

# THE FLOOD

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Photo by Sgt. Brent C. Powell

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (center) speaks with reporters at Camp Pol-e-Charki's Range 2A Mar. 10, while Afghan Minister of Defense Abdul Raheem Wardak (right) listens in. Gates visited the range to see an Afghan National Army demonstration from the 201st Corps with Consolidated Fielding Command mentors and trainers that included reacting to a simulated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and engaging simulated Taliban forces while protecting innocent civilians.



Photo by Sgt. Brent C. Powell

A Marine from CFC, directs a squad of ANA Soldiers during a combat demonstration for the Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and Afghan Minister of Defense Abdul Raheem Wardak.

## Secretary of Defense visits ANA at Camp Pol-e-Charki

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates along with the Afghan Minister of Defense Abdul Raheem Wardak paid a visit to one of the training ranges at Camp Pol-e-Charki wednesday to watch the Afghan National Army Soldiers conducting training exercises.

ANA Soldiers with their Coalition Force mentors and trainers from the Consolidated Fielding Command conducted patrols, reacted to ambushes and assaulted enemy forces.

Following the exercise, Mr. Gates addressed the crowd. "I'm very glad to have the opportunity to visit this training facility," he said. "It's a very impressive operation and will obviously play a critical role in the future of the Afghan National Army."

# 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade Soldiers and U.S. Soldiers compete in combined action Commander's Cup

Story/photos by Spc. Daniel D. Haun  
*Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs*

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Snow and sleet filled the air, as Task Force Repel Soldiers and Combined Action partners from the Afghan National Army's 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 201st Corps joined forces Saturday March 6, in the Repel Commander's Cup at Forward Operating Base Shank.

The coalition forces competed in a timed series of events including a rucksack run, medical litter carry, M9 familiarization firing competition, and a weapons assembly challenge.

Army Staff Sgt. Kendall Gilbert, the base defense operations non-commissioned

officer for the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, gave some advice to competitors before the start.

"It doesn't matter how fast you are as an individual, this is a team effort," said Gilbert. "You can't start an event unless your whole team is with you. We're out here with our coalition partners to have a good time and to win the cup."

Though the competitors looked focused, the mood was light.

"Let's go out and have a good time, learn something about our coalition partners, and maybe they'll learn something about us," said Gilbert. "We'll hug and drink chai (tea) afterwards."

Despite the elements and the difficulties of the competition all of the teams gave 100 percent effort and even seemed to enjoy the tasks.

At the conclusion of the event, Lt. Col. Curtis Johnson, commander 173rd Brigade Support Battalion thanked Combined Action partners for joining and helping their coalition counterparts.

"To all the ANA participants, what a great performance," said Johnson. "I saw you out there in front; you did a great job. I'd just like to thank you for a great performance and for all of you do."

Each person who participated seemed to find a different part of the competition challenging. For Abdul Salam Watandost, a Soldier from the 4th Kandak, 201st

Corps of the ANA the biggest challenge was weapons familiarization. "We didn't have many problems, we were a little unfamiliar with some of the weapons," he said. "By training and running every day we will better prepare ourselves before we go to the next competition."

For Pvt. Sadr-Udin Himat, another Soldier honored from the 4th Kandak, 201st Corps of the ANA, said the greatest challenge was the inclement weather. "The problem was that it was raining and snowing, my uniform was drenched," he said. "The competition was a good lesson, and we learned many things from it."

The coalition forces had challenges of their own. Army Pfc. Joseph Machtemes, a member of Bravo Team, 173rd BSB said the weather was the hardest obstacle. "The snow made it really hard to shoot, blurring the targets," he said. "But in spite of the conditions, Bravo Team pushed through and we did what bravo does best. We're the muscle of the battalion. We just pushed hard right through and kept going."

Bravo Company's hard work and determination paid off as they took the cup and won the competition.

"You had to push your team as hard as you possibly could, keep them going all the way through, and make sure your heart was there," said Spc. Nathaniel Petter, Bravo Team Leader, 173rd BSB. "You had to just keep driving on. Overall, the competition was outstanding."



**U.S. Soldiers from the 173rd Brigade and ANA Soldiers from the 4th Kandak, 201st Corps run to the finish line in the Repel Commander's Cup competition at Forward Operating Base Shank.**

**Lt. Col. Mohammed Arif**

201st Corps public affairs officer, Dari editor

**Maj. M. Osman Khamoosh**

201st Corps deputy public affairs officer, assistant editor

**Capt. Tice Ridley**

Gavin Tactical Command public affairs officer

**Sgt. 1st Class Atiqullah Wali-zadha**

201st Corps public affairs noncommissioned officer in charge

**Sgt. 1st Class Mirvies Sabory**

201st Corps staff journalist

**Sgt. Dan Caudill**

Gavin Tactical Command, NCOIC of video and broadcast production

**Staff Sgt. Ramin Sahmadi**

201st Corps staff journalist

**Sgt. Rafullah Mohibat**

201st Corps staff photographer

**Sgt. Brent C. Powell**

Gavin Tactical Command PA noncommissioned officer

**Farhad Shierzad**

201st Corps public affairs interpreter

**Sgt. Rahmuddin Dilsoz**

201st Corps Photographer

**Rezashah Zahery**

201st Corps public affairs interpreter



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Photo by Sgt. Rahmuddin Dilsoz, 201st Corps photographer

(From right to left) Brig. Gen. Seid Aqa, operations officer for the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army, Col. Baliai Nazkzai, communication department training officer of the general armed staff, 201st Corps, Col. Atiquallah, communication department deputy commander, 201st Corps, Maj. Basheir Khan, maintenance officer, communication department, 201st Corps hand out leadership certificates to 13 graduates from a recent communication course held on Camp Pol-e-Charki.

## 201st Corps Soldiers graduate from recent Communication Course

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Mirvies Sabory  
*201st Corps Public Affairs*

Recently a graduation ceremony was held on Camp Pol-e-Charki for 13 Soldiers from the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army who completed training on the Datron Radio operating system and graduated the course with certificates of completion.

Many attended the graduation ceremony. Among them was Brig. Gen. Seid Aqa, operations officer for the 201st Corps and Col. Atiquallah, communication department deputy commander, 201st Corps as well as course instructors, mentors and staff from the 201st Corps communication department.

The course is taught by civilian instructors from the Revival Company and covers a variety of information from computers to portable radio systems.

After introductions and opening remarks at the ceremony Atiquallah spoke to the crowd.

“This course is very important,” he said. “It helps us be more effective in managing personnel and accomplishing our missions.”

After Atiquallah finished speaking, Brig. Gen. Aqa made a few remarks for the students and instructors of the course.

“For those of you who are graduating today, the time you have spent learning the computer and communications

equipment is time well spent,” he said. “I hope you take this new knowledge and apply it during your future missions to support your fellow Afghans.”

Following Aqa’s remarks, he and several of the officers from the communication department and the course instructors presented the graduation certificates to the students.

Aqa also stated that he appreciated the hard work of the students and the patience and knowledge from the instructors.

This was the eight time this course has been taught at Camp Pol-e-Charki and more courses are planned for the future to help ensure the ANA has skilled and knowledgeable Soldiers for the future.



Photo by Sgt. Raflullah Mohibat 201st Corps photographer

(above) Maj. Gen. Mohammad Raheem Wardak, commanding general of the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army speaks with 201st Corps Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade during a recent visit to the Taghab District of Kapisa Province.

## 201st Corps Soldiers take literacy exam

**Soldiers test skills needed to attend medical course**

Recently more than 30 Soldiers from the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army spent a few hours at the Religious Department of the 201st Corps taking a literacy exam.

The Soldiers took the exam to see if they qualify for an upcoming medical course.

Depending on the score that each Soldier made on the exam they will then be divided into different classes.

According to the test administrators, once the exams are graded and the Soldiers divided into groups, the medical training will begin.

The training will be conducted by Coalition mentors and will help prepare the Soldiers to assist with the medical needs of their comrades and will help ensure their units are fully prepared for future combat missions.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mirvies Sabory, 201st Corps Public Affairs

(above) More than 30 Soldiers and non-commissioned officers of the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army take a literacy exam at the religious department on Camp Pol-e-Charki to determine their eligibility to attend a medical course.

## 201st Corps CG visits troops in Taghab District of Kapisa Province

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Atiquilla  
201st Corps Public Affairs

Recently the commanding general of the 201st Corps, Maj. Gen. M. Raheem Wardak visited with 3rd Brigade Soldiers located in the Taghab District of Kapisa Province as well as the Naghlo Dam area and other distant combat outpost.

Wardak visited the troops to conduct a combat readiness inspection as well as to check on their morale and their living conditions.

While there he listened to the Soldiers concerns and requests as gave his guidance and advice.

“You are the brave sons of Afghanistan,” he said. “You are serving your country to ensure security and stability for your people who will never forget your performance and your loyalty.”

Wardak concluded his visit by rewarding several of the 3rd Brigade Soldiers.