

THE FLOOD

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Photo by Sgt. Raftullah Mohibat, 201st Corps photographer

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Raheem Wardak, commanding general of the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army (center) listens to a briefing (shura) at the Shinwari District, Jalalabad Province Mar. 9. Wardak and several other prominent members of the ANA and the Afghan National Police attended the meeting to try and settle an ongoing dispute between the Achen and the Spinghar tribes. The disputes between the tribes had resulted in several members being injured and killed. The meeting appeared successful as the tribal leaders agreed to settle their differences and to stop any future fighting between them.

201st Corps Soldiers complete Sniper Rifle training course

Camp Pol-e-Charki - Recently approximately 34 Afghan National Army Soldiers from the 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 201st Corps graduated from a two-week M-24 Sniper Rifle Training Course.

The course is just one of several NATO weapons training courses taught here.

“Completing different types of weapons training is very important,” said Col. Rais Khan, training officer, 201st Corps. “If we train our personnel and equip them well they will have high morale, they will be more loyal and more prepared for combat.”

Most of the weapons courses are taught by coalition forces and civilian agency instructors.

“The 201st Corps places a high priority on training,” said Khan. “The more prepared our Soldiers are, the more effective they will be and the enemy will not be able to conduct effective operations against us.”

Commander's Message

Dear generals, officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 201st Corps:

I would like to wish each of you and your families a very happy new year.

I expect every one of you to reach your goals in the new year and to help prevent the fighting across Afghanistan.

I truly appreciate the hard work of all the 201st Corps personnel during the last year in defending our country, protecting the people and for your bravery and sacrifices for your nation. We should pray for all those who have fought against our enemies.

**Maj. Gen. Mohammed Raheem Wardak
Commanding General, 201st Corps**



Photo by Sgt. Brent C. Powell

Making improvements

Mohammad Noman, a 22-year-old Afghan National Army Soldier from Headquarters Company, Pol-e-Charki Garrison, 201st Corps carefully places bricks to create the edge of a flower garden outside of his barracks on Camp Pol-e-Charki Mar. 7, while Mohammad Tahier (left), a 20-year-old transportation Soldier, HQ CO., 201st Corps digs up the ground with a pick and Staff Sgt. Abdul Rahman (right rear), a 23-year-old transportation Soldier, HQ CO., 201st Corps assist by making sure the edges of the garden are straight by using string and bricks.

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Reckless Driving: *dangerous but preventable issue*

Story by Col. Rahmatullah
Criminal prosecutor, 201st Corps

Reckless and careless driving has been a problem and a concern through the country of Afghanistan, not only by civilians, but also by members of the Afghan National Army as well.

Many of the accidents across the country could have been prevented if the driver's would have taken a few simple steps to keep themselves and other on the road safe.

According to crime statistics in the country, more than 25 percent of crime is traffic crime.

This year has already seen an increase in the number of traffic crimes compared to last year.

Last year several members of the ANA were injured and killed in traffic accidents involving local nationals as well as other ANA vehicles.

When the accidents are investigated most show the driver is at fault for not following the rules of the road and paying attention to the possible dangers that exist.

There are several rules to follow before driving any vehicle:

- 1. A driver must have a valid drivers license before he can legally drive a vehicle.**
- 2. A driver must be at least 18-years-old in order to possess a driver's license.**
- 3. A driver should have experience with driving on the highway and in crowded towns and areas before he enters those high-danger areas.**
- 4. When driving, the driver must focus on the road ahead and his surroundings at all times paying attention to possible dangers ahead.**
- 5. A driver must have normal hearing and vision capabilities.**
- 6. All traffic rules and signs must be respected and followed at all times.**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Davio

7. An ANA officer should verify the license of any ANA driver before assigning him to drive a vehicle.

8. The driver must be aware of changing road conditions and dangers on the sides of the road as well as potholes and obstacles on the road itself.

Unfortunately traffic investigations have shown that the majority of ANA and Afghan National Police who are involved in accidents are at fault.

It is required that all drivers, whether civilian or military follow and obey Driving Regulations 3 and 8.

If all regulations are followed, the number of accidents would be greatly reduced.

A main factor of accidents has been speed.

Drivers must control their speed while driving. The faster a driver goes, the less control they have over their vehicle. Speed reduces the driver's reaction time and the increases the time it takes to slow down in order to avoid obstacles. Speed also increases the driver's risk of injury or death to himself and his passengers, as well as anyone his vehicle may come into contact with.

One of the main places accidents occur is in heavily populated areas such as the City of Kabul. It is very crowded with a lot of traffic on the roads. Because of it's location the ANA and ANP conduct a lot of missions in the Kabul area increasing their risk of an accident.

Local drivers should not pass government owned vehicles and should wait for direction by the ANA or ANP.

It's important as a driver to not park a government vehicle on the side of the road or to block the road in any way.

Because the roadways are sometimes narrow and crowded, drivers should not park in a way that blocks the road or poses a hazard to other motorists.

Bus stations are one of many hazards that drivers need to be aware of and plan for. In addition to the buses stopping suddenly and often, pedestrians are often walking around and in front of the buses and are difficult or impossible to see.

Another hazard drivers need to be aware of is bicycles. Bicycles are a common means of transportation in Afghanistan and many bicyclists do not obey traffic laws and weave into and out of traffic, often swerving in front of vehicles. They pose a danger to themselves and others.

Cart owners also pose a potential hazard. Animal driven carts move at a much slower pace than normal vehicle traffic and can be unpredictable. Driver's must be alert for these vehicles and use caution around them.

Another common hazard that can cause accidents is pedestrian traffic. Pedestrians are supposed to use specific foot paths and overpasses, but that does not always happen. Pedestrians often cross the road in front of traffic and pose a great danger.

If ANA drivers will use caution and be aware of the many dangers of the roadway future accidents can be avoided.

201st Corps executive officer visits 3rd Brigade, Taghab District elders



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ahsan Zeyai, 201st Corps public affairs

Maj. Gen. Ghulam Heider, executive officer, 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army meets with village elders and local people from the Taghab District of Kapisa Province Mar. 9, to discuss area security and stress the importance of supporting the ANA.

1st Kandak, 3rd Brigade completes successful operation in Marja District

Story by Lt. Col. Mohammed Arif
Public Affairs Officer, 201st Corps

Soldiers of the 1st Kandak, 3rd Brigade fighting alongside coalition forces recently completed a successful combat operation in the Nad Ali and the Marja District of Helmand Province releasing the local people from the grip of the Taliban forces and helping to provide a more secure and peaceful future for the people of Afghanistan.

During the operation a soldier from the 1st Kandak, 3rd Brigade climbed to the top of a construction crane where the Taliban had erected an anti-Afghanistan flag. The soldier removed the Taliban flag and replaced it with a much larger Islamic Republic of Afghanistan flag. The gesture was met with cheers and applause by all who saw the flag flying high over Majra District.

Both the Marja District and the Nad Ali District had been a Taliban stronghold and both were plagued with heavy drug and weapons smuggling activities.

The ANA Soldiers who conducted security and search operations were met with approval and gratitude from the local people who seemed grateful for the Soldiers heroic efforts to free them from the Taliban and provide them with a much brighter future.

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Atiquillah Wali-Zadha
201st Corps Public Affairs

In an effort to ensure the combat readiness, check on troop morale, assess the security situation and soldier living areas, Maj. Gen. Gulam Heider, executive officer, 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army recently paid a visit to the 3rd Brigade of the 201st Corps currently serving in the Taghab District of Kapisa Province.

After surveying the area and meeting with troops, officers and non-commissioned officers Heider gave instructions on what changes he would like them to make.

Following his tour of the area, Heider visited with the village elders of Taghab District to hear their concerns and complaints. He also spoke to the elders and stressed that the ANA is comprised of soldiers from many districts and provinces throughout the country who are proudly serving the people of Afghanistan to bring peace and stability to the country.

“I hope the people of Taghab District will support the ANA and provide information to us about enemy activities and their whereabouts,” said Heider. “We want to prevent the enemy from killing innocent civilians and we should pray for almighty God to bring peace and sovernity to Afghanistan.”

The village elders pledged their support of the ANA and seemed happy to have the opportunity to meet with them and express their concerns for the future.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Atiquilla Wali-Zadha, 201st Corps public affairs

Lt. Col. Abdul Hussien (left), commander, 1st Kandak, 3rd Brigade gives an operations brief to Maj. Gen. M. Raheem Wardak in the Surobi District of Kabul Province.