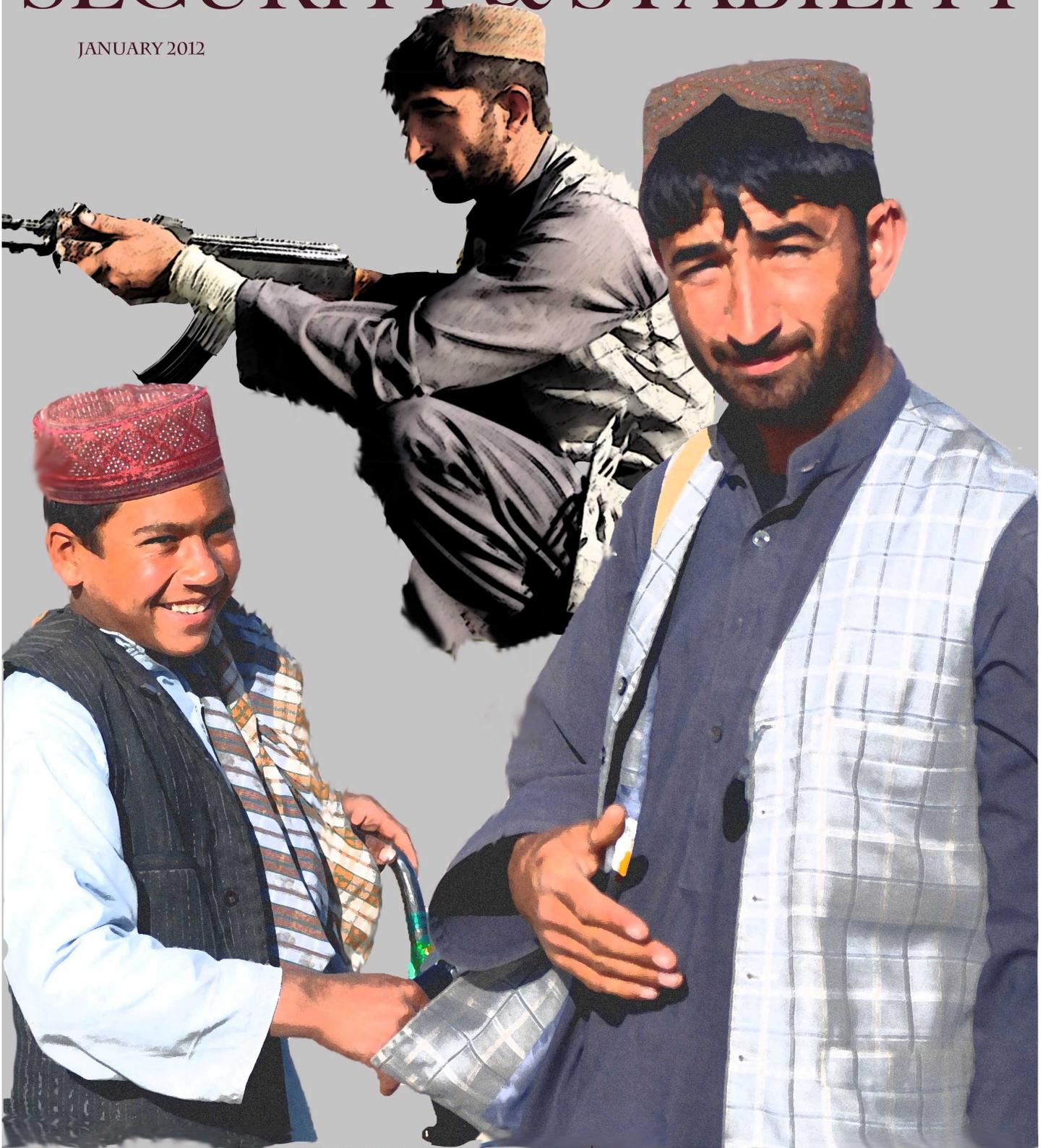


ANSF DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY & STABILITY

JANUARY 2012



SHOHNA BA SHOHNA

OEF 2011-2012 SECURITY FORCES ASSISTANCE

SECURITY & STABILITY

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Operation Hope Hero 58

Story By: Sgt. Thomas Duval

The history books in Panjwa'i district, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, have historically been written by the Taliban. Known more commonly as the birthplace of the Taliban and a strategic stronghold for the insurgents, each chapter in Panjwa'i holds stories of insurgents' dominance with little to no resistance from either Afghan or coalition forces.

In July, the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, operating as Task Force Arctic Wolves, moved into the area and began a partnership with Afghan forces in an effort to begin writing a new chapter, one that the people of Afghanistan controlled instead of the insurgents.



On Dec. 17, the 1st Brigade, 205th Afghan National Army Corps, began rewriting the history books as they began Operation Hope Hero 58.

During Operation Hope Hero 58, more than 400 ANSF planned, coordinated and executed a multi-agency operation, a challenging feat for even developed security forces.



ANSF worked closely with Afghan National Civil Order Police, Afghan Uniformed Police and Afghan National Defense Services to conduct a number of advanced clearing operations.

During the clearing process, the independent Afghan force discovered multiple caches containing a large amount of bomb-making material, including ammunition, more than ten pressure plates, ignition systems, over 1,000 lbs of homemade explosives and enough material to make more than 112 IEDs.

In addition to uncovering and destroying a significant amount of insurgents' weapon supply, the ANSF destroyed multiple insurgent fighting positions.

The operation, which came to an end Friday, was an important step for both ANSF and coalition forces as talks of troop withdrawals demand much of the public's attention.

For the 1st Brigade, 205th ANA, the success of the mission was the culmination of a five-year partnership in the Panjwa'i district.

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For more than three years, Canadian forces worked shoulder to shoulder, or in Pashto, "shona ba shona," so much so that ISAF adopted the phrase as their campaign slogan.

Through continuous partnered operations, coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces progressively moved deeper and deeper into one of the most hostile environments in Afghanistan.

In July, Task Force Arctic Wolves, led by Col. Todd R. Wood, took over for the Canadian forces, and within just three-short months, an Afghan-U.S. combat outpost, COP Lion, located deep in the Horn of Panjwa'i, typically a unexplored region, was opened.

The new outpost allowed Afghan forces to oversee and monitor routes often used by insurgents and gave them the upper hand in limiting the movement of weapons, explosives and illicit drug operations.

The term "shona ba shona" was dropped, therefore initiating the start of Afghan-led and independent missions in Panjwa'i, helping further progress toward transition and enabling ANSF to assume full responsibility for security in the area.

Recognizing the significant improvements in local security, 50 militants laid down their weapons and joined the peace process last Tuesday at the Panjwa'i District Center. The reintegration of the former insurgent fighters was part of the Afghan reconciliation program and was recognized as one of the largest and most visible signs of improvement in recent history. Panjwa'i District Governor Hajji Fazzludin Agha works closely with local ANSF to enable the formal and informal reintegration process.



The two sides agree that there is still work to be done but acknowledged the importance of Operation Hope Hero 58 as a major step toward transitioning security operations from ISAF to ANSF.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1st Afghan National Army dependant operation in the history of Panjwa'i
- Only 2 ANA Soldiers suffered minor wounds
- More than 1,000 lbs of HME found
- Enough material for 112 IED's
- 400 ANA Soldiers participated

REINTEGRATION

- 53 militants laid down their weapons to join the piece process

VILLAGE ASSESSMENTS

By: Maj. Shane Little, Security Forces Assistance Team 3, Daman District

In the past several months Security Forces Assistance Team 3 has conducted numerous village assessments with the Afghan National Police (ANP). Each assessment gives the mentors a chance to talk to the area villagers and most importantly the opportunity to see how the ANP conduct themselves as policemen in their communities. Public relations of the Afghan Uniform Police (AUP) are by far the most important aspect of the ANP. It is through positive publicity that the trust and validity of these patrolmen gain importance for the future of the Government Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA).

At first many of these assessments were just patrols, giving no return on investment for the AUP. These patrols were rather intelligence collections for the coalition forces. Talking to the ANP, giving them advice and topics for discussion has increased the respect of the men and women for whom they serve. Prior to entering a village or local community Security Forces Assistance Team (SFAT) members talk to the ANP, asking what they have heard about the area taking note on reports of crime and issues. It is important to note if the ANP appear not involved or not receiving request for assistance in the area they are given topics to talk about.

Common topics and questions

Topics including but not limited to:

1. Have the Taliban been in the area or have they requested free passage, housing, food or assistance in any way?
2. Are their issues in the village that cannot be resolved by the Malik or village elders?
3. Do you feel safe in your homes?
4. How is the water and agriculture in the area?
5. Do the villagers know what their responsibilities are in the community?
6. Is there anything we can do to help?

Besides these questions we ask them to identify themselves and give their points of contact for future assistance or help.

We have also included the leadership of the ANP in area patrols, assessments and operations. As an example, during a named operation in the villages of eastern Daman District, the District Chief of Police (DCoP) was utilized to illustrate to the people the local AUP leadership has an interest in their security.

In the three villages visited 1st Lt. Abdul Wadoud, the Dand District DCoP, took the time to talk about a recent hot topic in the province, drug production. He laid out his position on the production of drugs in his district informing the Maliks of the policy pushed down through GIROA and the jail time it includes. To drive the point home when the ANP discovered hashish in the villages during the same visit, he wasted no time in taking the lead and ordering his patrolmen to destroy the hashish. The villagers were not upset but rather impressed that the DCoP took the time to visit and share his concern.

POPPY ERADICATION

By: 1st Lt. Antonette DeLeon, Security Forces Assistance Team 6, Panjwa'i District

The CIA World Factbook states that Afghanistan is the number one producer of opium in the world and that it is the key source of revenue for the Taliban.¹ Because opium produced from poppy is used for heroin it has been deemed an illegal crop to grow in Afghanistan. It is widely believed that if you destroy the poppy in Afghanistan, further depleting the primary source for Taliban funding, security will in return increase. This viewpoint has been shared with our Afghan partners. The District Governor of Panjwa'i (DG) and also the District Chief of Police (DCoP) are personally leading the poppy eradication efforts in the Panjwa'i district.

On Nov. 19, 2011, Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) led a shura in the village of Do'ab discussing the importance of poppy eradication. Do'ab lies at the furthest western portion of Panjwa'i and has been a historical Taliban stronghold. The DCoP brought several trucks of Afghan Uniform Police (AUP) to meet with the Afghan National Army (ANA) along with the Provincial Headquarters' narcotics officer. Together, ANSF discussed poppy eradication and GIROA's anti-narcotic policy. They also discussed security improvements and stressed additional projects such as schools, hospitals and reconstruction projects cannot occur unless there is security in the district.

Approximately 30 Do'ab residents attended the shura and the local media broadcasted the event. After the shura, the DCoP took his police force to a nearby poppy field. Once there, he arrested the land owner and began to destroy the crop with a bulldozer. In this field the AUP found two IEDs and coordinated with Coalition Forces (CF) to investigate the explosives. Approximately 15 to 20 jeribs of poppy were eradicated.



Weekly shuras provide a platform for the DGov to reinforce the progress the ANSF organizations have achieved regarding poppy eradication and allow him to inform the Afghan citizens the consequences they face if they do not comply with the written law. The district governor explains that crops will be destroyed and all farming equipment will be confiscated if farmers are caught growing poppy on their land. ANSF and CF have also distributed wheat seed as an alternate crop to poppy.

On Dec. 17, the DGov received five tractors at the district headquarters to help facilitate and enforce poppy eradication. The DGov plans to utilize the different ANSF organizations and conduct a large scale eradication effort starting in Do'ab and traveling east towards the boarder of Panjwa'i district. These combined eradication efforts will greatly reduce the amount of money Taliban will receive for the upcoming fighting season.

POPPY LESSONS LEARNED

- Having all ANSF organizations along with local leadership involved in the poppy eradication effort displays cohesion and shows that GIRoA is serious about the destruction of the crop.
- Weekly reinforcement to village maliks and elders reiterates the importance of the message.
- Early eradication efforts in the planting season allow farmers time to grow a legitimate crop and still provide for their families.
- ANSF and CF distributing wheat seed provide an alternate source of money to poppy growth.
- The destruction of poppy in the fall seasons will affect the upcoming fighting season in regards to the funding of weapons and foreign fighters.



District Governor Haji Fazluddin Agha personally leads poppy eradication efforts.



Planted and irrigated poppy field in Do'ab, Panjwa'i.

Source ¹ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

POPPY ERADICATION TECHNIQUES

By: Maj. Carson Davis, Security Forces Assistance Team 5, Dand District.

The decisive thrust of Dand AUP operations in the past month has been concentrated on the elimination of both the physical ability and the will of Dand farmers to grow poppy. District Commander of Police Major Rahmatullah Khakrwizal has been relentless in ensuring that his subordinate commanders toe the official government line of no tolerance for either the land owners or the farmers who cultivate this illegal crop. Through a combination of weekly coordination meetings and personally inspecting the most well-known poppy growing regions of the district, MAJ Rahmatullah and the Dand AUP are well on their way to putting Dand out of the opium business.

Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP's)

Two key TTP's have emerged over the past several weeks that should greatly increase the effectiveness of future poppy eradication efforts while at the same time strengthening the writ of Afghan law in Dand.

1. The first and most significant of these has been the AUP's early start on eradicating crops—though the vast majority of poppy fields in Dand are at this point only in their nascent seedling phase, the AUP have deliberately set out to dismantle the irrigation systems that would allow these crops to reach maturity.

2. Simultaneously, the AUP have coupled these measures with a public relations campaign that seeks to only punish farmers who have been warned numerous times not to plant poppy. The campaign points out that such property destruction is a desirable alternative to the multiple-year sentences that such illegal planting would normally incur under current laws and offers to reach out to farmers with alternative crops. The alternate crops allow for them to continue making a living.

A critical task for the Dand AUP in the oncoming weeks is to ensure synchronization of this method to ensure that they do not inadvertently marginalize farmers and land owners or unduly punish the wrong farmers.



As the growing season for poppy progresses, it is critical that the Dand SFAT tailors their mentoring efforts towards ensuring the DCoP is able to maintain pressure on poppy growers throughout the district. These efforts will be of particular importance once the crops reach maturity in roughly three months. If possible, the SFAT should also work to facilitate the AUP's public relations campaign through printing off and distributing leaflets and newsletters that inform local nationals of the law, single out violators of the law, and explain how the AUP and DCoP applied the law to those violators.

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GLOSSARY

AFG	Afghanistan
ALP	Afghan Local Police
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANCOP	Afghan Civil Order Police
ANDS	Afghan National Defense Service
ANSF	Afghan National Security Forces
AO	Area of Operations
ASF	Afghan Security Forces
AUP	Afghan Uniformed Police
BCT	Brigade Combat Team
BDE	Brigade
CA	Civil Affairs
CERP	Commanders Emergency Response Program
CF	Coalition Forces
CJTF	Combined Joint Task Force
COA	Course of Action
COIN	Counterinsurgency
CSM	Command Sergeant Major
DCoP	District Chief of Police
DGov	District Governor
GIRoA	Government Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
ISAF	International Security Assistance Forces
PDP	Provincial development plan
PRT	Provincial reconstruction team
QRF	Quick response force
RC-S	Regional Command South
RIP/TOA	Relief in place/transfer of authority
SFAT	Security Forces Assistance Team
SBCT	Stryker Brigade Combat Team
TFAW	Task Force Arctic Wolves
TTP	Tactics, techniques and procedures

TF Arctic Wolves

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