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Cover Illustration by Air Force Staff Sergeant Jeff Fitzmorris. Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and the Afghan National Army Air Corps work together to build a more secure and independently strong Afghanistan.



Back photo by SSgt Larry Reid. An Afghan National Army trainee guards the range during a training exercise at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) in Kabul, Afghanistan. The KMTC trains Afghan soldiers from basic training and advanced individual training through junior and senior noncommissioned officer courses.

Editorial Staff

Commanding General

Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry S. Turner

Public Affairs Director

Lt. Col. David Hylton

NCIC

Chief Petty Officer Francis Carroll

Layout, Design and Graphics

Staff Sgt. Jeff Fitzmorris
Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul R. Dillard
Petty Officer 3rd Class Kirk T. Putnam

Contributors

Tech. Sgt. Michael Hughes
Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul R. Dillard
ANA Col. Najibullah Sadiqi
Brig. Gen. Michael R. Boera

The Bridmal Academy – A True Center of Excellence

By Col Najibullah Sadiqi

Executive Officer Bridmal Academy

The Afghan Bridmal Academy is responsible for the training of all Afghan National Army non-commissioned officers. In Dari, Bridmal loosely translates as non-commissioned officer, however, in the rank structure the title refers directly to sergeant.

All training is done on a regional corps-level basis. The Bridmal teams work in virtual isolation from the headquarters element, which calls for very self-reliant, resourceful soldiers able to operate independently to achieve the desired results.

The Bridmal Academy supports four NCO career courses. The Squad Leader's and Platoon Sergeant's Courses are mentored by British forces, while the First Sergeants and Command Sergeants Major Courses are mentored by U.S. forces. These courses give aspiring ANA soldiers a clear career path.

In addition to these courses, the Bridmal team also runs the Team Leader's Course, a program designed to train suitable candidates for the first leadership position within a rifle company. The TLC has been structured in such a way that it can be taught either in a modular form to allow for maximum flexibility to accommodate operations, or as a two-week block of instruction.

Eligible candidates for the TLC are taken directly from the ranks of the

adjoining Basic Warrior Training Course. The candidates then attend an additional two-week exercise as team leaders at the BWTC.

The TLC is also offered at the operational Kandak, or Brigade level, mentored by the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams and Embedded Training Teams. Once successfully completed, the soldier's name is submitted to the Corps for promotion. The main responsibilities of the academy are instruction and ensuring consistency within the program so candidates reporting for subsequent career courses have received the same training.

Upon completing the TLC, candidates attend the SLC, which is a six-week course covering the junior NCO role in more depth. The course consists of six phases preparing the student for a final test exercise. With the number of current instructors, the course can accommodate 100 students a cycle. The Solar Year 1389 Tashkil will increase instructors so class size can increase to 200. This will accommodate the rapid growth of the ANA.

The TLC is run concurrently, and is also a six-phase, six-week course preparing students for a final test exercise. The course is currently tailored to accommodate 50 students, but will increase to 100, as instructors increase.

The ANA instructors care deeply about the quality of NCOs they produce,



Photo courtesy of the Bridmal Academy
ANA students undergo a patrol lesson prior to undertaking a battle brief at the Bridmal Academy at the Kabul training area.

and ensure the development or growth of a sense of ownership and pride in the fulfillment of duty in their NCOs. The instructors also keep an eye out for any students who display potential for further development. They bring candidates to the attention of the commander of Bridmal, Col. Sabor, who considers them for nomination to officer selection.

Literacy levels within the courses are improving and the possibility of offering additional courses in reading and writing are currently in the developmental stages. With the army increasing at a rapid pace, it is essential that every effort is made to retain the quality of instruction given, and to seek further ways of improving that quality. Currently, Col. Sabor is visiting NCO courses in the U.S. and Britain, to include a visit to Brecon NCO training school the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and The School of Infantry at Warminster.



Photo courtesy of the Bridmal Academy
An ANA section fires and maneuvers it's way downrange during a live fire exercise at the Gardez training facility Afghanistan.

Team - Transparency - Transition: The Three T's of NTM-A

By Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell
Commander NTM-A

It is an honor to be assigned to this new NATO command—NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan—which truly highlights the global commitment to a secure, prosperous Afghanistan. Command is an opportunity to serve and empower others. To serve in command is always an honor and privilege and you have my word that it will always be treated as such. It is an even greater honor to team with Afghans and our NATO allies—sharing ideas, maintaining transparency, trust, and free flowing communication—as Afghanistan transitions to a more mature, ever-growing partnership with the global community.

The NTM-A/CSTC-A mission is complex and unique. It is so much more than just projected numbers and end strength. Our mission is about teaming with Afghans to build a bright, dynamic future for this sovereign nation. As the NTM-A/CSTC-A mission has evolved, so has the mindset governing our outlook and perspective on this vital mission. This new mindset challenges us to focus on the people of Afghanistan, to recognize that we all need to be problem solvers, and to understand that we are truly engaged in a battle of the minds, at every level, with a determined enemy of the Afghan people.

This requires us to be agile and adaptive, culturally respectful, and innovative in all that we do. The trust we create every day, through our interactions and examples, is essential to building the capacity and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces...an Afghan National Security Force that has grown in every way and is founded on the historic and relentless warrior spirit of the Afghan

people.

When the people of Afghanistan see their national security forces, they are proud and feel supported by their government. Moreover, they feel empowered to say yes to a hopeful future. This confidence, this pride, this empowerment are all indicators of our success and a reminder of the absolute necessity of our mission.

Every idea matters. Every relationship matters. Every engagement matters. Each will build trust, security and hope. We will continue to work closely with the Afghan Security Forces, the Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Interior, as well as, the international community to build a security force that can maintain an environment in which a rule of law is firmly established; where crime and corruption cannot succeed; where people feel safe to lead normal lives; and where the economy can develop and flourish.

Coordination, cooperation and collaboration will carry us through our journey to develop the much needed foundations for improvement and sustainable growth within Afghanistan. There will be challenges as we travel down this path, and they will be significant. But we will meet those head on, as one Team—together with our Afghan partners and the Afghan people.

The path to success for NTM-A/CSTC-A lies with 3 T's—Teaming, Transparency and Transition.

The first T—Teaming. Teaming with our NATO allies and partners, with the Afghan National Security Forces, and the Afghan people. This integrated, international team epitomizes the worldwide commitment to Afghanistan. The second T—Transparency.



Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV

Transparent, clear, open communication with each other and the international community; a team sharing information and ideas as we move forward with a shared purpose; collaborating as we move toward a common goal. The third T—Transition. Our team transitioning to a mature, prosperous relationship in the global community predicated on respect, peace and an enduring partnership.

The three Ts of NTM-A/CSTC-A: Teaming, Transparency and Transition. These elements are essential for success and Afghanistan's continual growth as an international partner in peace.

The activation of NATO Training Command-Afghanistan is a proud moment for all of us...we are key players in NTM-A/CSTC-A's continuing contribution to a sustainable and lasting peace for the people of Afghanistan. Through our transparency and openness, this team—our NATO allies and partners, the Afghan people and Afghan National Security Forces—will transition Afghanistan to its new place in the global community and its bright future.



Photo by U.S. Air Force SSgt Larry E. Reid Jr.

Lt. Gen. Caldwell salutes the NATO flag at the NTM-A activation ceremony after assuming command from Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica. The Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan merged with the new NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan to create a unified command responsible for building capability and capacity within the Afghan Ministries of Defense and Interior.

Closing Comments: Outgoing CSTC-A Commander



Maj. Gen. Formica

By Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica
Former Commanding General, CSTC-A

Your Excellencies Minister Wardek and Minister Atmar, Ambassador Eikenberry, distinguished Ambassadors, General McChrystal, CSM Hall, General Bismullah Mohammadi, SMA Roshan, Deputy Minister Mangal, Deputy Ministers, General Officers, and Command Sergeants Major, distinguished guests, and Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians of CSTC-A.

Saleem Aleikum.

Thank you for attending this ceremony today. Each of you honors those who serve in this command by your attendance and your participation.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve here in Afghanistan. Those of us who serve here recognize the strategic importance of this mission and we welcome the opportunity to contribute to bringing stability and security to the Afghan people.

Minister Wardek and Minister Atmar, General Bismullah Mohammadi, Deputy Minister Mangal, LTG Karimi – and the Afghan Deputy Ministers, General Officers, Sergeants Major of the Army Roshan – I am proud to have been in this position to assist you as you lead the development of the Ministries of Defense and Interior – and the Afghan National Army and Police. I admire your patriotism, I appreciate your leadership, I respect your courage, and I value your friendship.

The people of Afghanistan will one day know the fruits of peace, prosperity, stability and security. When they do, it will largely be the results of your determined efforts.

Ambassadors and distinguished

members of the international community, our EUPOL and UNAMA partners, thank you for the tremendous spirit of cooperation and the unified purpose to build and develop a better Afghanistan. CSTC-A is proud to partner with you. Today we formally activate NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan. We embrace NATO and its commitment to this important mission here.

General McChrystal, CSM Hall, Lt Gen Dutton, Major General Lechevallier and the leaders of ISAF, IJC, and the formations you represent: thank you for your courageous leadership and unyielding focus on this strategically important mission. The success of this mission and the safety & welfare of our troops will remain in my thoughts and in my prayers.

To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Policeman, and Civilians of CSTC-A – it has been my honor to serve and to serve with you. Thank you for being who you are – and for what you do every day. Thank you, too, to your families and friends back home.

Even as I depart to join my family, I remain mindful of the many sacrifices of yours at home.

To Lieutenant General Bill Caldwell – I wish you all the best as you take command of this NATO Joint Command – building sustainable capacity and capability of the ANA and the ANP is the critical element to success here in Afghanistan. You are the right general officer to lead this effort at

this critical time.

When I assumed command last December, I commented in my change of command speech about the people I had met during my preparation for this assignment. I made the observation then that everyone who had served here – for whose duties had responsibilities here – seemed to be touched by this place. They had a sort of bug that they couldn't or wouldn't shake. My observation then was that three characteristics tied those people in common.

- They all had a profound respect and admiration for the Afghan people.
- They were committed to the mission.
- They were convinced that the mission was achievable.

After nearly 12 months here, I have that bug. I have a profound respect and admiration for the Afghan people. I share your commitment to this mission. And I remain convinced that this mission is achievable.

Guided by the premise that “sometimes you have to listen to the mountains,” committed to the good people of Afghanistan, and bound together with a common purpose, we will see this through – and we will help the ANSF provide security and stability to the people of Afghanistan. We are and we shall remain one team together.

God bless you all.

Tashakur. Yak Team Wahed!



Photo by Chief Petty Officer Francis J. Carroll
Army Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica, center, hands the command guidon to Gen. Stanley McChrystal, right, International Security Assistance Force and the U.S. Forces - Afghanistan commander, during a ceremony marking the change of command prior to the official activation of NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan at Camp Eggers in Kabul.

NTM-A Activation and CSTC-A Change of Command



During ceremonies held on November 21, 2009, as seen in the picture (bottom), Polish Army Sergeant Mariusz Pryzgon and Warrant Officer Rafal Marciniak raise the NATO flag for the first time over Camp Eggers marking the official activation of the NATO Training Mission – Kabul, Afghanistan. During the ceremony, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV, top picture, left, assumed command from Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica, and the Combined Security Transition Command –Afghanistan merged with the newly activated NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan to create a unified command responsible for building capability and capacity within the Afghan Ministries of Defense and Interior.



Transitions: New Commander, New NATO Command; New Challenges



Command Sgt. Maj. Turner

By Command Sgt. Maj.
Larry S. Turner
NTM-A Command Sergeant Major

To all of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilians, Contractors, Coalition and NATO Forces who have just arrived here on Camp Eggers, I would like to say welcome and thank you for your service. As you may already know, we have lost our Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica. As his tour comes to an end and he prepares to take on

new challenges in his career, we remember all of the great things he did here for the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan. I would also like to welcome Lt. Gen. Caldwell and wish him great success as he transitions into command and activates NTM-A.

Maj. Gen. Formica served as the Commanding General of CSTC-A since December of 2008. Although I had only had the honor of serving with him since August of 2009, I have witnessed the profound effect he had on everyone who has crossed his path. Maj. Gen Formica has been completely dedicated to the Afghan National Security Forces and to the

Afghan people. His unwavering compassion for Civilians, Servicemembers and Afghans alike has really shaped the atmosphere of this command. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to serve as Maj. Gen. Formica’s Command Sergeant Major. As the new Commanding General and his team transition in, I look forward to new challenges and fresh ideas. I wish Lt. Gen. Caldwell the best of luck as he takes command. The new commander can be sure that the enlisted Servicemembers of NTM-A / CSTC-A will continue to work hard and diligently to accomplish the mission.

As we approach the holiday season, I encourage all of you to stay in touch with your family and friends. Staying connected is essential to reducing anxiety and helping to cope with the stresses of being separated at this meaningful time of the year. As important as it is to stay connected with your loved ones, it is also very important to stay connected with your fellow Servicemembers here in theater. This time of year can often be very difficult for some, so if you notice a change in a coworker or battle buddy, be sure to talk to them and make sure they’re feeling alright. Look out for one another.

In closing, I would like to once again thank all of the Servicemembers serving with NTM-A / CSTC-A – Afghanistan. Without your hard work and dedication we would not be able to achieve our mission here in Afghanistan. Please keep up the good work and have a great holiday season.



Photo by U.S. Air Force SrA. Evelyn Chavez

An Afghan National Army soldier provides simulated medical attention during the first Combat Medic Competition at Forward Operating Base Thunder. The objective of the competition is to improve medics’ knowledge of medicine and to increase unity in the 203rd Corps medical community. A timed, forced footmarch, medical evacuation, hands-on demonstrations and lectures, and a marksmanship competition were some of the events that took place throughout the four-day event.

Up Close with Maj. Gen. Abdul Alim Kohistani

Originally from Kapisa province, Major General Abdul Alim Kohistani Shamshad, 202 Regional Command Headquarter's Commander, graduated from the police academy in 1981. General Kohistani has served the Afghan armed forces for nearly 29 years, and was appointed to his current post as the Capital Zone Commander 4 years ago.

How is Capital Jumpstart progressing?

The jumpstart program began in Kabul and it's a wonderful program for increasing the capabilities of the ANP. Kabul zone is not directly under my command, but as far as I know, about 700 police officers have graduated from the course. Due to recent election developments and issues, the course has been suspended, but we anticipate it being restarted in 3 months.

What are the other main ANP training initiatives and how are they progressing?

The very successful ANP training courses include a three-week training seminar that all ANP personnel are required to complete. The course covers computer familiarization, management, logistics, and also financial and accountability courses. All these courses are mission critical for new recruits.

How is recruiting progressing in the central district?

The recruitment process in Shamshad 202 Regional Command Headquarters is progressing very successfully in all 10 provinces that are in our area of responsibility. We even have more potential recruits than our tashkil can accommodate.

How would you assess the police response to recent acts of aggression by the enemies of peace and stability?

We are proud of our police. I am proud

that I am the commander for one of the zones of my country and that I am able to serve the people to bring peace and stability in our region. During the last six months, we had about 88 martyrs and about 144 wounded, most severely. I believe these sacrifices show our dedication to our mission.

“We are proud of our police. I am proud that I am the commander for one of the zones of my country and that I am able to serve the people to bring peace and stability in our region.”

-Maj. Gen. Abdul Alim Kohistani

What improvements do you see in the ANP in the coming year?

When I started my job I was alone, but now we have more than 16,000 ANP members in my zone and they are developing and getting better day

by day. My hope is that we will receive higher authority from MoI, and continue success in our training initiatives, especially in our new public protection program.

What challenges have you overcome in the last year?

Our main problem was lack of police presence in many districts. There were also issues paying our personnel. Another problem we faced was lack of weaponry to fight the insurgency. We anticipate solving these issues in the coming year.

What are some of the positive changes you have seen in the last year?

We had many positive changes. Fortunately, in my zone's area of responsibility poppy cultivation has been reduced to zero, which is a big achievement. Also 95 percent of our people are now paid directly through a local bank. Our mentors and NTM-A/CSTC-A now say we are doing well and we would like to maintain this momentum for the future.



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Hall
Major General Abdul Alim Kohistani, Shamshad Headquarter Commander, discusses the current state of the ANP in the Central zone. Shamshad oversees 16,000 ANP in ten provinces.

NATO Training Command Officially Activated in Kabul



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Mobley

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV, right, salutes the CSTC-A flag during the ceremony marking the change of command and the official activation of the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan at Camp Eggers in Kabul.

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class
Damien E. Horvath

NTM-A Public Affairs

NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, a new NATO command, was activated 21 Nov. 2009 at Camp Eggers in Kabul, and then merged with the Combined Security Transition Command –Afghanistan to create a unified command to train of the Afghan National Security Forces.

This multi-nation partnership will foster new and existing relationships and build on the already expanding task of training and mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces in preparation for the future security and sustainment of Afghanistan.

“Our mission is about teaming with Afghans to build a bright, dynamic future for this sovereign nation. As the NTM-A/CSTC-A mission has evolved, so has the mindset governing our outlook and perspective,” said Army Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV, the new commander of NTM-A and CSTC-A. “This new mindset, a mindset that challenges us to focus on the people of Afghanistan, requires us to be agile, adaptive, culturally respectful, and innovative. With this mission, and this new mindset, the path to success for NTM-A/CSTC-A lies with 3 T’s: teaming, transparency and transition.”

Lt. Gen. Caldwell went further to explain the 3 T’s. Teaming emphasizes the necessity to sustain and build new friendships and

professional relations with NATO allies and partners, the citizens of Afghanistan, and ANSF. Transparency includes clear and open lines of communication within partnerships and the international community.

“The work of this command is the foundation of ISAF’s mission, unlike other military forces across the centuries, we are not here to conquer Afghanistan, but to help it stand on its own.”

–U.S. Army General Stanley A. McChrystal
Commander, ISAF and Commander, USFOR-A

Lastly, Lt. Gen. Caldwell explained transition as “a mature, prosperous relationship in the global community predicated on respect, peace and an enduring partnership.”

Afghan Minister of Defense, H.E. Abdul Rahim Wardak, Afghan Minister of the Interior H.E. Mohammad Hanif Atmar, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander, International Security Assistance Force, commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, and more than 400 Coalition Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen, Marines, Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors, and partner nation representatives attended the activation.

Gen. McChrystal discussed the significance of the establishment of NTM-A, and the command’s importance as an institutional and developmental training tool for the Afghan National Security Forces.

“The work of this command is the foundation of ISAF’s mission,” said General McChrystal. “Unlike other military forces across the centuries, we are not here to conquer Afghanistan, but to help it stand on its own.”

In his speech, Minister Atmar, promised the continuance of professionalism and dedication to Lt. Gen. Caldwell.

“Let me assure you General Caldwell that you will have very strong and committed friends, brothers and sisters on your side,” said Atmar. “We will do everything to achieve this noble cause for the growth of ANSF and the land they defend and protect.”

Preceding the activation of NTM-A, an official change-of-command ceremony was held at Camp Eggers where Lt. Gen. Caldwell assumed command from Maj. Gen. Formica.

The former commander, Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica, applauded previous successes while looking to the future with a sense of optimism and pride with the establishment of NTM-A. General Formica also took a moment to personally recognize and congratulate the leaders of Afghanistan.

“It has been my honor and privilege to serve here in Afghanistan,” said Maj. Gen. Formica. “Those of us who serve here recognize the strategic importance of this mission and we welcome the opportunity to contribute to bringing stability and security to the people of Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan will one day know the fruits of peace, prosperity, stability and security. And when they do, it will largely be the results of your determined efforts.”

Minister Wardak extended his gratitude and appreciation for the accomplishments of Maj. Gen. Formica.

“I’m sure he will be welcome once again to come with his lady and to see this Phoenix, my beloved Afghanistan, that has risen from the ashes of destruction, tyranny and war and got its full wings and is flying up and up over the snow covered peaks of the mountain sky,” he said.

NMAA Hopefuls Take Entrance Exam

Story and photo by U.S. Air Force
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Dow
NTM-A PAMT

More than 3,000 candidates from Afghanistan's 34 provinces came to the National Afghan Military Academy in Kabul to take the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education's college entrance exam in late October.

"I am very proud today," said Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Mohammad Sharif, Commander of NMAA. "Today we have representatives from all over Afghanistan. This is an opportunity for these applicants to become cadets and then become officers for the ANA. This gives us the hope that we are moving towards the professionalizing of the ANA."

The candidates competed for approximately 450 slots at the prestigious, West Point-style military academy. Along with their test scores and results of their fitness exam, other factors are included to ensure Afghanistan's wide range of ethnic and provincial diversity are represented at NMAA.

"They will also be looked at for their ethnicity and their province," said U.S. Air Force Col. James Cook, senior academic mentor at NMAA. "Based on the division

of the provinces in terms of percentage of population, they will be admitted or not depending on their Koncor score, as well as, the composite of their physical fitness and interview scores."

While the Afghan candidates had different reasons for coming to Kabul to try for a spot at NMAA, the central theme was service to their country.

"Since I was a child I was very interested in coming to join the military," said candidate Mohammad Nazir. "As we see the enemy activities are increasing day by day. It is our youth's responsibility to come and join the army to defeat those security threats. I am appealing to our high ranking officials to give more opportunities to our youth to come and join the army."

"I am here because I want to serve my community and society," said candidate Wahid Ullah. "We are witnesses to the attacks that are getting stronger every day. I should defend our country and destroy the enemies of Afghanistan."

It was not just men hoping to further their education and serve their country. A large group of Afghan women also tested, hoping to make the cut.

"This is a record number of women," said Colonel Cook. "We were told 62 are

testing. That's many more than last year. They will be competing for about 10 slots as pre-medical students."

Of the 3,027 applicants, 62 of which were women, 400 regular cadets are expected to be admitted to study at NMAA for four years, and 50 medical students who will study for one year.

Similar to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in the United States, there is a core curriculum. Following completion of the basic courses, cadets will choose their major curriculum. They can study civil engineering, law or computer science majors. Next year, NMAA plans to introduce two new majors; Language and culture, as well as, general science and engineering.

While the focus of NMAA is academics, the candidates also learn skills needed to lead troops in the field.

"We have a military studies department that teaches a great deal about the theory of being in the military and especially about being an officer," said Cook. "Over the summer, they do field exercises that last for up to 50 days where they live outdoors, train on a number of weapons and learn how to maneuver. They learn what an officer will have to know."



More than 3,000 Afghan men and women from all 34 provinces in Afghanistan take the National Military Academy of Afghanistan's entrance exam.

Logistics Stressed in Paktya at ANA Seminar

Story and photos by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Evelyn Chavez

RC-E PAMT

A recent seminar in eastern Afghanistan has done much to lay the groundwork for the needed transition to a modern logistics system.

The Afghan Ministry of Defense recently held a three-day seminar at Forward Operating Base Thunder in the Gardez District, Paktya Province, bringing representatives together from every brigade in the Afghan National Army's 203rd Corps.

According to Col. Ali Shah Kazimi, logistics officer for the ANA 203rd Corps, the intent was to establish and explain supply and logistics standards for the 71 seminar participants and their respective units.

"The seminar is to introduce the updated processes; to familiarize troops with the new process rather than the old one," said Kazimi.

The old process, known as Decree 4.0, serves as a guide for ordering and tracking supplies. By using the new process, Decree 4.2, forms will be more relevant, and be easier to fill out and complete. "The participants in the seminar will share the updated information with their home units," said Kazimi. "Every Afghan unit, from



Afghan National Army Soldiers unload boxes at Forward Operating Base Thunder. The ANA's 203rd Corps is training their personnel on improving their logistical abilities through a three-day seminar.

kandaks to brigades, will be able to understand and complete the necessary forms."

While simplicity and time saved in completing forms is important for the Afghan National Security Forces, an even more important lesson was learned through the seminar.

"We want to talk about accountability for training and reporting," said U.S. Army Maj. Frank E. Holder, CJTF-82 G4 Logistics Partner to the ANA's 203rd Corps.

"We are here at the request of the ANA. If we can show progress, we walk away feeling like we did something," said Holder. "The main goal of the seminar from the U.S. perspective was to make sure Afghans and coalition partners were in sync, and the U.S. guidance was their baseline and they understood it."

The seminar participants acquired valuable systems knowledge of their logistics organization and also learned the scientific reasons of why they are doing what they are doing.

"The benefit of this seminar is also socialization. Subordinate units are able to socialize and develop contacts. The result of that would be them working laterally to solve problems in addition to the introduction of the MoD system," said U.S. Army Maj. Robert Neave,

CJTF-82 G4 Logistics Partner to the ANA's 203rd Corps.

Every Afghan unit, from kandaks to brigades, will be able to understand and complete the necessary forms.

-COL. Ali Shah Kazimi
logistics officer for ANA 203rd Corps

New ANA logistics personnel, who haven't received the training for the Decree 4.2 process yet, will be introduced to the new concepts with the help of their new training manuals.

"We're going to give the [ANA Logistics Mentor Training Handbook] to each kandak for the baseline standard," said Holder.

Meaningful success will also come in the form of successful winterization of facilities, vehicle and clothing requests, and making sure the Afghan property book officers know how to track requests.

"We're here to help Afghans make progress, and if we can do it together, that's even better," said Holder.

According to Holder, seminars like this one are good ways to demystify the system so it does not intimidate people. The seminar format also leads to a variety of discussions.



Maj. Gen. Abdul Khaliq, Afghan National Army 203rd Corps commander, shares information about Regional Command-East security plans and combined operations during a press conference at Forward Operating Base Thunder

Afghan Physicians Train at Kandahar Regional Military Hospital

By U.S. Air Force Capt. James Bressendorff
205th Corps RC-S PAMT

Afghan physicians in Kandahar, Afghanistan recently received training on critical care and the blood component process from Afghan and coalition mentors assigned to the National Military Hospital in Kabul.

The two courses were designed to fill shortfalls in health care provider training, as well as, strengthen the Afghan physicians ability to provide quality care within the first critical moments immediately after an incident occurs.

“The important thing I think that we’ve seen from this visit is Afghans teaching Afghans,” said Riggs.

- U.S. Navy Cmdr. Leslie Riggs
Medical Embedded Team mentor

“This training is very important for us,” said the Kandahar Regional Military Hospital Commander, Col. Abdul Baseer. “About two years ago when we started our hospital here our doctors were not as strong in their practice as they could have been. Since then, mentors and doctors came from the capital and from other provinces to help train our hospital staff,



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyrona Pearsall

An Afghan soldier is prepped for blood donation. Dr. Muhammad, National Military Hospital, Kabul, demonstrates the proper techniques to a successful blood withdrawal

and our [hospital capability] kept growing. Now it’s very good,” said Baseer. “For example, one year ago I started work with the Intensive Care Unit. At that time my personnel, nurses and doctors were not strong in the ICU. For this reason, I started focusing on training my ICU ward. My ICU is better now than all the regional military hospitals. But the reason for that is training, training, training.”

The importance of the training was also underscored by U.S. Air Force Col. Lorn Heyne, chief of the Medical Embedded Training Team, Kandahar Regional Military Hospital.

“What you’re seeing here is a training team that has come down from the NMH in Kabul to train our new providers on the critical care aspect of taking care of our trauma patients,” said Heyne. “It’s very important to have this kind of training because of the sustainment aspect. As these young providers grow in their ability to provide care to the wounded soldiers here, they will eventually move on. They will have the opportunity to train other providers and they will go on and they will treat civilians. Having this basic critical care knowledge is invaluable to the sustainment of the medical care system in all of Afghanistan.”

In addition to the critical combat care training, KRMH staff trained on the blood component process.

“We worked on some blood component production that is essentially the collection of whole blood, then the centrifugation and splitting of the plasma and red cell portions into separate components,” said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Leslie Riggs, Medical Embedded Team mentor for the NMH, Kabul.

“What that does is it allows for better transfusion therapy for the patient. A lot of times the patient will need something along the lines of oxygen-carrying capacity which the red cells can do. Sometimes they’ll need things like coagulation factors which is primarily the plasma portion.”

Another benefit of the training, in addition to the technical aspect of the process, was to implement an Afghanistan-wide standardization of how to treat and store blood and associated components.

“We want to organize all regional hospital blood banks to work the same way. So I am here to train blood bank



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyrona Pearsall
Soldiers from the Afghan National Army volunteered to donate blood during training that covered blood component production. Before giving blood, applicants must first register and answer a series of questions. Each applicant was interviewed by a doctor or lab tech to ensure they qualified for safe blood donation.

officials to standardize their practices,” said Dr. Mohammad Sakhi, blood bank supervisor and quality control manager at NMH, Kabul.

Although the success of most medical training is not immediately measurable until the moment of a crisis, the training being received by the KRMH staff did have some very tangible results.

“I think so far the training is a success. The proof of that is in the refrigerator and in the freezer right now,” said Riggs. “The blood units and the plasma are ready when needed. We don’t like to have to use those products, but they’re there if needed.”

Riggs also commented on one aspect of the training he finds most important.

“The important thing I think that we’ve seen from this visit is Afghans teaching Afghans,” said Riggs. “I’ve come down to help arrange the visit, provided some background knowledge, but my mentee was able to sit this morning and teach one on one with his Afghan counterparts here in Kandahar how to do the job. Essentially they did it themselves.”

AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY



An Afghan man leads his son and father outside after they receive medical care at a cooperative medical engagement site near the Afghan National Army's Camp Zafar.



An Afghan National Army medic trains for medical rescue operations while another ANA Soldier plays the role of the injured patient.



205th ANA Corps Coalition Mentor Team and the TF Spartan 1/205th Corps LST conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly paved road in Angurian Village.

SECURITY FORCES IN ACTION



An Afghan National Police patrolman and a bomb-sniffing dog inspect vehicles at the Ministry of Interior. Dogs are a recent addition to the Mol's toolkit and are making a large impact.



Lt. Col. Muhammad Arif (right), Afghan National Army Air Corps Mi-17 pilot, talks to the air traffic control tower while 1st Lt. Gulabuddin Ghunchagul (center), Air Corps flight engineer, and Lt. Col. John Holm (left), 438th Air Expeditionary Wing/Combined Air Power Transition Force rotary wing mentor, check their surroundings during the flight simulator portion of the new Mi-17 training course.



Soldiers from the Afghan National Army volunteer to donate blood during training that covers blood component production. Each applicant was interviewed by a doctor of lab tech to ensure they qualify for safe blood transfer.



Gen. Bismillah Khan Mohammadi (left) samples a piece of fresh naan, the traditional bread of Afghanistan, while reviewing his schedule in the Forward Operating Base Thunder dining facility, Gardez District.

ANA Opens Garrison Headquarters in Farah

Story and photos by U.S. Air Force
Senior Airman Marc Lane

RC-W PAMT

Afghan and coalition officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony in Farah, Afghanistan to celebrate the completion of major construction and the opening of the Afghan National Army Farah Region Garrison.

The \$68 million project for the garrison, started March 2008, was designed and built by a joint venture of the Fazitallah Construction and Engineering Company and United Infrastructure Projects, with oversight provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The governor of Farah, Roohui Amin, represented the citizens of Farah Province at the opening ceremony as the keynote speaker. Governor Amin said he was pleased with the appearance of the facility and appreciative of the funding from the United States.

“The people of Farah and the people of Afghanistan are thankful for the people who came here and funded this project, and for the hard work that went into the design and construction of this project,” said Governor Amin. “Thank you to the Army Corps of Engineers and to FCEC and UIP for your involvement in this project. It is because of them



Roohui Amin, Farah governor, represented the citizens of Farah Province as the keynote speaker at the Afghan National Army Farah Garrison ribbon cutting ceremony near Farah.

we have a great facility for our ANA.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through the Afghanistan Engineer District – South, administers construction contracts, provides construction oversight and engineering, and technical support for ANA, Afghan National Police and other Afghan National Security Forces facilities throughout Afghanistan.

“This facility and the people in this room are part of the history of Afghanistan and the Farah province,” said U.S. Army Col. Kevin Wilson, USACE Afghanistan Engineer District – South commander. “It has been a privilege to work with and support the ANA and the 207th Corps.”

FCEC, an Afghanistan-based and owned company, was represented by the owner Ghulam Rasul Tarshi. Mr. Tarshi spoke about his experience working with the USACE.

“We started working very closely with the Army Corps of Engineers about five years ago,” said Tarshi. “They have taught us how to perform with a very high standard of quality in our work.”

The new garrison facility will support 2,000 personnel. The facility has barracks, showers and latrines, storage facilities, dining facilities, power plants and electrical distribution systems, communication systems, a sanitary sewer collection system and waste water treatment, water source and distribution system and a road network inside of the compound, as well as, an access road connecting the compound with the city of Farah.



Hundreds of local citizens and dignitaries attend a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Afghan National Army Farah Region Garrison.

Kandahar Air Wing Takes Flight

Story by U.S. Air Force
Lt. Col. David Peeler

CAPTF 438th AETG

The Afghan National Army Air Corps recently stood up its second of three planned air wings. Standing in front of several hundred invited guests and a formation of Kandahar Air Wing soldiers and airmen, Maj. Gen. Abdul Raziq Sherzai took command of the Kandahar Air Wing from Lt. Gen. Noori, deputy chief of the general staff.

“We’re so happy that the Air corps built an Air Wing for Kandahar Province. All the Afghan people were waiting for this great day. They say congratulations to the Afghan government and Afghan people,” said Gen Sherzai.

The ceremony continued a process begun a year earlier when pilots, maintainers and associated support personnel in Kandahar began working with U.S. mentors. The activation of the wing, while a significant achievement, was a measurable step along the path of building an effective and sustainable

Kandahar Air Wing. The personnel, equipment, and infrastructure currently employed in the wing’s daily mission attest to the progress already made.

“Leadership is key. Maj Gen Sherzai surrounds himself with competent and motivated military professionals,” said Colonel Mark Nichols, 438 AETG/CC.

A growing core of U.S. mentors continues to work with the Afghan airmen to strengthen the air wing.

Significant progress is evident in the wing’s on-going participation in Afghanistan National Security Forces mobility operations, election support, and higher ANA taskings. The flight operations are the most visible mission of the Kandahar Air Wing, but flight operations would be impossible if not for the hundreds of Afghan soldiers and airmen that make them possible. They maintain the aircraft and associated ground equipment, provide intelligence and pre-/post-briefings to aircrews, feed the wing populace, administer and pay the personnel, acquire the necessary supplies and materials, man the fire

trucks, perform medical evacuation support, and provide force protection.

The wing will continue to grow with the opening of the next phase of facilities, currently under construction, and the next large addition of personnel to the wing. The wing’s manning has recently doubled and is scheduled to double yet again in the near term. An increase in aircraft is also planned to match the increase in personnel.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Thomas Dow

An Afghan National Army Air Corps weapons crew load a rocket onto an Mi-35 helicopter.

ANA Upgrades Inventory System

Story and screen capture by
Pamela Smith

NTM-A Public Affairs

Afghan workers at Depot Zero, the largest military supply warehouse in Afghanistan, recently received an upgrade to their inventory system.

This modern system is computerized and allows the warehouse to receive and ship inventoried materials faster and more accurately than they ever have using paper.

“They were taking everything manually and writing on stacks of paper. Then they would store these papers in big closets. Whenever you needed something, you would say, ‘hey, I’m looking for a document’, and they would open up this closet and there’s this long stack of papers that they had to go through individually to find what you were looking for,” said Air Force TSgt. Kevin Stiff, ANA logistics mentor.



Shelves in Depot Zero are stocked with the Afghan National Army’s winter issue. Over the next four weeks, all Afghan units are scheduled to receive this critical supply. Computers greatly enhance this process.

Since the upgrade, two computer rooms have replaced the old paper storage areas and made it a lot easier to locate documents.

“I have been training on this system for a month and it is very easy to learn. Under the old system, it took up to ten people to account for an item in the warehouse. Today, I can account for the

item all by myself and I can do this very quickly,” said Wahidullah Managzai, Afghan National Army officer.

Depot Zero is the sustainment depot for the entire ANA. Afghan leaders chose to establish a new computer system to track and maintain visibility on all materials stored and shipped to the warehouse.

“We have always had very accurate and transparent accountability procedures with our manual tracking system, but now we have started the new digital electronics system. With

this system, our accuracy, speed, and production will increase,” said Col. Ali Gawhar, Central Support Depot commander.

As the ANA grows larger, this new system provides a more efficient way to get supplies to the soldiers fighting for the security of Afghanistan.

Dedicating Afghanistan's Modern Airlift Capability

Story by Brigadier General Michael R. Boera
**Combined Air Power Transition
 Force Commander, 438th Air
 Expeditionary Wing**

Observers at the Kabul International Airport witnessed the beginning of a new era in military aviation. A ceremony dedicating the first two, of twenty planned, C-27s into the Afghan National Army Air Corps marked the culmination of fourteen months of effort by the government of Afghanistan and the Combined Air Power Transition Force of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, a team of embedded air power mentors who partner with the ANAAC to modernize and expand Afghanistan's military aviation capabilities.

Major General Mohammad Dawran, the commander of the ANAAC, opened the ceremony by highlighting the role of the C-27 in helping the Afghan National Army achieve its ambitions for "integrity, self-sufficiency, and independence." He emphasized that the new tactical airlift capabilities afforded by the C-27 will help the ANAAC meet its responsibilities to protect Afghan society by standing against terrorism and insurgency. General Dawran's comments reflect his understanding of the need for demonstrative advances in the professionalism and capabilities of Afghanistan's security forces, a shared goal of Afghanistan's government and the coalition nations working to restore stability here.

"An undeniable requirement which will allow us to operate independently. . . This is the objective and goal of my people, my government, my President, and the international community."

- Abdul Rahim Wardak
 Afghanistan's Minister of Defense,

General Stanley McChrystal, the commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, looked forward to the medium airlift capabilities the new aircraft will bring to Afghanistan's indigenous security forces. "With the delivery of the C-27, the brave and skilled



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Thomas Dow

A pair of recently donated C-27s taxi down the ANAACs' runway in Kabul following their arrival from Naples, Italy Nov. 12. The two aircraft were completely refurbished and flown to Afghanistan to help modernize the Air Corps aerial fleet.

pilots of the Air Corps gain the ability to conduct many of the same airlift missions done by coalition forces in defense of their country," said General McChrystal. He listed the tracking of Taliban forces, the movement of soldiers, delivery of supplies, and evacuation of wounded soldiers as essential missions that the C-27 can accomplish. General McChrystal also thanked coalition organizations who facilitated the delivery of the aircraft.

"By listening to our Afghan partners and delivering a capability suited to their needs, you've helped the Air Corps make an impressive entry into the global community of airmen," he said.

In ISAF's effort to help the ANAAC assume responsibility for essential internal security tasks, the C-27 is an ideal choice. The twin-engine turboprop can carry up to 44 passengers, more than 23,000 pounds of cargo and fuel, and can land on unimproved fields as short as 3,000 feet. These capabilities make the aircraft valuable in Afghanistan, whose mountainous terrain and limited road network—which is further constrained by the threat of roadside bombs—make air power critical to the mobility of Afghanistan. The C-27 is equipped with a cargo rolling system for easy loading and unloading of palletized cargo. It carries litter stanchions for medical evacuation, transports heavy vehicles, and is equipped for airdrop of supplies. As past experience in counterinsurgency warfare has shown, the ability to carry supplies, transport troops, and return wounded to medical facilities are the most important basic tasks

that airplanes can accomplish. This is why the ANAAC and CAPTF have worked to make the C-27 their first priority in acquiring newly refurbished aircraft.

Afghanistan's Minister of Defense, Abdul Rahim Wardak, closed the ceremony with a word of thanks for the coalition partners who financed and facilitated the \$290 million initial C-27 purchase. It is, he said, "an undeniable requirement which will allow us to operate independently. This is the objective and goal of my people, my government, my President, and the international community." Minister of Defense Wardak pledged that Afghanistan would make the best use of the new aircraft and take care of them responsibly. He expressed gratitude for coalition efforts to revive air power in Afghanistan, and stated that the government looked forward to the continuation of these vital efforts.

With the transfer of the log book from CG, CAPTF to Maj. Gen. Dawran the hangar doors opened to reveal the C-27s to all and then the assembled guests were invited outside to admire the new aircraft. Its delivery marks the commitment of the coalition to the continued growth and modernization of the ANAAC in particular and to the Afghanistan National Security Forces as a whole. The embedded partnership represented in this airframe is symbolic of the teamwork and trust between Afghan patriots and coalition advisors throughout Afghanistan. This teamwork is professionalizing army and police forces throughout the country, enabling Afghanistan to take responsibility for its own security.

ANA Lifesavers Compete for “Best Medic”

Story by U.S. Air Force TSgt. Jennifer Lindsey
RC-E PAMT

As Afghan National Army Sgt. Ghulam Rasool Haidary secured the tourniquet in record time to stop the simulated bleeding of the soldier’s leg and dashed into the last leg of the foot march, he knew he had a chance to win.

The Afghan National Army non-commissioned officer worked hard to achieve his mother’s wish, for him to take first place in the Inaugural Afghan National Army Combat Medic Challenge in October at Forward Operating Base Thunder, Gardez, Afghanistan.

Months of preparation for the event in the form of running, reading medical books, and doing calisthenics paid off for Haidary, 23, who won first place. The competition proved tough. He scored one point ahead of second place by crossing the finish line of the 6.5-mile mountainous foot march in 60 minutes.

Medics are important because, should a soldier get injured in the field, the medic can provide treatment and save lives.

- Brig. Gen. Zahoor, ANA deputy surgeon general

The five-year ANA veteran from the Bamyan Province competed for the “best medic” title with 45 other army medics from 15 eastern region battalions. The competitors tested their marksmanship, combat lifesaver and medical evacuation assistance skills Oct. 10 through 14. The final event was a 6.5-mile, timed foot march with three additional strategically placed combat scenarios.

“The objective of this competition is for the medics to learn, have fun, build camaraderie and to inspire the ANA medics to improve through the spirit of competition,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. James Jones, chief event coordinator, 5th Kandak Embedded Training Team chief, and 203rd Medical Corps surgeon general partner.

Jones shared the idea of a medic competition with the 203rd Corps Surgeon General, Col. (Dr.) Khwaja Turabaz Sidiqi, whom he advises, as a way to emphasize common areas for improvement in combat



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Evelyn Chavez
Sergeant Ghulam Rasool Haidary splints and bandages a soldier’s simulated broken arm during the inaugural Afghan National Army Combat Medic Challenge at Forward Operating Base Thunder, Gardez, Afghanistan. The 23-year-old, five-year Afghan National Army veteran vied for the best medic title with 45 other army medics from 15 eastern region battalions, and won first place.

care within the ANA medical corps. Events and refresher-training curriculum were carefully researched, pared down for easily understandable instruction to medics of every educational level, and interpreted into Dari.

With nearly six months of detailed planning, preparation, support and guidance from U.S. and coalition servicemembers, the 203rd Corps now has the experience and instruction on

how to continue and possibly expand the event nationally in the future, said Jones, deployed from Randolph Air Force Base and hometown in Eugene, Oregon.

“This competition was valuable for the medics because they gained experiences for the future and will take the skills they learned or improved upon back to their units to teach to their fellow medics,” said Capt. Farid Mahad, ANA forces company commander. Skilled medics are a precious resource to the ANA as there is a shortage of them.

“Medics are important because, should a soldier get injured on the field, the medic can provide treatment and save lives,” said Brig. Gen. Zahoor, ANA deputy surgeon general. “It takes a doctor seven years to graduate, and medics and nurses two months, which is important to the future of Afghanistan.”

Serving as a medic is more than just a good job in the war-torn nation, it’s a way of helping others and the nation he loves, said ANA Sgt. Mohammed a Salem of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division.

“My message is to all Afghans, inside and outside the country. ‘The people, the ANA and the country need you. Come along and join the ANA and the medics and help rebuild your country,’” said Sergeant Salem.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Evelyn Chavez
An Afghan National Army soldier shows his third place medal during the first Combat Medic Competition at Forward Operating Base Thunder, Afghanistan.

Training Afghan Intelligence Professionals

Story by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jonathan Battle
NTM-A CJ2

The Afghanistan National Army Intelligence Training Center is co-sponsored by the Afghanistan National Army Training Command and the Afghanistan National Army General Staff G2. This school has been operating at Bala Hissar, Kabul since the summer of 2006 and has had approximately 2,000 students complete various blocks of intelligence-related instruction.

“...everyone should join the ANP and stand shoulder to shoulder against criminals.”

- ANA Col. Shafiq Qurabanzada
Intel Course Student

Bala Hissar is a 1,500 year old fortress in south Kabul. Located on a dominant hilltop overlooking the historic district, this citadel has provided security to military forces and royalty through the occupation of Mogul Emperors, British occupiers, and Soviet invaders.

The Intelligence Training Center hosts three primary courses. The basic intelligence course is conducted in two

phases for a total of 11 weeks. The course focuses on the fundamental skills required of intelligence personnel in a counterinsurgency environment. The Advanced intelligence course is a six-week session and builds on the instruction from the basic intelligence course, incorporating military and combat experience of intelligence professionals. The human intelligence operations course is also a six-week session, and teaches attending students the skills required to gain intelligence from sources that are friendly to the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

“ITC has had a very positive effect on ANA intelligence development for over three years. Their training programs have increased our officers’ capabilities and quality of work,” said a member of the ANA.

The ITC has the flexibility to meet the emerging training needs of the Afghan National Security Forces. As a recent example, the ITC hosted a one-week course specifically focused on training for women of the ANP. This was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense, at the request of MOI, and marked an historic event for the women attending



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kirk Putnam

Women of the ANP work on their final exercise during the last day of the Woman’s Introduction to Intelligence Course at ITC.

the course. Nineteen females graduated from this intelligence operations pilot program course.

The ITC is the only facility in the ANSF specifically focused on training intelligence professionals. As such, attending students represent the MoD, ANA, MoI, ANP and the National Directorate of Security.

“Another possibility for an expanding ITC is a Technical Training Department to focus on how to use new technologies like GPS, digital cameras, and voice recorders. To enhance training provided by ITC we need even more training opportunities in the U.S. and other countries,” said an ANA General.

The ITC has already outgrown the facilities at Bala Hissar, and will soon be moving to its new home in the Sia Sang district of Kabul. The new facility is approximately thirty two acres and will have on-site billets for 400 personnel, workspace for 250 military and civilians, a student capacity of 260, and a dining facility with 250 seats. This new facility will play a key role in developing intelligence professionals to meet the security needs of Afghanistan and its people.



Photo by Akhtar Mohammad

ANA Soldiers wait for their names to be announced during a ceremony where they are presented with their certificate from an Intelligence course at ITC.

Here Comes the Cavalry

Story and photos by U.S. Air Force
Capt. Charles Johnson

TF 1-108 Public Affairs

Recently the 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, took over as advisors to the ANSF in nine districts in Nangarhar Province in late October, from Task Force Gryphon. There was no formal ceremony, just a quiet transfer of authority as the Rough Riders, part of the 48th Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia Army National Guard, were already operating in the area since early October. Some elements of the Rough Riders had been in the area since March on police mentor teams.

As PMTs, Soldiers of the 1-108th were responsible for advising the Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Police as part of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan / Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and were spread across several Afghan provinces. Now, as part of the combined action initiative, they have re-consolidated as a unit, operating under Task Force Mountain Warrior in East Afghanistan.

“The past six months can be viewed as a warm-up for combined action,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Randall Simmons, commander of the Rough Riders. “After working the Embedded Training Team mission in support of the Afghan Army and with so many of our Soldiers working side by side with the ANP and ABP, the transition to our own battle space to



Lt. Col. Randall Simmons, TF 1-108 Rough Rider Commander and State Department Representative Ed Vowell, With the Governor of Shinwar District in Nangarhar Province to discuss security, development and governance issues.

conduct combined action with our Afghan counterparts was natural because we were already doing it.”

The Rough Riders have been out amongst the population, conducting security operations with the Afghan Security Forces, providing humanitarian assistance and development projects to desperate villages, and giving their all to win the confidence and support of the people. Many have faced the enemy in combat already and five have given their life in support of the mission.

“I’m glad to be working with this unit” said Mr. Ed Vowell, a State Department Representative working with the 108th.

“These guys are not afraid to get off the FOB and out into the country.”

The unit’s operations officer, U.S. Army Maj. Andrew McDonald, said “The move is extremely positive. The consolidation of the unit has created great synergy and has made an immediate and positive impact in Nangarhar Province.”

In the past two weeks alone, Simmons, and various members of his staff, have traversed some of the most remote areas of the province, travelling through rocky riverbeds, deserts and enemy-controlled mountain areas to attend more than 15 key leader engagements with district governors, chiefs of police and tribal elders, discussing issues such as security, development and governance.

These engagements and the daily presence patrols demonstrate their commitment to the Afghan people and their determination to make a positive difference in a war-torn nation. Hajji Hazrat Khan, the sub-governor of Shinwar District, was very pleased with the behavior of Simmons and his Soldiers.

“I can tell you we can work with you,” he said, in a recent meeting where he had a lamb slaughtered in the team’s honor. “From what we have seen so far, you understand our tribal structure and show respect to our culture. We appreciate that.”

The Rough Riders have another four months in Nangarhar and their goal is to continue to work diligently and do their part to help build a secure and peaceful Afghan nation.



The Sub-Governor of Shinwar District in Nangarhar Province, Mr. Haji Hazrat Khan, slaughtered a sheep to honor the establishing of a new relationship with LTC Randall Simmons and the 1-108th.

Korea Helps Train and Equip Afghan Medical Soldiers

Staff Report

NTM-A Public Affairs

The Republic of South Korea recently donated ambulances and motorcycles to the Afghan National Police. In Kabul, at the Afghan National Police technical warehouse center, 100 ambulances and 300 motorcycles arrived directly from Korea. This donation by the Korean government is part of an international effort to develop and sustain Afghan National Security Forces.

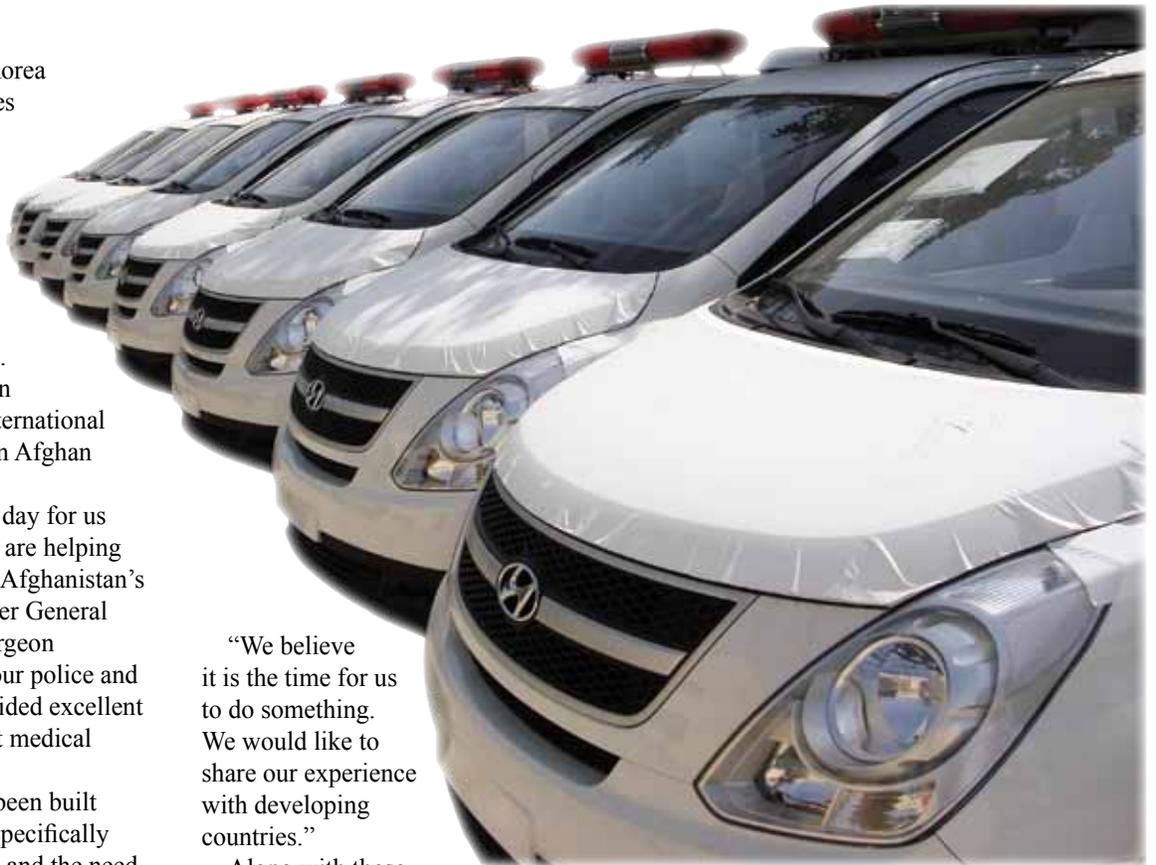
“Today is a very special day for us because our Korean friends are helping us at a most critical time in Afghanistan’s development,” said Brigadier General Qhanahr Shinwari, ANP surgeon general. “Thanks to them, our police and security forces will be provided excellent transportation to the nearest medical facilities.”

These ambulances have been built by Korean manufacturers, specifically designed for Afghan terrain and the need for fuel conservation. Korean officials say that they just want to give something back to the international community.

“We have developed our economy and we also have achieved our political democratization through the international community,” said Song Woong-yeob, Korean ambassador to Afghanistan.



Photo by Ted Martinez
Lifesaving medical equipment donated by Korea is installed in the back of every ambulance.



“We believe it is the time for us to do something. We would like to share our experience with developing countries.”

Along with these life saving vehicles, Afghanistan’s police and soldiers received seven days of training on how to drive the ambulances and work the sophisticated equipment in the back.

“I’ve learned how to operate the modern equipment in this new ambulance and we’ve all learned a lot from the teachers,” said Abdull Karim Rahimi, an Afghan doctor. “Now we can save patients in an emergency situation.”

All of these ambulances will be assigned to either ANA or ANP units throughout Afghanistan. But, before one ambulance departs the Afghan National Police technical warehouse, the receiving unit must send one driver and one doctor to attend the seven day course.

“This course was very effective for us,” said Abdull Subhan Qayumi, a driver who took the course. “I’m a driver and these vehicles are more modern than what I am used to. Now, I know how to operate this vehicle and understand what it is capable of doing.”

For this first time course, more than 90 doctors and drivers attended. Students, trainers and mentors all gained from

the experience.

“It’s almost a highway where we meet in the middle,” said U.S. Air Force Captain David Ferguson, embedded training team mentor. “I’ve learned many experiences from them, while imparting my knowledge on the medical systems.”

Over half of the ambulances donated by Korea were distributed during the first week of November.

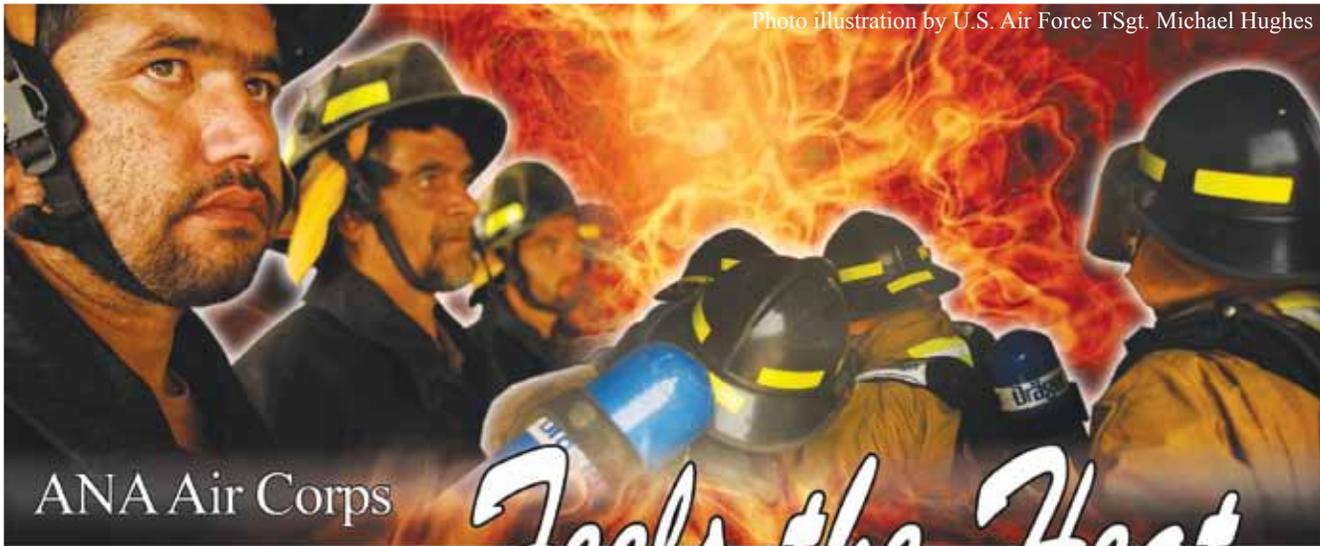
According to Brig. Gen. Anne Macdonald, CSTC’s Assistant Commanding General of Police Development, Korea’s cooperative spirit and expertise in economic and health care management is a most welcome trait.

“The ambulances are so needed here,” said Macdonald. “There are many policemen who make sacrifices on a daily basis and for them to know that there is help that can come to them quickly because of this generous gift of 100 ambulances is wonderful and will make a huge difference, not only for the police, but for all the Afghan National Security Forces.”

Photo by Ted Martinez

The Republic of South Korea donated 100 ambulances and 300 motorcycles to the Afghan National Police to develop and sustain the ANSF.

Photo illustration by U.S. Air Force TSgt. Michael Hughes



Story by U.S. Air Force TSgt. Thomas Dow
NTM-A Public Affairs

Firefighters from the Afghan National Army Air Corps fire department conducted their first live-fire training exercise in a newly built burn house in Kabul recently.

The training is part of an on going fire fighting course developed by the mentors of the Kabul Air Corps Training Center. The course consists of six blocks of instruction that include medical training, safety and history of fire protection, hazardous material awareness, vehicle familiarization and hands-on rescue and fire preparation.

A two-story burn house was built to train the Air Corps in search and rescue techniques, as well as proper structural fire

Feels the Heat

extinguishing procedures.

“We have trained in a burn building at ISAF, but this was the first time we trained in the new building here,” said Sergeant Daud Naeem, Air Corps firefighter. “The burn building is very good because it has free space to allow movement.”

The extra space in the new facility allows the fire training mentors from KACTC to stand beside the Afghans while they fight the blaze.

“This was the first time we were able to get inside with them and show them techniques when an actual building was burning,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt.

Michael Burns, 738th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron’s superintendent of the Ministry of Defense fire academy. “It went really well.”

“The course provides real-world training for firefighting,” said Burns. “It gives them a chance to practice their techniques. So when it comes time for a real fire, they have some hands-on knowledge.”

For Sergeant Naeem, the training was a worthwhile experience.

“We entered the connex and extinguished the fire,” said Naeem. “Our exercise and training were outstanding and successful for everyone involved.”

ANA Conducts Inspector General Seminar

Stories by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Killebrew
EUPOL Press Office

The Afghan National Army Inspector General crest states “Droit et avant,” or “right and forward.” In other words, determine what is right and then act. At a recent Ministry of Defense IG seminar the motto showed how ANA IGs are finding solutions for the issues the military faces daily.

Over 100 MoD General Staff, Corps and Intermediate Command IGs from across Afghanistan attended the IG seminar at the ANA Air Corps conference center. They discussed issues from the perspective of IG’s and sergeants major and made recommendations. Guest speakers included the MoD first Deputy, MoD of Policy and Strategy, MoD of Logistics, MoD of Legal and the Surgeon General. The Vice Chief of Staff and

ANA Sergeant Major also addressed the audience on a variety of readiness topics.

The seminar members participated in working groups that focused on specific problems identified by IGs over the past year, including absences without leave, soldier abuse, personnel management and logistics and equipment accountability.

“The Sergeant Majors are here to give the soldiers’ view of the issues,” said Maj. Gen. Abul Fasil, MoD IG.

The working groups concluded the seminar by briefing their recommendations on identified issues.

In SGM Roshan Safi’s closing comments, he stated, “NCOs should work with IGs to resolve soldiers’ issues.”

Together, with their collected knowledge and experiences, IGs and SGMs determined what was right and how to move forward.

The attendees saw the seminar, and its working groups, as a giant step toward resolving the issues they identified.



Official U.S. Photo
Afghan Sgt. Maj. Roshan Safi attended and spoke at the Ministry of Defense’s Inspector General seminar with other guest speakers including the AMoD of Policy and Strategy, AMoD of Logistics, AMoD of Legal, the Surgeon General and the Vice Chief of Staff.

ANP Recruiting Program Rapidly Expands

Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class
Kirk Putnam

NTM-A Public Affairs



Photo courtesy of ANP Col. Feda Wakil
ANP General Aziza (left) returns a salute from a colonel during a ceremony for International Women's Day.

The Afghan National Police are making great strides in developing their recruiting program to meet the needs of a growing organization. With the help of NTM-A/CSTC-A mentors, the deputy chief of recruiting at the Ministry of Interior, Col. Feda Wakil, and the ANP, it is consistently making new strides toward building a quality police force.

“We act as liaison and mentor for Col. Wakil at the MoI, essentially to achieve specific initiatives that are approved by the international community and NTM-A/CSTC-A. We help him get the resources he needs and keep him informed of different initiatives and objectives that need to be reached,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Sharon Nickelberry, mentor to the Deputy Chief of Recruiting for ANP.

As part of the ANP recruiting mission, Wakil travels to various provinces once a month to visit with leaders, mullahs and citizens. He discusses the importance of the ANP and how people can work with the police force.

“We are coming from inside the people and we are working for the

people. Our duty is to maintain security so we can all be safe,” said Wakil.

Recruiters are located in all the ANP provincial headquarters and visit local areas to talk to men and women about what joining the police force can offer them. The ANP currently has 11 female recruiters who meet with NTM-A/CSTC-A mentors every month to discuss new ideas, challenges, strategies and possible incentives to assist in recruiting women.

Incentives, such as hazardous duty pay, are currently offered to patrolmen and officers stationed in high threat areas because of the increased risk. Wakil and his staff are working with MoI and NTM-A/CSTC-A for more funding to provide better incentives for all ANP to increase recruiting numbers.

“We are considering new incentives for the ANP like re-contracting bonuses, better health care, higher pay, longevity pay increases and more literacy programs,” said Nickelberry. “NTM-A/CSTC-A currently has a police literacy program in place that teaches ANP personnel how to read and write. Programs such as these can be expanded upon and can ultimately have a positive impact on the ANP recruiting effort.”

All potential recruits go through a thorough screening process. They must

have an Afghan national ID card, no pending court cases, no major health problems, and must be between the ages 18 and 35. A waiver may be obtained for the age requirement for those with special skills. Two guarantors are required to vouch for the recruit to verify the integrity of the applicant, as well.

The recruitment follows strict Tashkil requirements that list how many people are allowed to be recruited per month representing different provinces and branches of the ANP. The branches of the ANP include the Afghan Border Patrol, Afghan National Civil Order Police, Auxiliary, Counter Narcotics Police, Criminal Investigation, Counter Terrorism and the Uniform Police.

Though the task is challenging, the ANP recruiting staff and NTM-A/CSTC-A mentors believe through cooperative efforts in building the ANP they will ensure a safer society for the people of Afghanistan.

Afghan National Police officers and patrolmen are responsible for protecting and serving the people of Afghanistan and are entrusted with substantial authority to keep their country safe. The ANP recruiting program seeks to ensure the very best applicants are selected for service.



Photo courtesy of ANP Col. Feda Wakil
Afghan Border Patrol trainees stand in a morning formation at Spin Boldak for roll call and to receive instruction for their daily assignments.

Ministry of Interior Let's the Dogs Out

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class
Paul Dillard

NTM-A Public Affairs

The Ministry of Interior began using dogs trained in bomb and narcotics detection as part of its expanding toolkit to combat insurgency.

The program is currently centered in Kabul where the majority of the working dogs and their handlers train and reside. The K-9 teams provide security at checkpoints in Kabul, the MoI, and Kabul International Airport.

“These dogs are extremely helpful to us,” said a senior ANP colonel who regularly works with the dogs and their handlers. “When we are searching a vehicle they can greatly aid us in finding explosive devices. The handlers are very experienced and help us a lot. We check the dogs constantly by placing test samples in vehicles for them to locate.”

The MoI currently has about 40 dogs, half of which serve as bomb-sniffers and half of which serve as narcotics-sniffers. Each dog is paired with a



Photo courtesy of ANP Col. Feda Wakil

An Afghan National Police dog handler guides his partner inspecting vehicles at MoI, Kabul. With increased presence in the ANP, working dogs play an integral role in everyday police operations and procedures.

handler that accompanies the dog while working. Handlers constantly provide positive reinforcement when the dogs perform well and help take care of them when they aren't working.

“I've trained for almost 18 months with an organization called the Mine Detection Center. The dogs also attend MDC and are trained by that organization,” said Mohammad Akbar, an ANP handler paired with a large German shepherd named Falcon. “Dogs are not very popular animals in Afghanistan, unlike Europe and North America, but these dogs are very special and perform very well. I believe the people of Kabul are getting used to them and learning to respect them also.”

The K-9 program formed out of a partnership between the MoI and the MDC of Afghanistan. This non-governmental program was established in 1989 with the help of the United States Agency for International Development. It has U.N. backing and receives donations from many international contributors.

The MDC breeds the dogs for qualities useful in counter-narcotics and explosive detection. They then train both the dogs and the handlers as

part of a partnership with MoI. Dogs are chosen for service based on their specific personality traits and selective breeding.

Training for the dogs lasts nearly 18 months and progresses in several stages.

The first stage is socialization training which helps develop the dog's ability to interact with humans and other dogs. The second stage is advanced environmental training, which exposes the dog to a variety of sounds so that it can perform its job without distractions. At this early stage, a training ball is also introduced to the dog, which will become both a training tool and reward. In the third stage, basic ball training, the dog is taught how to locate a ball when it is hidden and begins to associate finding the ball with a reward and positive reinforcement.

The dog is finally paired with its handler during explosive/mine training. During this stage the dog is taught to associate the scent of explosives with the training ball. The handler and the dog are matched according to personalities and a close bond is formed. Training for the dog continues throughout its life with at least two hours of refresher training a day.



Photo courtesy of ANP Col. Feda Wakil

An Afghan National Police dog handler gives his partner, Hogo, some positive reinforcement after a long morning inspecting vehicles at MoI, Kabul. Bomb and narcotics sniffing dogs are seeing increasing use in the ANP.

Focus On: Provost Marshal Camp Eggers

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard

NTM-A Public Affairs

Mission

The Joint Law and Order Detachment provides law and order operations for the Kabul area, consisting of nine camps, including Camp Eggers, Camp Julian, New Kabul Compound, the U.S. Embassy, Bala Hissar and ISAF. This detachment protects and serves 20,000 coalition forces. The U.S. Air Force took over the mission in August of 2009.

Team OIC

U.S. Air Force Capt. Lidia Iyassu

Team NCOIC

U.S. Air Force TSgt. Clint J. Ellis

Personnel

The unit consists of eight Air Force Security Forces members and two Army Military Police members.

“This is a unique mission for the Air Force because we pick up and work within Army structure. This is a tremendous opportunity for our young airmen to get experience at a very junior level.”

-U.S. Air Force TSgt. Dwayne Pyle, Joint Law and Order Detachment NCOIC



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Amy Nava, inspects Camp Eggers to minimize illegal hidden items.

Milestones

- Organized operations targeting general order number one violations, upheld CENTCOM policy of zero alcohol, pornography, and drug free combat zone
- Found and seized over 100 items of controlled substances in the past three months
- Processed over 65 motor vehicle accidents in the last three months
- Spearheaded a robust public education campaign on both Camp Eggers and New Kabul Compound, taking the initiative to revamp the base in-processing newcomers' brief to provide valuable, pertinent customs, and redeployment tips for coalition forces



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Dillard

U.S. Army Sgt. Daniel Burke, from Crooks, South Dakota, inspects furs on Camp Eggers to ensure that there are no endangered species for sale. Burke is a member of the Provost Marshal Office on Camp Eggers and is part of a small team responsible for policing multiple camps throughout the Kabul area.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Customs and border clearance agents responsible for all U.S. customs activities in the Kabul area
- Provides law and order operations at nine camps and for approximately 20,000 US military personnel. This includes enforcing general order number one, investigation of assault and sexual harassment, and handling the initial investigation of a crime scene
- Manages daily clearances for mailable items
- Grants redeployment pre-clearance inspections for all equipment and vehicles departing the USCENCOM area of operations bound for the U.S.
- Inspects bazaar merchandise to ensure no illegal wildlife or firearms are sold
- Assists bazaar shoppers with proper identification of various furs, preventing the trafficking of endangered species and ensuring consumer awareness
- Investigates and documents all motor vehicle accidents involving local nationals, providing concise and accurate reports for validating claims
- Joint Provost Marshal Office ensures all official paperwork is accomplished, ensuring the local nationals received proper compensation

December Warrior of the Month



Technical Sergeant Kevin M. Duffy

HOMETOWN:

Emmett, ID

HOME STATION:

McGuire AFB, NJ

JOB TITLE AND UNIT:

Engine body advisor /CAPTF

JOB HERE:

Crew Chief Mentor for CAPTF

NTM-A/CSTC-A MISSION:

Oversee engine body and propulsion operations and play a critical part in the progression of the ANAAC wing.

DEPLOYMENT GOALS:

Work with the ANAAC to establish a foundation for their Air Power capabilities.

BEST PART OF THE DEPLOYMENT:

So far it has been the shared laughs with the ANAAC during English class and seeing their desire to learn and do things right.

LIFE AFTER KANDAHAR:

Explore new cities with my wife and work on my truck.

FAVORITE MOVIE:

Dead Poet's Society

BOOK READING NOW:

Atlas Shrugged

HOBBIES:

Land racing at the Maxton Mile, and drag racing at Atco Raceway on my ZX14

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST/GROUP:

Atmosphere

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:

Any place my wife and I can go together.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

Carpe Diem

CSTC-A, NTM-A and EUPOL Join Forces

Stories and photos by Aziz Basam

EUPOL Press Office

In an effort to enhance cooperation with the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/ Combined Security Transition Command –Afghanistan, EUPOL recently assigned German Lieutenant Markus Loichen to work within NTM-A/CSTC-A's CJ-2 intelligence department. Loichen functions as a liaison officer between the two organizations. The assignment of a EUPOL member to NTM-A/CSTC-A allows the two entities to move forward together and strategize their efforts in unison.

The creation of the position is a step toward the establishment of a solid relationship with one of EUPOL's most important partners in Afghanistan.

During his assignment to NTM-A/ CSTC-A, Loichen continues to mentor General Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department. Loichen has partnered with Special Agent Jennifer Renko, United States Air Force Office of Special

Investigations, who currently serves as the NTM-A/CSTC-A/CJ-2 intelligence mentor for the Ministry of Interior Criminal Investigation Department.

"EUPOL CID mentors are assigned to mentor specific members of the ANP," said Renko. "They convey their needs to Markus who then works directly with NTM-A/CSTC-A to provide justification for funding."

Mentors working with the CID identified an immediate need for crime scene investigation training and equipment. A major project is in development to purchase this equipment and provide a crime scene investigations course to investigators. Initial focus is on the 17 police districts in and around Kabul, and also includes the Special Crimes Investigation Unit and the Counter-Terrorism Unit, in addition to CID.

NTM-A/CSTC-A and EUPOL are now working together with the CID to identify specific equipment required, such as finger printing kits. Once procured, extensive



Official U.S. Photo
Marcus Loichen, a German police officer attached to EUPOL Afghanistan, advises the ANP class on ways to join forces with NTM-A/CSTC-A's CJ-2 intelligence department.

training will be given to investigators to provide them with the skills necessary to carry out professional investigations of major crime scenes.

"Assigning a EUPOL CID mentor to NTM-A/CSTC-A is a huge step in the right direction. Cooperation between EUPOL and NTM-A/CSTC-A will undoubtedly grow in the future and result in improving the capabilities of the ANP," said Renko.

An Afghan National Army trainee guards the range during a training exercise at the Kabul Military Training Center in Kabul, Afghanistan. The KMTC trains Afghan soldiers from basic training and advanced individual training through junior and senior noncommissioned officer courses.

