

Serving the Afghanistan Engineer District - South

# Engineering Freedom

November/December 2010



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Afghanistan Engineer District - South



**ANP opens new  
District Headquarters  
in Pashtun Zarghun**

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All photographs appearing herein are by the AES Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of Engineering Freedom is to support the Commander's internal communication program for AES. It also serves as the Commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies, operations, technical developments, and command philosophy to AES team members.

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## FEATURES

- 6 Contractor receives safety award
- 8 District committed to completing ANP facilities in Helmand and Kandahar Provinces
- 10 ANP opens new District Headquarters in Pashtun Zarghun
- 14 Ribbon-cutting ceremony opens new ANP facility in Ghoryan
- 17 Shatto part of team that wins Army-wide contracting award



## DEPARTMENTS

Commander's Message .....	3
Command Sergeant Major's Message .....	5
Afghanistan Safety 101 .....	6
AES Team: Spotlight on Herat Area Office .....	16
News Briefs .....	19
On the Move .....	20

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### On the cover ...

**Maj. Mohammed Nadir, the ANP deputy commander, with Donny Davidson in the background. See story, page 10. Photo by Joan Kibler.**



# Commander's message ...

**H**appy Holidays to the Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES) and all of our families who support us each day. The holidays are a special time, and unfortunately many of us are away from our loved ones for another season. I appreciate the sacrifice each of our team members and their families are making to support this effort to help stabilize this country and support the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. AES continues to provide a key role in building the infrastructure for Afghanistan to grow and train an Afghan National Army and Police capable of operating and securing their own country against insurgent forces.

It seems like I just wrote an article for the last issue recognizing the team's efforts and now it's time to write again. It's amazing how much happens in such a short span of time. I often joke that a day in the United States is worth three days here in theater because of all the work we accomplish at our accelerated pace. Time passes rather quickly, especially when I realize how little time we have to get so many things completed.

There have been a few changes in leadership in our area of operations this Fall, which include Army Maj. Gen. James L. Terry and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division assuming responsibility for Regional Command – South; and Air Force Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kendall assuming responsibility for Kandahar Airfield (KAF) and the enduring camp. Our staff is working well with their teams to get them up to speed on existing projects and getting

their intent for future projects. Of course, there are some slight adjustments, but nothing this team can't overcome!

Speaking of the AES team, I enjoy recognizing a few folks on our team each issue for their contributions. From our Contracting Division we have **Fortunato "Sonny" Sapida** (Mission Installation Contracting Command-Center, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio) who has led the Contracting Division while **Prixie Cruz** (Army Contracting Command, Fort Shafter, Honolulu) was on leave. He has handled the responsibilities very well, leading the effort on counterinsurgency (COIN) contracting and working through the contractor challenges of private security companies and project completion and closure. Also from Contracting, **Ben Jenkins** (Schedule A) and **Harry Shatto** (MICC-Center, Fort Belvoir, Va.) aggressively tracked the post-award implementation of the Afghanistan National Security Force (ANSF) Operations & Maintenance (O&M) contract for AES. At \$350 million, the AES ANSF O&M contract is the largest services contract in the district, and, as a service, this project represents a significant diversion from the Corps' traditional construction business model. Ben and Harry have attended weekly meetings and teleconferences to ensure that phase in/phase out, training, invoicing, and inventorying are being carried out in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, recommending Performance Work Statement revisions where needed to better align in-theater conditions with contract requirements.



**Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser**

From our Engineering and Construction Division, **Jim Killion** is serving as a construction representative with the Castle Project Office. His primary responsibility is providing quality assurance oversight of construction projects within the AES compound on KAF. Jim is serving a one-year tour and has been a fixture on the compound since arriving in December 2009 from the Baltimore District. He has made it his personal agenda to ensure that ongoing projects meet the intent of the district's goal of providing secure, functional, and quality facilities that add to the quality of life of all district personnel who live and work within the compound.

**Brian Zickefoose** is assigned as a project engineer at the KAF Resident Office and is serving in his first civilian Corps assignment as a Schedule A hire. He is responsible for four active airfield contracts worth a combined \$91 million covering six different project sites. The

assignment has given Brian the opportunity to work alongside other district elements such as Project Management, Office of Counsel, Engineering, and Contracting to help facilitate his learning experience with the Corps and provide the necessary resources to support the missions of the U.S. Air Forces Central and U.S. Army Central. I had the privilege to recently promote Brian to major where he is currently a reserve officer. His experience as a military leader helps him relate and understand mission critical requirements from the military customers.

**Marion Dye** joined the AES staff in February from the Baltimore District to serve a one-year deployment as a construction representative at the South Park Resident Office. Marion serves as the lead construction representative, and his assigned projects have included Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration (RSOI) barracks compound facilities, brigade housing and South Park infrastructure project, relocatable (RLB) troop housing phase I, interim wastewater treatment facility, RLB troop housing phase II, and the waste management facility. The brigade housing facility was turned over months ahead of schedule, providing much needed housing for troops rotating in and out of Afghanistan. Marion has taken an active role in providing necessary oversight during the design and coordination stages of the projects to ensure that construction is executed with minimal conflicts.

From our Programs and Project Management Division (PPMD) team, we want to recognize **Rita M. Boccieri**

(Louisville District) for her leadership in the coordination effort required between AES and U.S. Forces - Afghanistan (USFOR-A) to facilitate and enable the mine clearance for the waste management and water treatment projects at Delaram II and the waste management project at Maywand which had been stalled. Her tireless efforts creating and staffing a Joint Acquisition Review Board package for USFOR-A approval, following a briefing to Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale on the expected delays, resulted in the receipt of the \$415,000 necessary to successfully award the mine clearance task orders. With the assistance of the ANSF Branch offering Mine Clearance IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity) capacity, Rita coordinated the effort and paved

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## *As we grow, our team continues to improve quality of life ...*

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the way for timely mine clearance for three forward operating base projects. Her efforts eliminated the three-month delay in the start of the construction for these projects, which would have critically impacted surging troop arrival.

Our Mine Resistance Ambush Protected (MRAP) teams go out nearly every day transporting our construction representatives and leaders to various projects. These guys are incredibly talented, and I can never say enough about what they do. One young man who has set himself apart is **Army Spc. Travis Colston**, a reservist from Dayton, Ohio. He constantly strives for perfection, makes changes based on

experiences, follows orders, and tries to anticipate the needs of the team. He is an example of our Army Values and his desire to learn and grow will lead to success. He has maintained his physical fitness, while still maintaining his role on the MRAP team. All of his actions have been essential to the MRAP team's success.

More good news is that we continue to increase the number of people on our team to help with the ever increasing workload and demand to accelerate or move projects to the left. As we grow, our team continues to improve quality of life and make our district a little better each day. Our new headquarters building will be ready early next year, and we can see the two new billets rise up out of the ground. Our resident offices are getting better also with improved communications; and we are working to get Armed Forces Network (AFN) to these sites as well. We have a new resident engineer office being built for the growing number of projects near Spin Boldak to provide oversight of the Spin Boldak road and soon the Weesh-Chaman Border Control facility.

Finally, a special thanks for our Employee Activities Committee, led by Laurel Stevens, and so many others. They have done a great job in procuring unique AES gifts to purchase, such as our Christmas ornament and AES blanket. We will be looking at more ideas to pursue so we can use the funds we raise for future social events.

Thanks again for each of your contributions that keep us moving from good to great. It is always humbling to see what this AES team accomplishes each day. You all are the best in my book!

AES Teamwork! 

# Command Sergeant Major's message ...

**H**appy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to all.

Thanksgiving has come and gone. Christmas is on the horizon, along with the other holidays that coincide. I encourage each of you to celebrate the season, honoring your traditions.

Thanksgiving was a great time at Kandahar Airfield., I had the opportunity to serve the Thanksgiving meal for about 40 minutes at the Independence Hall dining facility. It was an honor to serve the Military members and Civilians who are here in support of the combat operations in Afghanistan. Here at the headquarters, we also aired the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and had even more food and fellowship with those who attended. Overall, it was a very good day and an enjoyable holiday.

Christmas is next with several events planned. Our celebration started Dec. 12 with a BBQ that included decorating and lighting of the Christmas tree. We have received the Christmas tree ornaments and the AES blankets that the Employee Activities Committee ordered last month. If you didn't get an order in for those items, don't worry because we are going to place another order. On Christmas Day, the Commander and I will be going to all offices for the office and/or door decorating contest (winners will be named later in the day). We also have a movie marathon featuring Christmas movies playing all day in the conference

room, with hors d'oeuvres and snacks later in the afternoon under the satellite dishes at the picnic tables.

Other things going on around the district:

- We have planned for our first Junior Enlisted Promotion Board that is scheduled to be held Jan. 7, 2011. Thanks goes to the J1 (Human Resources) shop.

- Workout equipment, furniture, .com, AFN and other amenities across the entire District are being ordered. As they arrive, our on-site contractors are delivering and installing the items. We have contracts let in every area to improve the quality of life and to increase the level of production and effectiveness of our people within the District. Thanks to the J-4 (Logistics) and J-6 (Information Management) shops.

- Standard Operating Procedures for the MRAP (mine resistant ambush protected) and SLT (security liaison team) teams are forthcoming, thanks to the J-3 (Operations) shop.

- We have submissions that will be decided soon by the Commander for a coin re-design and a t-shirt competition (a workout shirt that all District employees, including Military service members, will be able to wear during physical training). Movies are being shown every Thursday and Sunday evening at around 7 p.m. (time is dependent on conference room availability).

The Command Group has traveled to all of the area offices and some of the resident offices recently, and plans are being made to get to as many as we can during the holiday season.

With the holiday season upon us, don't forget to take care of your battle buddy and your coworkers. It can be a very stressful time of year, especially being away from home, family, and friends.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for contributing to the success of the AES team. Keep up the great work and have a wonderful holiday season. 



**Command Sergeant Major  
Rickie Virgil**



Photo by Lt. Col. Martha Kiene

**Left to right: John Adams, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Karen Anderson, Mike Scarano, Lt. Mark Wadsworth, CSM Rickie Virgil, and Staff Sgt. Joseph McManus enjoy Thanksgiving dinner on KAF.**

# Contractor receives safety award

Story by Joan Kibler

“No matter where the Corps of Engineers has a project, anywhere in the world, safety is the number one priority,” said Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, commander of the Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES).

To demonstrate the emphasis it places on safety, AES presented its first Contractor of the Year award on Nov. 30 to Technologists Inc. for its work on the Ministry of Interior (MOI) regional administration building.

“This is a big event,” Funkhouser said.

“Technologists Inc. has set high standards to promote a safe work environment. The company had more than 61,000 hours of safe operations on this project.”

The citation read, “the contractor’s team consistently demonstrated outstanding safety performance in every facet of project delivery without any injuries, accidents, or unsafe incidents.”

Sayed Arif Habibi, the contractor’s project manager for the MOI building, accepted the award. “This is the first time we have received an award such as this,” he said. “Safety is very important to us, and this is very good for our people.”

“The Corps of Engineers has helped us,” Habibi said. “We benefit from your experience as we learn about quality and safety.”

Cedric Pelt, Safety and Occupational Health Officer, said that the District

established the safety award “to motivate contractors to have safe work practices.

“With this award, we are recognizing contractors who are proactive with their safety programs,” Pelt said. “We look at several criteria, which include an accepted accident prevention plan, a prepared activity hazard analysis, and their new employee orientation. We also review how the contractor conducts their site safety reviews and how he documents and corrects safety deficiencies. Finally, we look at whether workers are using proper personal protection equipment and whether the contractor properly reports exposure hours and safety incidents.”

Additional criteria require the contractor to have a tool box safety meeting weekly and to provide various types of safety training.

The Safety Office solicited nominations from throughout the district for the award.

The nomination from the Kandahar Vicinity Area Office said that the Technologist team “has consistently demonstrated outstanding safety performance in the everyday facets of their project.”



Photo by Brenda Beasley

**Sayed Arif Habibi (right) accepts Contractor of the Year award on behalf of Technologists, Inc. from Col. Anthony Funkhouser.**

“The management group overseeing the project is composed solely of local nationals, and they are working very hard to showcase their work,” said David Carte, Kandahar Area Engineer. “They have received high remarks for their quality control management and their safety practices.

“On October 19-20, the Quality Assurance Branch (QAB) conducted a construction management evaluation, and this contract was one of the contracts reviewed. QAB noted in their report, ‘the quality of the construction, both outside and inside the MOI building, demonstrated that the contractor appears to have a good quality control program.’ They also said that this contractor’s safety program appears to be the best they’ve seen in Afghanistan.”

The quality assurance report also stated that jobsite housekeeping and organization



Courtesy Photo

**Contractor ensures Afghan workers practice safety when applying a plaster coat to an exterior wall.**

are among the best the team has observed.

The area office gave special credit to Nematullah Khatibi, a native of Herat, who has served as the safety officer for

the site. He was instrumental in correcting and eliminating safety hazards.

Technologists Inc. holds the \$2.9 million contract to design and construct the

regional administration building located at the Joint Regional Afghanistan National Security Force Compound (JRAC) located near Kandahar Airfield.

This project will permit the Ministry of Interior (MOI) to provide more effective administrative support and resources for Afghan National Police operations, Carte said. Administrative personnel located at the MOI building will serve three divisions of the Afghan National Police: Uniformed Police, Afghan National Civil Order Police, and the Border Police.

Pelt encourages all field office personnel to focus on jobsite safety, motivate their contractors to practice safe work habits, and keep their projects in mind for next year's award. 🇦🇫

# Afghanistan Safety 101

by Cedric J. Pelt, safety officer

We are making a big difference in the lives of the Afghan people each day when we ensure that our contractors provide those who work for them a safe and healthful workplace. This is a paradigm shift in the work culture of the Afghan people. Many of the Afghans have never had someone be concerned for their personal safety. They have not had someone to ensure that they have all of the necessary personal protective equipment they need to do their job. There has never been anyone to care if they were working safely - only that they were getting the job done.

Site safety visits to all of our construction sites will continue because it shows that we care for their personal safety. We have observed that the project sites that are visited frequently have a much better safety program. When we require our contractors to submit a written accident prevention plan and then we enforce it, it sends

a message to the contractor that we care and will require them to comply with the plan. Many of our contractors are surprised when we enforce our safety standards since they are not accustomed to this level of attention. We will not waiver from our safety standards because we are in Afghanistan.

It is the District Commander's responsibility to ensure the safety and health of all government and contractor personnel on our construction project sites. This is accomplished through the District's Safety and Occupational Health Program. We are all obligated to never walk past a safety deficiency (when recognized) and not bring it to the attention of the contractor. All AES personnel are deputized as safety officers. We have been very successful in our safety program because many of our personnel take this responsibility seriously.

**BUILDING STRONG ... DO IT SAFE!** 🇦🇫

# District committed to completing ANP facilities in Helmand and Kandahar Provinces

Story by Joan Kibler

The Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES) is making steady progress with completing Afghan National Police (ANP) headquarters facilities in the Helmand and Kandahar Provinces. AES is supervising the construction of six ANP sites under a contract with Basirat Construction, an Afghan firm.

Various news reports recently criticized Corps of Engineers’ construction of these projects following publication of SIGAR (Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction) Audit 11-3, on Oct. 27, and these news reports said that the facilities are unusable and in danger of collapse.

The Corps of Engineers concurred with the majority of SIGAR’s recommendations for improving construction quality but did not concur with all of them – specifically the allegations that the facilities are unusable and at risk of collapse.

Two of the ANP facilities – in the Spin Boldak and Nahri Saraj districts – are in use and meeting the requirements of the ANP. The remaining four facilities – in Nad Ali, Garm Ser, Zeheli, and Takhta Pul – are moving toward completion and now range between 86 to 96 percent complete.



Courtesy Photo

Zeheli

“The security situation in the areas where many of these police headquarters facilities are located prevented the contractor and Corps of Engineers personnel from working at the sites,” said John Adams, chief, Engineering and Construction Division. “We knew that we had construction problems and had already identified several issues at the time of the SIGAR inspection. We are committed to correcting the construction quality management problems cited in the report and to making repairs in accordance with the contract terms.”

To address the allegation that the facilities are at risk of collapse, AES performed engineering assessments at Takhta Pul and Garm Ser to evaluate structural integrity. “We found these buildings to be safe from seismic risk for those areas,” Adams said. “We’re confident that the facilities have the proper structural design.”

“We are working closely with the contractor to complete these facilities and turn them over to the ANP,” said Lt. Col. Ronald Bahr, officer in charge of the Helmand Area Office. “Our quality assurance representatives are visiting these project sites regularly and identifying acceptable work as well as any areas that need



Courtesy Photo

Takhta Pul



Courtesy Photo

### Nad Ali



Courtesy Photo

### Garm Ser

to be reworked.”

Lt. Col. Martha Kiene, deputy commander, said that the District has identified four major areas to improve performance long term.

The first is security in the area before construction contracts are awarded. “We must have better freedom of movement for contractor and Corps of Engineers personnel,” Kiene said.

Second, AES is refining the role of its local national quality assurance representatives through improved requirements for submitting reports and through increased training.

The third focus area is operations and maintenance (O&M), a function critical for keeping the completed facilities in good operating order. The Corps of Engineers has awarded a single contract for O&M for all Afghan National Security Forces facilities serving the National Army and the National Police.

“This contract has two major components: first, operating and maintaining the sites; second, training Afghan personnel to manage the O&M process and to learn the trades and crafts required in performing maintenance,” said Victor Ross, O&M project manager.

Fourth, the Corps of Engineers will no longer combine several projects in multiple locations into a single package for contract award, Kiene said. “Based on our experience, we are changing our contracting strategy, anticipating single awards at most project sites.”

“We are committed to finishing the projects,” said Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, commander. “These facilities are critical for providing the ANP with the platform necessary for them to provide stability for their residents in these districts.”

# ANP opens new District Headquarters in Pashtun Zarghun

Story by Joan Kibler

*We welcome those who brought  
freedom for my homeland  
We throw kisses to those hands that  
free my homeland ...*

Translated opening lines  
from the poem recited  
by Maj. Mohammed Nadir

*The Afghanistan Engineer District – South is wrapping up an important contract to provide Uniformed Police headquarters in the Herat province. Facilities in five districts of the province are now complete. An Afghanistan construction firm is completing the work, with the most recent additions in the Ghoryan and Pashtun Zarghun districts.*

**T**he Afghan National Police (ANP) opened its new Uniformed Police headquarters in the Pashtun Zarghun district of the Herat province in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 10.

Two themes emerged during the ceremony: the importance of this project for the Pashtun Zarghun community and greater Afghanistan for ensuring security through a strong police force, and the partnership between

the Afghanistan and U.S. governments for delivering this important police headquarters.

Attendees included Maj. Mohammed Nadir, the district headquarters deputy commander; Abdul Rasheed Popal, the district governor; several members of the Uniformed Police; local community leaders, and representatives from the Afghanistan construction firm, Omran Consulting Construction and Engineering Company.

U.S. attendees included Capt. Eric I. Palicia, Afghan Regional Security Integration Command – West Herat, and several members from the Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES): Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, commander; Michael Scarano, deputy for programs and project management; Greg H. Reiff, chief of Construction; Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe, Herat officer-in-charge; Donny



Photo by Francis Hinkley

**Maj. Mohammed Nadir, the ANP deputy commander, cuts the ribbon for the new police headquarters in the Pashtun Zarghun district, with Col. Anthony Funkhouser (left) and others looking on.**

D. Davidson, Herat area engineer; Nabil Abourialy, resident engineer for Herat and Shindand-Farah; Scott T. Hughes and Tariq Taheri, project engineers in Herat; and Frances Hinkley, project manager.

The ceremony began with welcoming remarks and a reading from the Koran. Then the featured guests made speeches, beginning with Engineer Paiendah, Omran's regional manager, followed by the district governor and the district headquarters deputy commander, who recited a poem about freedom for Afghanistan and peace for its people.

Funkhouser spoke at the end of the presentations, and Taheri interpreted his

remarks for the audience.

"This building is built on a strong foundation of concrete, but it is surrounded by a strong foundation of commitment from the people of Pashtun Zarghun," Funkhouser said. "This facility will help ensure strength for your police force and for your government.

"None of us can succeed without each other. I am proud to be associated with this project."

AES is managing construction of ANP headquarters facilities in six districts in the Herat province under a single contract, valued at \$3.5 million, held by Omran.

With the completion of the \$439,000 facility in Pashtun Zarghun, five are now complete and



Photo by Joan Kibler

**The ANP district headquarters compound has office space, a detention facility, quarters for the police officers, utilities, and security features.**



Photo by Greg Reiff

**Attendees find their seats as the ceremony begins. From left, Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, and Abdul Rasheed Popal.**



Photo by Joan Kibler

**The official ceremony concluded with signing the keys over to the ANP. From left, Maj. Mohammed Nadir, Engineer Yunos Lalli, Scott Hughes, Engineer Paiendah, and Tariq Taheri.**

turned over to the ANP. The last site will be finished in December.

“I am very grateful to Omran for completing this project under some very difficult circumstances,” Funkhouser said. “You persevered and delivered a beautiful project. Thank you for working through many challenges to deliver a quality project. This police headquarters is a reflection of your commitment and our partnership.”

During the ceremony, Safe and Hughes presented a certificate of appreciation to Omran for its work on the project. The district headquarters deputy commander also presented a certificate to Omran.

The official ceremony concluded with Hughes signing over the facility to the ANP district headquarters deputy commander and presenting him with the keys. Afterwards, attendees toured the facility and had lunch.



Photo by Joan Kibler

**The Afghan-U.S. team celebrates completion of the ANP district headquarters in Pashtun Zarghun.**

The ANP district headquarters compound is approximately 600 square meters in size and accommodates a population of 60 people, according to Hinkley.

Like other ANP district headquarters facilities, the overall design was site adapted to the Pashtun Zarghun location.

Davidson said the contractor faced several challenges during construction, including working in remote areas, lack of adequate security, real estate issues, and developing a skilled workforce to complete the facilities.

“We have been able to partner with the contractor to work through the majority of these issues by engaging the end user (the ANP), and the customer (the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan) early,” Davidson said. “We have been pleased with the quality of the facilities constructed under this contract and with the contractor’s safety record.”

“When we finish the construction at these ANP facilities, we don’t leave – we stay engaged with the community,” Abourialy said. “We’ve

already begun discussions with the ANP about bringing the new operations and maintenance contractor in for facility maintenance and to train them in O&M procedures.

“We are staying engaged with the other ANP police headquarters that have been recently completed, and they are keeping them maintained,” Abourialy said.

Construction of ANP headquarters facilities supports Coalition efforts to provide law and order throughout the district provinces in Afghanistan, thereby fostering enduring security and stability and creating lasting governance. 🇺🇸

*... To the reconstruction of  
our homeland  
Every day we get prouder.*

Translated closing lines  
from the poem recited  
by Maj. Mohammed Nadir



Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe represents the Afghanistan Engineer District – South at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new police headquarters in the Ghoryan district.

# Ribbon-cutting ceremony opens new ANP facility in Ghoryan

Story and photos by  
Nabil Abourialy  
Resident Engineer  
Herat and Shindand-Farah

**O**n Sept. 7, the Afghanistan Engineer District – South participated in a ribbon-cutting event that took place at the Ghoryan Afghan National Police (ANP) Uniformed Police district headquarters in the Herat province. The event was hosted by the contractor, Omran Consulting Construction and Engineering

Company, and attended by ANP leadership and Ministry of Interior representatives. Also attending were Herat Area Office representatives: Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe, Herat officer-in-charge; Donny D. Davidson, Herat area engineer; Torrey Leinen and Tariq Taheri, project engineers; and Gregory S. Miller, operations and maintenance area

representative.

AES signed the keys over to the ANP during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

AES awarded and managed this contract since inception. The facility is one of six ANP sites being constructed under this contract. The other sites are in Karokh and Zendajan (*see September-October 2010 edition, Engineering Freedom*),



Obey, Pashtun Zarghun and Chest-i-Shariff.

The general scope of the contract is to design and construct a one-story district headquarters compound for uniformed police. In addition to design and construction, the contractor is responsible for providing all material, labor, and equipment needed to construct and/or refurbish all utilities, roads, buildings, force protection measures, site security, de-mining activities, and other features to support a population of 60 personnel. 🇺🇸

**ANP district headquarters facility in Ghoryan.**



**Afghan-U.S. team celebrates the completion of the ANP district headquarters in Ghoryan.**



The logo features the text 'AES Team' in a stylized, metallic font on the left, and 'Herat Area Office' in a large, bold, black font on the right. The background is a green and white graphic of a tent or structure.

By Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe

**T**he Herat Area Office (HAO) is the proud Afghanistan Engineer District - South (AES) team covering approximately 62,000 square miles and four provinces in Regional Command - West. Out West there's an isolation aspect that motivates the staff and stimulates a competitive spirit. The Herat Area Office is located at Camp Stone, a small camp with a population of about 1,000, and about 20 kilometers south of Herat City, a thriving hub of business and industry. Camp Stone is also located adjacent to the Afghan National Army (ANA) 207<sup>th</sup> Corps headquarters at Camp Zafar.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe is the HAO area officer in charge (OIC), and Donny Davidson is the area engineer. The HAO has four resident offices. The Herat Resident Office is co-located with the HAO. The Shindand Resident Office is located on the rapidly expanding Shindand Air Base. The Farah Resident Office is located in forward operating base (FOB) Farah just outside of town. And lastly, way up north, nestled alongside the airport and the adjacent Spanish Camp, is the soon to be completed Qala-I-Naw Resident Office.



Courtesy Photo

**Herat team members. Front row: Sgt. Maj. David Tindall, Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe, Donny Davidson, and Maj. Kimberly Giles. Second row: Bill Brown, Paul Bell, Louis Esqueda, Jeffrey Blanford, and Scott Hughes. Third row: Mitchell Moore, Kenny Pham, Brandon Andrews, Tony Aukstikalnis, Nabil Abourialy, Jason Foust, and Danny Lovin.**

Army Maj. Kimberly Giles is the OIC of the Herat Resident Office and the Qala-I-Naw Resident Office, with Nabil Abourialy as the resident engineer. The Herat Resident Office has the bulk of the current work in the west. Projects include over a dozen uniformed police and border police facilities; ANA facilities at Qala-I-Naw and Camp Zafar to include a new Corps Support Battalion and a new range; a Ministry of Interior administration building; a counternarcotics

facility; a university facility; an Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) battalion headquarters; and others. There are 18 AES employees in the Camp Stone offices including three operations and maintenance (O&M) specialists, two information technology specialists, and one real estate specialist.

The HAO also has an extremely active Security Liaison Team (SLT) which typically conducts six to eight missions a week - logging nearly 600 kilometers a week



Courtesy Photo

**Shindand Resident Office: Lynda Christenson, Maj. Oscar Portillo, Peter Debski, Kim Warner, Master Sgt. Eric Smith, and visitor, Airman 1st Class Mackey.**



Courtesy Photo

**Farah Resident Office: Lt. Cmdr. Eric Williams and Ralph Young.**

on average. A second SLT operates out of the Farah Resident Office. These assets are vital - accessing our projects with locations all over three of the four provinces and along the Iranian border.

Army Maj. Oscar Portillo is the OIC of the Shindand Resident Office, with Kim

Warner as the resident engineer. This office is managing the construction of the new Regional Military Training Center and an Afghan National Police (ANP) headquarters facility and is ramping up to manage over \$100 million worth of recently awarded, and soon to be

awarded, military construction projects. This office is currently in temporary facilities and will be building a new facility in the coming year. The Shindand Air Base is projected to grow significantly in the next two years. There are eight AES employees in the Shindand Resident office including one O&M specialist and one real estate specialist. This number will grow as facilities become available to support them.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Eric Williams is the OIC in the Farah Resident Office, with Kim Warner as the resident engineer. This office supports four uniformed police and border police facilities that are under construction and is getting ready to start a major ANA development on the nearby Camp Sayar. They will soon be working on more than \$50 million worth of construction. There are currently four AES employees in the Farah Resident Office.

Working with the community has been a valuable part of the HAO mission. Williams and Portillo, along with Master Sgt. Eric Smith in Shindand, are AFPAK hands (Afghanistan Pakistan Hands Program) and are integral with the community, bringing a unique connection to the work the Corps is doing. Also because the Afghan engineers are such a successful component of this team, the Corps recognizes the value the university has and is teaming up to support them. The HAO is fortunate to have the university to hire local engineers from. There are 34 Afghan engineers

working for the AES in the West. Most are on the projects full time as quality assurance representatives. There are several senior engineers working in the offices and several O&M engineers working in the field and in the offices.

The HAO has been reaping the harvest with a number of ribbon-cutting ceremonies and is expecting several more

in the next month or two. Four uniformed police district headquarters facilities have been completed with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. One border police station on the Iranian border has been completed and awaiting the ceremony, and two more are soon to follow. Other sites that will be completed by the end of December include a border police company headquarters, an ANCOP

battalion headquarters, an ANA training range, a counternarcotics police headquarters, and a hospital addition.

The Military and Civilian members of the Herat Area Office, both U.S. and Afghan, work hard everyday to make Afghanistan better for our hosts and for U.S. service members serving here. 🇺🇸

# Shatto part of team that wins Army-wide contracting award

Story and photo by Brenda Beasley

**A**fghanistan Engineer District - South team member Harry Shatto is part of a team that won a U.S. Army Acquisition Excellence (AAE) award in October for his part in supporting the Soldier and the Army's business transformation efforts.

While deployed to the Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division in Iraq, Shatto served on a Middle East District Forward Deployed Services Cell Project Delivery Team (PDT). The PDT won the AAE award in the "Transforming the Way We Do Business" category. Shatto, a contracting officer in the Contracting Division, comes from the Mission Installation Contracting Command-Center in Fort Belvoir, Va. This is his second deployment serving in overseas contingency operations for the Corps of Engineers.

"The Corps is predominately construction, but there are variable services requirements as a government agency," said Shatto. "This

contract oversight process allows us to have a better forward position in administrating contracts that MED awards on behalf of the forward-deployed districts, and it will help us in the Afghanistan theater of operations."

According to a MED article, Leigh Bandy, a MED supervisory contract specialist, established the Forward Deployed Services Cell to better oversee service contracts in Iraq in response to recommendations to improve how MED manages service contracts. With a service contract, the government monitors and evaluates performance to ensure the contractor meets the quality and performance standards contained in the contract.

Bandy then deployed to Iraq to establish the cell, of which Shatto was a member. The forward cell improved the efficiency and effectiveness of service contract management while supporting customers throughout Iraq.

Presented by the Department of the Army Acquisition Support Center in Fort Belvoir, the AAE award recognizes an Army acquisition work force individual or team whose performance and contributions set them apart from their peers. The categories in the team award are Equipping and Sustaining Our Soldiers' Systems; Information Enabled Army; and Transforming the Way We Do Business. Nominations were accepted for sustained



Harry Shatto

achievements made or culminated during the period of March 1, 2009, through Feb. 28, 2010.

MED's Forward Deployed Services Cell was nominated for the AAE Award in April 2010 by USACE, according to Colleen O'Keefe, the regional contracting chief at the Transatlantic Division. The twelve nominated teams were honored at an Oct. 24 ceremony hosted by the Army Acquisition Support Center. The winning team consisted of Leigh Bandy, Yolanda Brown, Celia Cockburn, Daisy Dubose, Carol McQuay, Diana Rodenas, Tracey Shaw, and Shatto.

"The expeditionary mindset of these civilians, and their expertise and willingness to ensure our processes are efficient and effective despite the contingency environment, convey great

honor for USACE and the Army," said O'Keefe.

Bandy brought the Project Management Business Process used so successfully in the construction contract execution and administration to the service contract arena, said O'Keefe. This concept recognizes that these contracts need the continuity of oversight since their duration will span years. This will pay dividends for years to come as precious resources will not be needed to retroactively clean up any problems, she added.

"There are plans in motion to use this concept in AES," said Shatto. Procedures are being developed for administering the operations and maintenance service contracts for Afghan National Security Forces facilities. 

## News briefs



Photo by Brenda Beasley

Brig. Gen. Mark Yenter

### TAD Forward Commander visits AES

Brig. Gen. Mark Yenter, commander, Transatlantic Division – Forward, visited the Afghanistan Engineer District – South Dec. 1. At a Town Hall meeting, he presented service pins to new AES members who have been serving at the district for at least 30 days and end-of-tour awards to members ready to depart the theater.

He also addressed employees, discussing the direction of the

mission in Afghanistan.

Yenter, who also serves as the Engineer, U.S. Forces – Afghanistan, is responsible for AES, Afghanistan Engineer District – North, the 579th Engineer Detachment (Field Engineer Support Team – Main), and Task Force Breshna Barq, which includes members from AES and the 249th Prime Power Battalion.

### AES Travel Issues

By Rosie Rocha

Send all e-mail related to travel arrangements, Afghanistan visas, and passports to [AED-S.travel@usace.army.mil](mailto:AED-S.travel@usace.army.mil).

To ensure smooth travel arrangements, please use the AES travel forms on SharePoint under the Travel tab which is under the Logistics tab.

Travel packets need to have all required signatures and be submitted to the Travel Office 45 days prior to travel. A rate quote must be submitted before any self-purchased tickets for R&R. All travelers must book their own hotel arrangements while on R&R. 



Photo by Brenda Beasley

# ON THE MOVE

## Moving in



Somnath  
Bhattacharyya



SPC James  
Bounds



1LT Travis  
Carter



MSGT Janelle  
Dubois



Daniel Finke



Brian Johns



William  
Kiddy



SRA Gregory  
Linker



Dimael Lopez-  
Romans



Michael  
Osborne



James Pierce



Rosie Rocha



SSGT Juan  
Rodriguez



Paul Sidney



Jerry Swean



Billy Waites



Lance  
Walker



Jim Wolfe



LT Mark  
Wadsworth

## Moving out

Michael Baxter  
George Bittorf  
Jesse Boyer  
SSGT Laura Burton  
SPC Warren Cornelious  
Lewis Nathan Epps  
MSGT John Hammett  
Christine Hess  
SSGT Denise Kerley  
LT Nicholas Long  
MSGT Irene Mason  
Walter McCracken

MAJ Andrew Olson  
SFC Mark Parker  
Richard Powers  
MAJ Albert Soliz  
CPT Kimberly Taisipic  
CPT Stephan Walters  
Brett Young

Happy Holidays

