary Wing.

Of the 60 pilot candidates, 20 graduated from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan and the other 40 candidates were selected from an extensive recruiting process involving all of the Afghan National Army Corps' including the General Staff and Commandos.

"This contingent is composed of two different groups. The first group is composed of Soldiers who were selected from the ANA while the second group is graduates from the National Military Academy. This will be the only group that are sent to America where the candidates have been selected directly from the ANA" said Rigrwal.

The candidates' course of study takes between 18 months and three years, depending on specific flight training requirements. The candidates will first attend English Language Training and Specialized English Training at the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas. UPT lasts approximately one year in the U.S. Air Force, 17 months in the U.S. Army and up to two years in the U.S. Navy.

"By 2011 we expect the Air Corps to grow from 2,300 to about 5,000 airmen. It will also grow from its current 35 aircraft to nearly 100 with an air wing in Kabul and a second air wing in Kandahar. Detachments and Regional Corps Support Squadrons will be stationed throughout the country in direct support of the five Army corps, the commandos and when requested other Afghan ministries," said Air Force Colonel Dan Miller, Combined Air Power Transition Force (CAPTF) Mentor. "By 2016 the Air Corps will have approximately 128 aircraft and more than 7,200 airmen in support of the air mission in Afghanistan."

The ANAAC is currently expanding the number of rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft that it has in service to include approximately 68 rotary-wing and 60 fixed-wing aircraft by 2016. Aircraft in the ANAAC will include: Mi-17s, C-27 twin-engine turboprop military transport aircraft, initial rotary-wing trainers, and high-performance trainer and light attack fixed-wing aircraft.

"I want to become a great pilot and serve my country; this has been a good experience for me and I have learned a lot in my time here," said Lieutenant Ahmad Fawad Hidare, ANAAC.

Technical Sergeant Chris McMullin, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, teaches cultural awareness to Afghan National Army Air Corps pilot candidates. Sixty aspiring pilots—nearly half of the current Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) pilot candidates—are in final preparations to attend training in the United States, beginning in April. Next year, 50 pilots will begin training annually until 2013 in the United States through U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force programs.

March Warrior of the Month

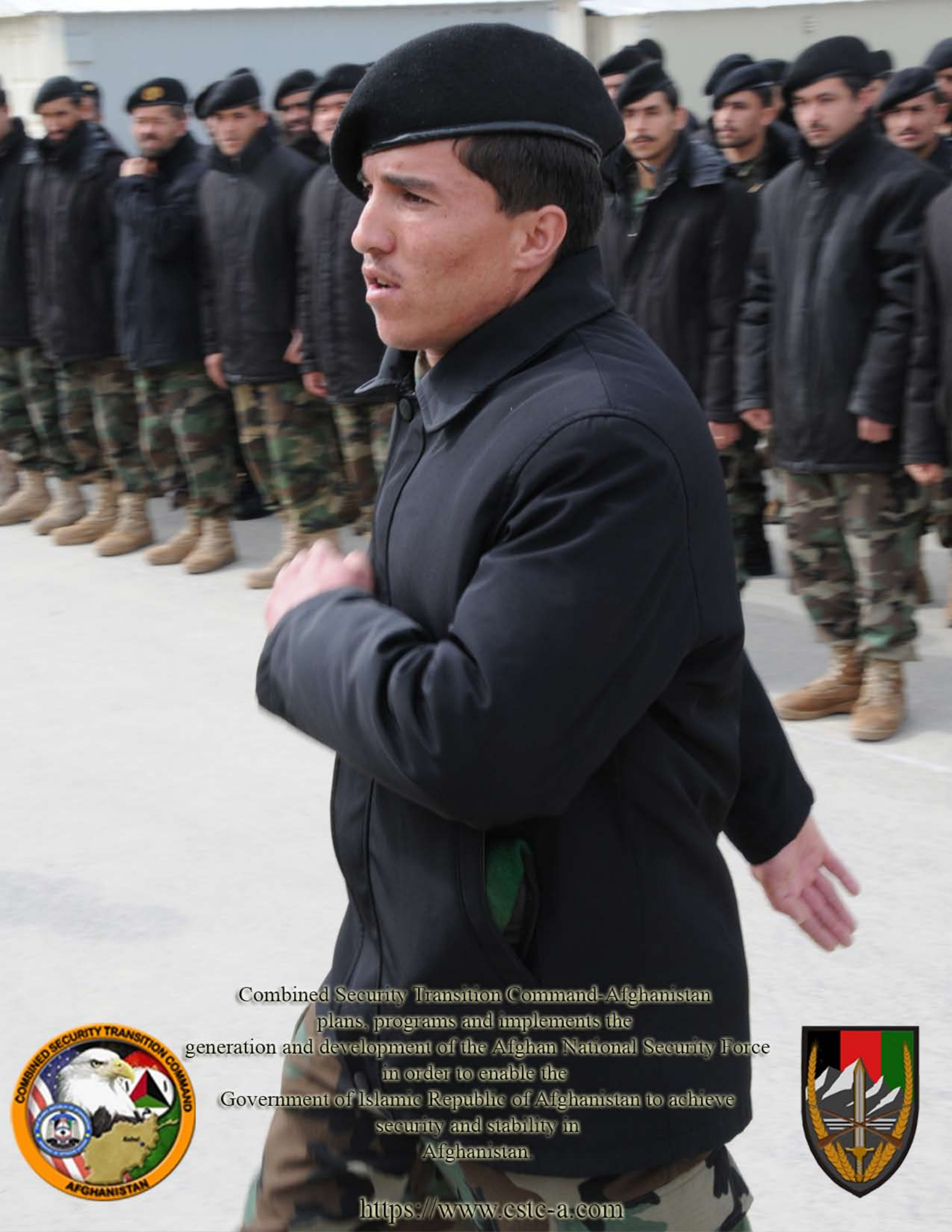
Video still capture by Petty Officer 1st Class Larry Baruwa

Technical Sergeant Brett A. Rudish

Home station: Dover AFB, Delaware (Air Mobility Command)
Hometown: Cabot, Pennsylvania
Job title and unit: Advisor, ANA Fuels
Best part of the deployment: Learning new things…about my job, the ANA and myself.
Deployment Goals: Assist the ANA in becoming an improved organization; complete 12 credits toward my degree; become more physically fit.
Life after deployment: Redeploy to Dover AFB; continue my education; buy a new motorcycle and enjoy life.
Favorite Quote: "Nothing so conclusively proves a man's ability to lead others as what he does from day to day to lead himself." - Thomas J. Watson
What are your hobbies? Strength training, playing guitars, motorcycles
Favorite movie: Braveheart
Favorite music artist/group: Metallica
Favorite sports team: Pittsburgh Steelers
Celebrity crush: Stacey Keibler
Favorite meal: Steak
Favorite cereal: Wheaties
Favorite vacation spot? Riding my dirt-bike in the mountains of West Virginia
Pet peeve: People who don't clean up after themselves.
Supervisor says: "People Always" is the maxim Technical Sergeant Rudish operates under. This is evident by the manner in which he conducts his day-to-day operations. He is a prodigy in the making and, more importantly, personifies the characteristics of a leader. He is truly deserving of this honor. His superior leadership was critical in the ANA's move from a Soviet-era facility to a $14M state-of-the-art fuels depot **[see story on page 16]**. His actions were a vital element in establishing this cornerstone of ANA's agile Combat Support. He always displayed judgment and technical expertise well above his rank.
Supervisor name and duty title: Senior Master Sergeant Chetan Sawhney, Senior Advisor, ANA Fuels

Photo by Petty Officer Second Class Edward Vasquez

Specialist Whitney Hearon pays her respects to fallen comrade Sergeant Simone Robinson during a fallen comrade ceremony at Camp Eggers, Kabul. Both were members of 634th FSB Security Company.



Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan
plans, programs and implements the
generation and development of the Afghan National Security Force
in order to enable the
Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to achieve
security and stability in
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