



# Engineering Freedom

January/February 2011

## First Afghan National Army training range complex completed at Camp Zafar



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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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### On the cover ...

The flag of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, adopted in 2004, flies over the first completed training range complex built for the Afghan National Army. See story, page 14.  
Photo by Maj. Mark A. Lukasavich, NTM-A/CSTC-A, Engineer staff





# Commander's message...

**G**reetings to the AES team! We are nearly midway through the fiscal year, and the program is stepping into high gear as spring approaches. So far, our construction placement and scheduled awards are going well. That says a lot, considering the magnitude of our program. We have completed more than 36 projects this fiscal year and placed more than \$136 million in construction, while awarding 41 new projects so far. In the midst of this effort, we have had 61 new teammates arrive, 46 teammates depart and approximately 25 people extend their tours.

Our efforts will increase in the coming months as we seek to meet our mission requirements. This will take a full-court effort by the entire team. Essential to our success will be continuity of operations as our people rotate through AES. I have confidence we can meet the challenges and gain the needed momentum for the coming months. The good news is we have more people extending in addition to an increase in new arrivals to help with our record-level workload.

As we move into the midyear workload effort, some of the best advice I can provide comes from "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" by Robert Fulghum. He wrote, "When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together." To succeed, we must build lasting relationships of trust and confidence with all members of our collective teams. When the going gets tough, we have to communicate even more, rely on each other and support the team.

I wanted to highlight a few folks who have carried these lessons from kindergarten into our hardworking District with tremendous results, raising our organization to the next level. First, a special thanks to **Master Sgt. Charles Yepa** who retired from the U.S. Army in February with 41 years of dedicated service. He was instrumental as the AES Biometric Team Chief and as the assistant contracting officer's representative for the reconstruction, security, service and support contract ensuring Armed Contractor Compliance throughout AES.

During his time here, he was instrumental in standing up two District mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) teams, including establishing communications and training for our area and resident offices, and in establishing procedures to improve both air and ground movement throughout AES.

**Bill Graney**, program manager, has kept the compound projects moving to improve work force quality of life. Bill's diligent and dedicated efforts, despite numerous complexities and delays in the compound, as well as the forward operating base (FOB) projects, are a testament to the project delivery team (PDT) process. At one time, Bill was responsible for singly managing more than 30 FOB projects, three major multiple award task order contract initiatives, and working through the first single award task order contract project.

**BreeAnna Witt**, cartography technician, showed her support of the team when she responded quickly to a last-minute request from Regional Command South to prepare briefing maps for a mission on Thanksgiving Day. AES received the request at 9 p.m. the day before, and she completed it by 3 a.m. Thanksgiving morning. She also responded immediately to a second last-minute request from RC-South to revise the mapping products for a shura meeting with district governors concerning real estate.

**Nabil Abourialy**, resident engineer from our Herat Resident Office, has supervised many high-profile projects including the Afghan National Civil Order Police facility in Adraskan, and the Afghan National Army kandak in Qalae-Naw. He has implemented processes for improving contract administration and quality assurance, and worked tirelessly with our customers, stakeholders and the PDTs. With his leadership, we have had numerous project turnovers and ribbon cuttings in the last several months, as well as multiple project starts. He has also mentored contractors and Afghan engineers to improve their process knowledge. He acted simultaneously as resident engineer for both Herat and Shindand Resident Offices prior to a

permanent Shindand resident engineer fill, and was instrumental in kicking off five new military construction projects there.

**Dora Karnes** from our Kandahar Vicinity Area Office commendably managed \$151 million in projects. She ensured the two 10-megawatt power plants for Kandahar City met all contract requirements. Dora worked long hours in response to the various electrical issues on four different Afghan National Security Force facilities in the Joint Regional ANSF Compound, which were tied into one power generation plant, correcting deficiencies in the main feeders and sub-feeder to each project site. She also provided much needed mentoring for Afghan contractors in properly wiring facilities and using safe electrical work practices.

**Maj. Chris Pewterbaugh** has been able to prioritize and balance the requirements to execute a \$100 million construction program throughout Combined Team Zabul's area of operations with his Qalat resident engineer team. Most notably, Maj. Pewterbaugh has had the most challenging road projects in the country and continues to make progress each day.

**Tom Baker**, our cost estimator, has been a one-man show as the sole cost estimator since mid-December. In addition, he extended a pay period to ensure the District has cost estimating capabilities without any gaps. Tom has consistently delivered accurate rough order of magnitude estimates, current working estimates and independent government estimates on schedule to support contract solicitations, awards and modifications.

**Walter McCracken**, Shindand Resident Office, manages multiple shifts and more than 450 contractor personnel working on the ANA Regional Military Training Center. He takes personal ownership of day-to-day operations to meet an accelerated fall completion schedule. He manages our Afghan quality assurance representatives to accomplish this mission. Walter strives daily for a quality product, emphasizing the safety of contractor personnel and co-workers, and is always willing to take on new tasks.

**Air Force Capt. Greg Ward**, liaison officer, Kandahar Airfield Area Office, hit the ground running in October 2010 from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. His high energy and attention to detail have made him the obvious choice for many tough, demanding tasks and for briefing dozens of colonels daily. When not supporting the \$320 million construction program on Kandahar Airfield (KAF), he serves as a liaison officer between the Garrison; commander, KAF; staff; U.S. Forces-Afghanistan; and RC-South. He also serves as the alternate liaison officer for AES' operations with RC-South for Afghan infrastructure projects (power, water, bridges, etc).

**Joe Jackson** volunteered to go to FOB Dwyer to help get the ongoing projects on track. Joe filled a vacuum left by the previous two quality assurance representatives who had redeployed. He has been instrumental in assuring that the contractors are installing acceptable materials and that the workmanship is top quality. His extensive knowledge of construction work and his diligent efforts

to become familiar with the contract documents have not only assured the quality of the work, but assisted the contractor in completing all required documentation. He worked energetically while enduring the austere conditions of the incomplete facilities in the AES compound at FOB Dwyer.

**Diedrie "DeeDee" Hurd**, purchasing agent in Contracting, possesses a record of significant accomplishments by planning, coordinating and issuing solicitations and other contractual documents, which have led to the award of more than 180 simplified acquisitions and small construction contracts for AES. Always performing her duties with a mission-first attitude, she is instrumental in soliciting and awarding contracts to meet basic needs at the AES compound and the FOBs.

**Lance Walker** has only been at the Tombstone Resident Office for a short time but immediately jumped on the ANP District headquarters at Nad Ali to monitor the contractor's progress on the final punch-list items. This was intended

to be a short trip, but he stayed much longer to complete the task. During that time, he volunteered to visit several other remote Afghan National Police sites to ensure that the contractor is completing the projects acceptably. He has an extraordinary ability to extract information from contract documents and apply it to contractor operations to achieve acceptable construction progress and move projects toward completion.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, noted in his recent visit that we are the most productive district in USACE per capita. It takes everyone to make that happen. These are just a few of the people who are making a difference every day, and I couldn't be more proud of this team. I cannot mention each of you in each edition of this magazine, but I will highlight some of your efforts each time. To the entire team, keep up your "get 'er done" attitude, be safe, and I'll see you as I make my rounds!

AES Teamwork! 🇺🇸



## Command Sergeant Major's message ...

**M**uch has happened in the District as we finished the race in calendar year 2010 and sprinted into 2011. Our focus remains on accomplishing our mission, with several recent project completions and contract awards that contribute to the goal of transitioning to Afghan-led security by 2014. Concurrently, we continue to improve the quality of life where our team members live and work. And recently, we've hosted several USACE leaders as well.

I am honored each time I travel to our area and resident offices and throughout the areas of Regional Commands South, West and Southwest to see the projects and collective work that you accomplish. With each turnover, we are providing facilities that Afghan National Security Forces are using to establish the base of operations to improve security in this country through their national army and in local communities through their national police.

We are also adding power to the grid in Kandahar City, providing a means by which commerce can grow and people can work. Your work is noticed at the highest levels: the U.S. ambassador attended two of our ribbon-cutting ceremonies in January, and the ISAF commander presented coins to several of our team members for their work on the power plant project. You are making a difference!

On Kandahar Airfield, living and working conditions change nearly on a daily basis. Space on the compound is at a critical mass as offices move and new people arrive. Many offices



Photo by Brenda Beasley

**The AES command building is now complete.**

have already moved into the new command building, while renovations are taking place on other buildings at KAF. We have contracts in place to improve working conditions at the area and resident offices to provide you with better work areas; this is especially important since many field offices will increase their staffing in the next few months.

Concurrently, we are working toward improving your



Photo by Senior Airman Gregory Linker

**Chief of Engineers and Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp addresses Corps of Engineers team members at a town hall meeting Feb. 10 at Kandahar Airfield. Attending were Afghanistan Engineer District - South and 579th Engineer Detachment (FEST-M) employees.**



Photo by Senior Airman Gregory Linker

**Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), speaks at a Feb. 10 town hall meeting on KAF.**

housing and quality of life facilities. At KAF, you will soon have much-needed conference rooms, a workout area and a morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) area. To improve the quality of life at our field offices, we have gym equipment and other MWR

items on order.

Recently, we hosted the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, USACE; Command Sgt. Maj. Micheal L. Buxbaum; Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Programs; and Brig. Gen. Mark W. Yenter, Commander of Transatlantic Division (TAD) Forward. Ms. Darcy cited your unselfishness, your dedication and your passion in choosing to serve here. Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp thanked you for your expeditionary mindset. Command Sgt. Maj. Buxbaum encouraged you to spread the word about what you're doing here, noting the differences from 2002 until now.

We also hosted a visit from Col. Joseph A. Goetz, acting TAD Commander, where he learned about the magnitude of our program, our customers and our challenges. We also discussed ways to improve the Division's support for AES operations. As you know, the AES leadership places strong emphasis on completing continuity books to provide consistency of operations as the staff rotates. Col. Goetz complimented your efforts; he said that while this district is the main effort in a kinetic fight, we are leaders in establishing a top-notch quality management program. Keep up your great efforts.

Finally, please continue to take care of one another and stay in touch with your families and friends back home. Their support enables us to do what we do here. Thank you for all the great work you do here every day. 🇺🇸

# Diesel plant brings power

## Bridging solution provides increased power to businesses in Shurandam Industrial Park

Story by Joan Kibler

**B**usinessmen and factory owners on the east side of Kandahar City were reluctant to invest in industry because they didn't have affordable continuous power. If they wanted continuous power to run their businesses, they had to supply their own generators and pay high fuel costs.

Today, an abandoned cotton gin is now bustling, operating 16 hours a day, thanks to a diesel generator power plant constructed by the Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES) in cooperation with the Afghan power utility company, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS).

"I walked around Shurandam Industrial Park, and I asked factory owners why they weren't working," said John Heath, development officer for the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT). "They told me they have many customers but no power to produce goods."

"Kandahar City has suffered major economic setbacks in the last 25 years with a severe decline in available infrastructure, including electricity," said Annette Evans, AES Water and Infrastructure program manager. "The city was considered the 'bread basket' of Afghanistan, but the production of fruits, nuts, grains and other exports has been severely limited by the absence of electricity and cold storage facilities."

Afghan and U.S. government agencies are partnering to solve the severe lack of power in Kandahar City, where residents receive only three to four hours of power every other day.

Bringing more power to Kandahar City supports the Afghan government's efforts to provide governance, economic development and security, thus creating a counterinsurgency (COIN) effect.

The solution is multi-faceted and involves several actions from different

agencies, with work to be completed over a three-year period. In the interim, AES, working with its partners, was asked to develop a bridging solution that would bring increased power to two key areas of Kandahar City to allow businesses to once again operate.

The first of two 10-megawatt diesel generator power plants came on line Dec. 1, 2010. DABS energized the power plant at the Shurandam Industrial Park on the east side of Kandahar City, working with AES to provide power to factories and small businesses. The second plant, on the west side of Kandahar City at Bagh-e-Pol, came on line in February.

"They (the business owners) can now look at getting the factories going,

building the economy, and providing jobs," Heath said.

Heath spoke at the ceremony celebrating the opening of the Shurandam Industrial Park power plant in early January – an event attended by Associate Professor Dr. Tooryalai Wesa, governor of Kandahar province; Karl W. Eikenberry, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; the Minister of Economy; the director of the Kandahar Industrial Association; and dozens of Afghan business and industry leaders, factory owners, and U.S. military and civilian government officials. Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, AES commander, also spoke at the event, describing the features of the diesel generator power plant and how it fits into



Photo by Joan Kibler

**Dozens of Afghan business and industry leaders, factory owners, and U.S. military and civilians attend the opening of the diesel generator power plant Jan. 6 at Shurandam Industrial Park.**



**Col. Anthony Funkhouser and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Black (center of group) participate in a power shura with DABS engineers, Shurandam Industrial Park businessmen and Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team representatives. (Courtesy photo)**

the larger picture of providing power to Kandahar.

“Infrastructure and power contribute to better security,” Eikenberry said. “They demonstrate that the government of Kandahar City is providing better services to its people. To the businessmen, power enables you to grow the economy of Kandahar. I have great confidence this power station can help make a difference for farmers, traders, businessmen and entrepreneurs.”

Based on assessments by AES, DABS and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Kandahar City needs 50 megawatts of immediate, sustainable and reliable power to jumpstart the economy, Evans said.

Instead, Kandahar City receives a maximum of 26 megawatts of electrical power daily, with 12 megawatts coming from hydropower produced at Kajaki Dam and 14 megawatts produced through diesel generators at Breshna Kot, the city’s main power plant.

“Renewable power from Kajaki Dam is the sustainable solution to power supply,” Evans said. “The dam serves villages in the Helmand and Kandahar provinces, but it has deteriorated due to years of

conflict and occupation. In recent years, USAID rehabilitated two existing turbine generators to restore power production to 32 megawatts and a third generator remains to be installed. Kandahar City doesn’t get all the benefits from this power generation, though, since other communities pull from it, as well.

“That’s why the diesel power plants are so critical,” she continued. “They will add more power to the grid immediately in areas where business and industry can grow.”

Funkhouser said these efforts are part of the Kandahar Power Initiative, a plan to increase power generation and distribution to the city over the next three years. The initiative invests more than \$600 million in the Southern Electrical Power System, the utility system serving the Kandahar, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces.

The Kandahar Power Initiative is a coordinated effort between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, DABS, International Security Assistance Force’s Regional Command South, USAID, KPRT, and AES.

This past December, USAID put

contracts in place to strengthen and expand the distribution system, plus install the third turbine at Kajaki Dam.

When the third turbine is installed, Kajaki Dam’s generation capacity will increase to 52 megawatts. Trading diesel generation for hydropower will ensure Kandahar City has available, sustainable power, Evans said.

In the meantime, the diesel power plants are the quick solution to providing power for the three-year transition period, until the final turbine is installed at Kajaki Dam. The plants are being constructed in a six-month period and are located on secure compounds to account for the hostile environment.

To manage the construction of the diesel power plants, Task Force Breshna Barq was established last summer to bring breshna and barq – translated as electric power in both Dari and Pashto languages – to Kandahar City. The task force – led by the AES commander – is comprised of Soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) and AES engineers, project managers, contracting specialists and attorneys.

AES awarded a \$90.5 million contract, which includes construction of the two diesel generation power plants; one year of operations and maintenance for one of the plants; and 60 days of fuel for both plants. The United States will provide the fuel for up to three years or until the final turbine is installed at Kajaki Dam.

“Both plants are identical configurations, with eight containerized diesel engines,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Black, a power specialist with AES.

“The plants are set up so that additional capacity could be obtained



Photo by Joan Kibler

**Local businessmen and factory owners ask questions about the diesel power plant at Shurandam Industrial Park.**

through the installation of more generators if required,” Black continued. “Each plant will function as an independent island grid. As DABS identifies the area of service from each of the two power plants, the Breshna Kot power plant will no longer need to provide service to these industrial and business areas.”

The result will be more power that Breshna Kot can distribute through the feeders supplying Kandahar City.

The bridging solution and its effects are a collaborative effort among the U.S. and Afghan partners. “The bridging solution evolved not out of a vacuum but from intensive, integrated, thorough plans by all partners,” Evans said.

Funkhouser said DABS is an integral partner in commissioning the power plants. “Engineer Fazal (Ahmad) and his team were absolutely critical to helping make this happen.” Fazal is the chief engineer within DABS.

# ISAF Commander



**Awaiting the general's arrival on the flightline are, left to right, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Vincent Harvey, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mears, Staff Sgt. Travis Stark, Staff Sgt. Jason Henley, Staff Sgt. Nathan Ure, Capt. Frederick Wasser, Alan Eastridge, Doug Jamieson, Tom Ingram, Sonny Sapida, Jim Murray, Tom Snow, George Afram, David Carte, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Black, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, and Lt. Col. Martha Kiene.**

Photo by Senior Airman Gregory Linker

“We’re working hand in hand with DABS to distribute power and maintain continuous operations,” Black said. “When we were ready to tie the diesel plant into the existing transmission system, DABS engineers isolated Feeder 514 from the main substation at Breshna Kot so that our contractor could connect into it safely,” Black continued. “They are performing repairs and maintenance on the feeder lines as we commission the system and as businesses hook up. Meeting the intent and maximizing the effect are combined efforts: USACE generates it, DABS distributes it.”

Funkhouser said that the most important relationship that the Corps of Engineers has is “with the Afghan government and DABS to improve power. We will continue to work together to exchange experience to keep the plants running.”

AES also awarded a contract that provides DABS with spare parts and

tools to repair distribution networks, acquire maintenance vehicles, prepare connections to the power plants, and perform other maintenance services to sustain the increase in power. This project, as well as the bridging solution, is being funded through the Commander’s Emergency Response Program, which provides projects or services that immediately assist the local population.

“Building Afghan capacity to sustain the project is as vital as the construction effort,” Funkhouser said. “DABS engineers know how and where to distribute power. We will work with DABS personnel to empower them to assume responsibility for the plants in 2014.”

In a press release, Wesa said, “These generators will provide power for industrial park, and those employees, whom were setting aside due to the lack of power, will find the opportunity to be back on the job.” He called the project

very important for business and asked merchants to reactivate their factories in the area.

Eikenberry also encouraged business leaders and factory owners to “take advantage of this opportunity. With your assistance, we can build confidence to invest and put money into sustainable power for Kandahar City, all the while knowing that security has got to keep improving.”

The Afghan and U.S. governments are focused on delivering sustainable and affordable power generation capacity and distributing it effectively. To deliver this growth to Kandahar City well into the future, 160 megawatts of power is required. The anticipated future Southern Electrical Power System connection to the Northeast Power System is necessary to bring the additional required megawatts to Kandahar City to create a vibrant economy for Southern Afghanistan. 

# presents coins for diesel generator power plants

**G**en. David H. Petraeus, commander, International Security Assistance Force, presented coins to several Soldiers and civilian members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a Soldier with the 372nd Military Police Company



Gen. David Petraeus congratulates Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Black, deputy commander of TFB2, for his work on the power plant.

Photo by Joan Kibler

for their efforts on the diesel generator power plants serving Kandahar City.

Petraeus presented the coins Feb. 14 at Kandahar Airfield to 16 members of Task Force Breshna Barq (TFB2) – a special task force established in the summer of 2010 to bring breshna and barq, translated as electric power in both Dari and Pashto languages, to Kandahar City. The task force, led by the commander of the Afghanistan Engineer District-South (AES), is comprised of Soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) and AES engineers, project managers, contracting officers, and attorneys.

Bringing more power to Kandahar City supports the Afghanistan government’s efforts to provide governance, economic development and security, thus creating a counterinsurgency (COIN) effect. The solution is multi-faceted and involves several actions from different agencies, with work to be completed over a three-year period. In the interim, the Army Corps of Engineers, working with its partners, developed a bridging solution that would bring increased power to two key areas of Kandahar City where business and industry can grow. 

# Ceremony marks completion of hospital addition for 207th Corps

Story by Joan Kibler

“If the importance of an event is measured by who attends, then this is a very important event today,” said Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, to the more than 200 people who attended the Jan. 8 ribbon-cutting ceremony for an Afghan National Army hospital addition at Camp Zafar, Herat.

Attending the ribbon cutting were members of the ANA, including Brig. Gen. Mohaidin Ghori, chief of staff, 207th Corps of the ANA; Funkhouser, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES); Col. Col. Bradley W. Booth, commander, Regional Support Command West; Mahmoud Baligh, vice president, Omran Consulting, Construction and Engineering Company; and dozens of ANA soldiers, medical staff, contractors and coalition personnel.

The \$3.5 million facility, which AES awarded in April 2009, was constructed by Omran.

“The additional capacity will provide the 207th Corps’ 13,000 soldiers with proper medical facilities,” said 1st Lt. Tanner Smith, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, Engineer staff. “This expansion provides the Afghan National Army with a critical facility for their transition to self-sustainment.”

Through an interpreter, Baligh explained the layout and function of the hospital addition and said that it was constructed “in accordance with the highest modern updated standards.

“In addition, the hospital was designed and built by professional young Afghan engineers,” Baligh said. “Our first and main priority is to employ Afghan engineers to build capacity and to take on bigger projects in the future.”

Funkhouser followed Baligh with remarks. To the ANA, he said, “Today we celebrate the completion of this facility. We want to assist you by providing the facilities that the Afghan National Army needs to help with security.”

To Omran, Funkhouser said, “That you are employing young Afghan engineers: as engineers, we enjoy watching this country grow with the young engineers who are contributing so much talent.”



Photo by Loran D. Doane, NTM-A Public Affairs Advisory Team-West

**The 207th Corps of the Afghan National Army and coalition partners participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 51-bed addition at the Herat Regional Military Hospital.**



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlotta C. Holley, U.S. Air Force

**The Afghan National Army hospital staff listens to speakers during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the addition at the Herat Regional Military Hospital.**

The ceremony included the traditional signing over of the facility. Signatories included Donny Davidson Jr., Herat area

engineer; Baligh; and Smith.

Afterward, through an interpreter, Ghori thanked the attendees for their



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlotta C. Holley, U.S. Air Force

**The new addition at the Herat Regional Military Hospital has a large administrative area, including 13 offices, for the medical staff.**



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlotta C. Holley, U.S. Air Force

**The patient area within the new addition provides 46 regular patient beds, four isolation beds for infectious patients, and a VIP patient bed. Each patient bed is connected to an existing oxygen system.**

support of this project. “Thank you for helping soldiers by providing good hospital facilities,” he said. “Thank you for your confidence in us.”

He also said he was appreciative of those who employ “Afghan engineers and who give them projects to improve their skills.”

The ceremony concluded with the traditional ribbon cutting led by Ghori and Funkhouser. Omran then led a tour of the hospital facility.

The hospital addition has three distinct functions, according to Kenny Pham, project engineer, AES Herat area office. “The addition has patient areas, administrative offices for the medical staff, and a full service dining facility,” he said.

Pham said the patient area provides 46 regular patient beds, four isolation beds for infectious patients, and a VIP patient bed – and each has its own oxygen fitting that is connected to an existing oxygen system. The administrative area has 13 medical staff offices, a shared office, meeting room, locker rooms, nurse station, barber shop and gift shop. The dining facility has a kitchen that can serve up to 60 people at a time, a dining area, and a food storage area.

The addition will increase the hospital’s capabilities in caring for patients. 📷

# Addition provides increased services

Story by Loran D. Doane, NTM-A Public Affairs Advisory Team-West

The Herat Regional Military Hospital (HRMH) doubled in size and capability when Brig. Gen. Mohaidin Ghori, Afghan National Army 207th Corps chief of staff, officially opened a newly built 26,400-square foot annex Jan. 8.

The project is the result of a partnership between the ANA and NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. The design and construction was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers working closely with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) leadership to provide an enhanced medical capacity on time and under budget.

“The ANSF recognize the need to provide the best quality healthcare for their soldiers’ welfare in order to not only accomplish their security mission but also professionalize their Army,” said Col. Bradley W. Booth, NTM-A’s Regional Support Command West commander.

“The hospital addition project, led by Afghanistan Engineer District - South, represents the best aspects of the Afghan National Security Forces and NATO coalition working together to implement a design from the bottom up to meet the present and future needs of the ANA,” Booth said. “The new facility will provide the ANSF a critical operational medical support capability needed to win the peace and provide for a secure and independent Afghanistan.”

HRMH provides medical care primarily to Afghan National Police and ANA service-members and their families. However, it also provides advanced medical care for severely ill and injured civilians who are unable to access the

local community hospitals.

“Our medical facility is on par with a typical hospital you would find most anywhere in the United States,” said Afghan Col. Sayed Azim, HRMH doctor and commander. “We have the same medical testing and diagnostic equipment, along with fully equipped modern operating rooms and intensive care units.”

Besides providing a modern, high-quality environment in which to conduct patient care, the hospital also serves as the setting in which NTM-A mentors train ANA clinicians on the latest medical techniques and biomedical equipment.

“This provides staff members an opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills in diagnosis and patient treatment,” Azim said. “Our physicians and clinicians are very adept at what they do, but certainly benefit greatly by working with our NTM-A partners and visiting doctors from around the world.”

He said, “We now have the facility and equipment required for our doctors to perform excellent patient care and we look forward to the opportunity to add cardiac and ophthalmology specialists in the future.”

The hospital employs 160 medical staff, and it treated more than 30,000 patients last year. As the ANA increases in size, and as more family members are able to access the hospital’s services, Azim said he expects the faculty could likely grow substantially to meet the demand for medical services.

The 12-month construction project is part of a multi-phased long-term plan designed to address the needs of the growing ANSF. The Afghan army now stands at nearly 150,000 soldiers, up from 65,000 only three years ago. 📷



Photo by Lt. Col. Martha Kiene

Afghan border police stand in formation at the border crossing facility at Islam Qala.

# Afghan police improve security with new border facilities

Story by Mark Abueg, Public Affairs Officer  
579th Engineer Detachment (FEST-M)

An important step was taken to stop the illegal transportation of goods, improve security and generate revenue in a border town in the western Herat province of Afghanistan.

The second phase of border crossing facilities – consisting of an Afghan National Border Police compound and a second customs warehouse – was unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 19 at Islam Qala.

The majority of trade between Afghanistan and Iran passes through here in the west and will transition

through new facilities.

The new border crossing point will be used and maintained by the Afghan National Border Police and Customs Police, according to Donny D. Davidson Jr., Herat area engineer, Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES). AES supervised the second phase of construction.

“Included in this project is a 100-person barracks, a 50-person dining facility, a storage warehouse and a police administration building consisting of six offices, a conference room, armory and reception area,” he said.

Attending the ceremony

were Karl Eikenberry, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; Lt. Gen. David Rodriguez, commander of International Security Assistance Force Joint Command; and Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, chief of staff of the U.S. Central Command. AES members attending the ceremony included Lt. Col. Martha Kiene, deputy commander; Lt. Cmdr. Eric Williams, officer-in-charge, Farah Resident Office; Scott Hughes and Tariq Taheri, project engineers; and Davidson.

Eikenberry noted the border project aims to help the Government of the Islamic

Republic of Afghanistan.

“I am pleased that the United States has been able to partner with the Afghan Government to further develop this border crossing point, which provides the resources and technologies necessary to increase the efficient movement of legitimate trade and travel while also deterring illegitimate activities at this important gateway to Afghanistan,” Eikenberry said.

An efficient border and customs police force is a priority for the Afghan Government according to an ISAF release. It also stated that



Photo by Donny Davidson Jr.

**U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, second from right, tours the border crossing facility at Islam Qala.**

controlling the movement of goods and people across the border represents not only a security concern but also a major aspect of the economic

development of the country. In addition to the buildings, the official port of entry project, which neighbors Taybad, Iran, includes 3,800

square meters of asphalt roads; 800 square meters of sidewalks; a complete water distribution system; an electrical distribution system

with a backup generator; and a complete sanitary sewer system. Technologists, Inc. completed the \$4.3 million project.

“Finally, as the chief of the United States Mission here, it is one of my greatest pleasures to have the opportunity to travel and see first-hand, the exciting new projects and processes that are jointly developed with our Afghan partners to bring about greater security and economic prosperity for the people of this region and all of Afghanistan,” Eikenberry said.

“This facility is a symbol of our enduring and long-lasting commitment to Afghanistan,” he continued.

The first phase of border crossing facilities, also constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers, opened June 17, 2009. 

## Security upgrade improves entrance at Camp Zafar

Story by Joan Kibler

An Afghan First company just contributed to improving the security and force protection for the 207th Afghan National Army Garrison at Camp Zafar, Herat.

On Jan. 9 the Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES) turned over a guard house and security operations facility to the ANA garrison in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Representing the ANA were Maj. Gen. Zeyarat Shah Aabid, the brigade commander, and Brig. Gen. Mangal

Amarkhil, the garrison commander. Donny D. Davidson Jr., AES Herat area engineer, and Mansour Achmadzai, president, United Universal Group (the contractor), also participated in the ceremony.

AES awarded the \$446,430 contract to United Universal Group on April 4, 2010, with the work completed Dec. 22, 2010.

The guard house provides an additional security facility within Camp Zafar that acts as a main control point, said Jason McWilliams, office engineer, Herat Area Office.

“The security operations facility provides a more substantial living quarters for the soldiers providing security for the main entry control point into Camp Zafar,” McWilliams said. “These soldiers operate around the clock.”

The security facility includes sleeping quarters, kitchen, dining room, classroom, office, showers and latrines, storage room, and arms room.

The project was completed in conjunction with the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

“This was the first project that United Universal has had with AES,” McWilliams said. “The contractor supplied a quality product, with no modifications needed to the contract.”



Courtesy Photo

**This new guard house and security operations facility will improve security and force protection at Camp Zafar.**

Afghan firms must qualify for projects under Afghan First requirements. Afghan First is an initiative created through Public Law 110-181, which limits competition in awarding contracts to Afghan-owned firms. AES focuses on developing this broad-based group of contractors by creating the capability for them to succeed in small-dollar-value federal construction contracts. The goal is to help Afghan-owned firms complete projects successfully so that they are competitive on the more complex projects. 



Courtesy Photo

**Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are Maj. Gen. Zeyarat Shah Aabid, the brigade commander; Donny Davidson, AES Herat area engineer; and Brig. Gen. Mangal Amarkhil, the garrison commander.**

# First Afghan National



# complex com

Story and photos by Joan Kibler

In a ribbon-cutting ceremony held Jan. 8, the 207th Corps of the Afghan National Army and its partners celebrated the completion of the first ANA Corps training range complex built in Afghanistan.

The training range complex – located at Camp Zafar, Herat province – is the first of five being constructed for the ANA, according to Maj. Mark A. Lukasavich, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (NTM-A/CSTC-A), Engineer staff.

“The range complex accommodates training for all weapons systems within the ANA Corps,” Lukasavich said. “It includes eight specialized

ranges for the 207th Corps to qualify and train its soldiers.”

Working with NTM-A/CSTC-A, Afghanistan Engineer District-South (AES) awarded the \$5.8 million contract to Omran Consulting, Construction and Engineering Company, an Afghan firm.

“This is the first completed ANA Corps training range complex in the country, and the ANA is excited to have it,” said Jennifer Zimmerman, ANA project manager, AES. “It’s a great opportunity for them and for us to set the precedent for construction of ranges.”

Attendees at the ceremony included Brig. Gen. Mohaidin Ghori, chief of staff, 207th Corps; Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, commander,

AES; Col. Bradley W. Booth, commander, NTM-A Regional Support Command West; Mahmoud Baligh, vice president, Omran; and other distinguished guests from Camp Zafar and the surrounding area. Also attending were ANA, coalition, NTM-A/CSTC-A, and AES personnel.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the training range complex followed a ceremony on the same day for an addition to the ANA hospital for the 207th Corps. The hospital addition also was constructed by Omran.

“General Ghori was extremely pleased with the use of an Afghan contractor and with all the Afghan citizens who contributed their talents to the completion of these

projects,” Funkhouser said. “He commended the Corps of Engineers and Omran for helping to build capacity in this country.”

Dozens of attendees gathered around a site map as Ismail Sadat, Omran project manager for the West Region, described the layout of the range. The briefing was followed by the ribbon cutting led by Ghori, Funkhouser, and other distinguished guests. Ceremony attendees then toured select range areas followed by lunch.

“Each range is called a ROCA, or a range operation and control area,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe, Herat officer-in-charge, AES. The ROCAs are self-contained, and each have the specialized training area, an observation tower, covered

# Army training range



# Completed at Camp Zafar

bleachers, ammunition break down, covered mess area, latrines, berm, and parking area.

The ranges support training for hand grenade familiarization, rifle (with 25 lanes), pistol, heavy machine gun, rocket-propelled grenade, and mortar firing. Two additional areas allow soldiers to train in urban assault: fire and movement and modified urban combat operations.

The complex also includes the main ROCA building where soldiers drill and show, and an unexploded ordnance demolition pit with bunker to support the range complex and demolition training.

The construction contract was awarded in June 2009, and the complex was completed ahead of schedule,

Zimmerman said. Omran has averaged 255 workers on site daily, plus subcontractors.

“The biggest challenge has been the scale of the site,” Zimmerman said. “It is quite large (over 240 acres), and a perimeter fence was needed around the entire area. We also had to work with Real Estate to get the land to build a one-mile stretch of road across a wadi to get to the site.”

Jeffrey Blanford served as the Herat Area Office’s project engineer for the construction of the range complex.

Lukasavich said that “the training requirements went through many iterations and reviews with the ANA, the mentors and advisors to the ANA, and range experts. The ANA Corps kandaks

(battalion-size bases) are getting the same range complex with adjustments to each location.”

The other four locations are for the 209th Corps at Mazar-e Sharif, the 203rd Corps at Gardez, the 201st Corps at Gamberi, and the 205th Corps at Shorabak, Lukasavich said. The location for the 205th Corps training range in Kandahar is planned for the future. Of these, AES is constructing the training range at Camp Shorabak, plus constructing small-arms ranges at Camp Shorabak, Shindand, and Camp Hero.

Safe said he enjoys working with the leadership of the ANA on projects like the training range complex. “The ANA leaders demonstrate obvious quality leadership

traits in many areas,” he said. “And as they work with their mentors and advisors, I can see their military skills growing.”

**Photo strip, L to R: 1. Ismail Sadat describes the layout of the first training range complex built for the 207th Corps of the Afghan National Army at Camp Zafar. 2. Col. Bradley Booth, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, and Brig. Gen. Mohaidin Ghorri. 3. The training range has eight specialized ranges for the Afghan National Army to train and qualify its soldiers. 4. Donny Davidson Jr., Herat area engineer, cuts his piece of the ribbon during the ceremony.**

# Creating a win/win

## Herat Area Office builds capacity of Afghan citizens, improves Corps' ability to deliver quality construction

Story by Joan Kibler

Masoud Fayeq exemplifies what the Afghan citizen training program stands for in the Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES).

Through an orchestrated hiring, training and performance management program, AES Herat Area Office hires Afghan citizens to serve in key positions on construction projects through a program that gives them professional development opportunities.

They may progress through three levels of classroom and on-the-job training as quality assurance representatives (QARs). This training

enables them to provide the assurance that Corps of Engineers projects are built to the specifications, codes and standards contained in contracts and that contractors meet quality and safety standards.

These QARs may compete for project engineer positions in the area office.

And one may serve as the deputy resident engineer – the top position that an Afghan can hold at AES.

That's exactly what Fayeq has done. He has progressed through all levels and now serves as the deputy resident engineer, assisting the Herat resident engineer,

Nabil Abouraily, with coordinating project construction. In addition, he manages the Afghan training program, which is becoming the model for hiring, training and managing the performance of Afghan citizens in AES.

It's capacity development at its finest and most personal level.

"I'm amazed at the success we have here in Herat with this program," said Jason McWilliams, office engineer, Herat Area Office. "We have a consistent staff of more than 30 Afghans working for us. Twenty-seven are in QAR positions. Six senior project engineers and the deputy



Courtesy Photo

An AES soils technician explains geotechnical equipment and their usages to Afghan employees.



Photo by Joan Kibler

**Masoud Fayeq, standing, and Jason McWilliams discuss a project under construction by the Herat Area Office.**

resident engineer are the link between the QARs and the U.S. staff.

“We develop these employees by training them and giving them experiences that increase their capabilities,” McWilliams continued. “We are building their capacity – giving them skills to work for other contractors and businesses in the future.”

McWilliams supervises the Afghan training program for the Herat Area Office and works with Fayeq in managing it. Their efforts are a winning combination for Afghan employees on a personal level and for the district’s ability to accomplish its mission.

Afghan citizen QARs are the primary means by which AES provides construction surveillance at many job

sites, particularly those in locations not accessible to U.S. citizens. The Herat Area Office covers a 62,000-mile territory with four provinces – Herat, Badghis, Ghawr and Farah – in the western portion of Afghanistan near Iran.

Most Afghan employees have been with the Herat Area Office for at least three years.

“Our senior-level project engineers provide our long-term institutional knowledge,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe, Herat officer-in-charge. “Corps of Engineers military and civilian employees come and go. We have no ability to provide this level of knowledge except through these exceptional folks. We give them training and experience in construction and operations-and-

maintenance processes. They get a level of experience and training that they can’t get anywhere else, which makes them highly competitive for other engineering and construction positions.”

**RIISING THROUGH THE RANKS**

Fayeq began working with the Corps of Engineers in August 2004. “At the time, there were only three people in the office,” he said. “I prepared daily reports and reviewed submittals. Then I was promoted to QAR for the construction of the Camp Zafar ANA (Afghan National Army) base. This was the first AED (Afghanistan Engineer District) project in the West.”

Three years later, he became a project engineer, and in 2009 he was promoted to deputy resident engineer.

“I had a five-step progression. The staff here was kind enough to give me the (deputy resident engineer) position,” Fayeq said.

His modesty belies the fact that he worked hard in all those positions and had to meet the requirements contained in a training and performance program that was previously managed by Mike Pearson and Torrey Leinen (before McWilliams) and which has been further refined through experience.

“No one else knows this ANA base like Masoud does,” McWilliams said. “He put his knowledge of construction to good use as a QAR here. He then became a senior project engineer. The senior engineers are the key to making this program successful. They work with the QARs to help them with monitoring construction and safety on the job sites. When the senior project engineers encounter a significant problem, they refer it to the U.S. engineers to resolve.”

The senior project engineers review the QARs’ work to ensure they perform site inspections according to Corps of Engineers standards and procedures. QARs provide daily reports, with photographs, that include a range of items, such as construction progress, issues, successes, deficiencies and safety. They also review pay estimates and develop monthly progress reports and deficiency tracking lists.

“The senior project engineers are the right hand of the U.S. project engineers,” McWilliams said. “In addition to reviewing the QARs’ daily reports, they review requests for information and submittals. They help us resolve construction and safety problems. Sometimes they push us. Most important, they have the ability to help the QARs – to teach them – to influence them.”

Senior project engineers serving in the



Courtesy Photo

**Afghan employees learn about proper concrete masonry unit construction during a training session.**

Herat Area Office are Tariq Taheri, Jawid Ahadi, Omid Amiri, Besmellah Khpelwak and S. Ab. Wali Wasiq.

### GETTING HIRED AS A QAR

The Afghan QARs have rigid performance requirements, but before they even get on the job, they go through a competitive process to get hired.

There is no lack of applicants for QAR positions, with 40 applicants applying for four positions recently.

“Our Afghan citizens are hired through a personal service contract with Shafi Sirat Inc. (of Kabul),” McWilliams said. “We have the option of asking this company to provide us with QARs, but we’ve chosen to go through a selection process and then have Shafi Sirat employ our selected QARs.”

The Herat Area Office announces the positions, which are posted at the Herat University and on Facebook, and takes applications.

“Applicants are required to have knowledge of construction and English since they must communicate with U.S. engineers to be effective,” McWilliams said.

“We look at their credentials and choose the best,” Fayeq said. “We first



Courtesy Photo

**An AES engineer explains ductwork requirements and proper installation to Afghan employees.**

conduct an interview to determine their language skills. They then take a 30-question written test about

engineering and construction, which also helps show how well they comprehend English. We then conduct a hiring panel



Courtesy Photo

**The Herat senior engineer team, from left: Omid Amiri, Masoud Fayeq, Tariq Taheri, Besmellah Khpelwak, Jawid Ahadi, and S. Ab. Wali Wasiq.**

for those who successfully complete the English interview and the testing.

“I am proud to say that Afghan citizens hired in this office are hired on the basis of their qualifications and not because they are the friend of someone,” Fayeq continued. “And QARs hired in this office must be willing to go to any area covered by the Herat Area Office because they will live on site. They have to be where the construction is.”

### **A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM**

Newly hired junior QARs spend 30 days in training in the area office and at local project sites under the hand of senior QARs and project engineers. They learn from an exhaustive list of topics – everything from QAR responsibilities, preconstruction meetings, three-phase inspection (preparatory, initial and follow up) and site inspections; to design-build concepts, contract clauses, contract evaluations and pay estimates; to rules of conduct, ethics and the AES organization.

After six months, they are eligible to become mid-level QARs; after a year of experience, they are eligible to become senior QARs. The progression isn't automatic; it's based on their field experience and their performance. The progression levels provide incentive for the Afghan citizens to increase their skills in return for upward movement and better wages.

The training doesn't end there. Every two months, the Herat Area Office conducts a two-day refresher training session, where they get 90-95 percent attendance from QARs and project

engineers, McWilliams said. Topics are similar to the base training program, or they may have special emphasis sessions on concrete, safety, electrical, scheduling, inspection, federal acquisition regulations, ethics and lessons learned.

Periodically, the area office focuses specific refresher training sessions on topics to improve overall performance. “For instance, we require the QARs to submit their lessons learned reports every month, and we share them and learn from them,” McWilliams said.

“To improve safety, we require them to submit a safety outline of their project with what's going well and what's not going well. We review these worksheets weekly. We decided to do this because our safety officer could not get to all the job sites on a consistent basis. We put a process in place to teach our QARs how to monitor job-site safety.”

### **MANDATORY MOVEMENT**

The Herat Area Office also put a process in place to provide QARs with experience on different-sized projects in different locations.

“Our QARs monitor projects of different sizes,” Fayeq said. “Small projects are defined as those valued at \$1 million; large projects are over \$20 million. We make sure that all QARs get to work on a variety of projects in a variety of locations.”

In fact, movement is mandatory. The movement plan requires QARs to change locations every four to six months. The scheme is simple: they rotate to locations based on distance from the area office to the specific location – far, middle or close.

“There are three advantages to this movement plan,” Fayeq said. “First, we want to make it equal as far as the people being away from home. Second, the movement plan gives them experience on projects of different sizes. And last, the plan keeps them from getting close to the contractors and having potential ethical problems.”

So how does the Herat Area Office manage knowledge transfer with four- to six-month rotations?

“We have an email account for each project where information is gathered,” Fayeq said. “In addition, each QAR also has to keep a Smart Book that he will give to his replacement.”

The Smart Book contains the project's general scope of work, schedule, on-going activities, remaining work, deficiencies, construction progress photographs and contact information for the government and contractor action officers.

In addition, the QARs have a week of transition at the site.

“The Smart Book and the week of transition help to bring the QAR up to the right level of knowledge,” Fayeq said. “This system also shows any problems that may have occurred with the prior QAR. However, we haven't had problems with QARs not doing their jobs because the penalty is great if an Afghan citizen is fired by the Corps. He simply won't get hired by anyone else.”

That's because “the Corps has credibility. It is known for its reputation – for requiring people to learn and understand the codes and regulations,” Fayeq said. “That is also why companies want to hire people who have been trained by the Corps. We have had only four people who have left our area office and they did so for better positions.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Safe said that providing a quality work environment is important for the Corps of Engineers and the Afghan team members. “For sure they have the challenges of security in the remote locations, and we do our best to give them a safe environment. On the professional level, we give them the challenges of working with different contractors and constantly learning engineering and construction processes. We pay them a decent wage. We rely on them. We couldn't accomplish our mission without them.”

“Our Afghan citizens are high caliber employees,” McWilliams said. “They care about what they're doing. They want to help. They want to do their best. They're kind. They are honest and proud men.”



Photo by Joan Kibler

**AES participants take their seats before the start of Vendor Day in Herat. From left, Sonny Sapida, Nabil Abourialy, Rick Horton and Marco Goodman.**

# District participates in Vendor Day in Herat

Story by Joan Kibler

Approximately 140 businessmen and businesswomen representing 72 Afghan small businesses attended Herat Vendor Day Dec. 13 in downtown Herat. The event – with the theme “*U.S. forces partnering with Afghan contractors for a better and safer tomorrow*” – was sponsored by the Regional Contracting Center (RCC) at Camp Stone.

Herat Chamber of Commerce and Herat business officials also attended.

RCC invited the Afghanistan Engineer

District – South (AES) to participate because of the district’s volume of contracts in the Herat province. Also participating was the non-governmental organization Peace Dividend Trust (PDT). Speakers focused on what Afghan firms need to do to obtain U.S. government contracts.

Fortunato “Sonny” Sapida, deputy chief, Contracting Division, said that these types of conferences are important for helping Afghan businesses understand the U.S. government’s contracting requirements.

He thanked the audience for attending the conference and told them that the Corps of Engineers is committed to helping Afghanistan rebuild and helping Afghan firms be successful on Corps of Engineers contracts.

Other district attendees included Richard Horton and Raquel Blankenhorn, Contracting; Marco Goodman, Programs and Project Management; Nabil Abourialy, resident engineer for Herat Resident Office; and Tariq Taheri, project engineer, Herat Area Office.

AES speakers followed PDT

and RCC presenters.

Both RCC and AES officials emphasized how Afghan firms should complete their paperwork when competing for solicitations issued by the U.S. government. RCC and AES presenters showed slides with examples of U.S. government forms and explained areas that must be completed for firms to be competitive when seeking federal contracts.

Horton told vendors how to submit a successful proposal package and provided handouts and a compact disk for an open



Photo by Joan Kibler

**Raquel Blankenhorn, AES contracting officer, assists vendors with registration.**



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlotta C. Holley, U.S. Air Force

**Rick Horton, AES contracting officer, explains how to complete Standard Form 1442, Solicitation, Offer and Award.**

solicitation limited to firms that qualify under Afghan First requirements. Afghan First is an initiative created through Public Law 110-181, which limits competition in awarding contracts to Afghan-owned firms. AES focuses on developing this broad-based group of contractors by creating the capability for them to succeed in small-dollar-value federal construction contracts.

“We have set aside a project at Shindand as an Afghan First proposal,” Horton said.

“The project consists of two buildings – one for an office and one for billeting. We want to work with Afghan companies on these small projects to teach them how to work with the Corps of Engineers. When they are able to complete these projects successfully, it sets them up to be competitive on the more complex projects.”

The project is valued between \$100,000 and \$250,000.

He told vendors that they must do their part by

completing the proposal requirements as prescribed. “You must complete all the technical evaluation criteria and the price information. We will also review your past performance information.

“Each time you submit for a Corps of Engineers project, review the request for proposal in detail,” Horton said. “The proposal criteria changes with each project.” He also emphasized that proposals must be submitted by the due date, and they won’t be accepted afterwards.

Horton encouraged firms to register as an Afghan-owned business with the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency, which supports the Afghan First vendor registration process.

“When Afghan firms have questions about submittal requirements, we encourage them to communicate with us via e-mail,” Horton said. “That’s the most reliable method for getting questions answered.”

Horton said efforts like Vendor Day help support the counterinsurgency (COIN) contracting guidance. “These locally awarded contracts give

the work to Afghan firms and help build their capacity.”

Sapida said that AES looks for contracting opportunities that are prime candidates for Afghan First, and he credited Goodman for “identifying” the office and billeting project at Shindand for presentation at the Herat Vendor Day to encourage Herat-area firms to submit proposals.

AES also requested market research from attendees for K-Span construction, which generally consists of machine-manufactured metal products that can be constructed quickly to meet a variety of purposes. This research is necessary to support an accelerated construction program for Afghan National Army facilities.

RCC presenters discussed the requirements to register in the Joint Contingency Contracting System, preparation of technical and price proposals, Defense Base Act insurance, and Synchronized Predeployment and Operational Tracker (the U.S. Department of Defense program for tracking deployed contractors).

The PDT official talked about services that their organization offers to “buy within Afghanistan and build Afghan capacity” to strengthen the Afghan private sector, such as training in procurement-related topics including proposal preparation. PDT is a non-profit organization with offices throughout Afghanistan. According to a PDT fact sheet, the organization has “facilitated the award of over 730 contracts worth over \$577 million to Afghan-owned businesses.”

Several Herat business leaders thanked PDT, the RCC, and AES for making presentations at Vendor Day and for bringing business to Herat. A consistent theme from the Herat business leaders was the desire to have Herat businesses participate in construction in this province. ■



**By Air Force Capt. Greg Ward**

**T**he Kandahar Airfield (KAF) Area Office is a 23-member team supporting more than 30,000 personnel and the busiest one-runway airport in the world with military construction vital to U.S. and NATO success in Southern Afghanistan. KAF is an International Security Assistance Force base with contingents from the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, Romania, Germany, France, Slovakia, Belgium, Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, Estonia and more; the diverse representation provides for an unparalleled experience.

The KAF Area Office itself is split into two resident offices: Airfield and South Park.

The Airfield Resident Office manages five contracts valued at more than \$140 million with a resident engineer (Brian Zickefoose) and six construction representatives (Jim Hynum, Arnie Guillermo, Scott Swanson, Oscar Lopez, James Pierce and Billy Williams). A small representation of their achievement

includes placement of more than 100,000 cubic meters of airfield concrete to support airfield operations, directly impacting the projection of air power to the enemy.

The South Park Resident Office is the home to the future KAF Area Office compound, which is scheduled for completion in May. This office manages 12 contracts valued at more than \$180 million with a resident engineer (Phillip Payne), three project engineers (Debra Wallin, Eric Lambert and Amanda Raber), and five construction representatives (Marion Dye, Darrell Ling, Larry Wooters, Dan Finke and Shane Wilson). This team works tirelessly on everything from housing to infrastructure to command and control facilities to support the U.S. Garrison and Regional Command South headquarters.

Also included in the KAF Area Office is the Castle Project Office that supports construction for the stand-up of the District compound. Manned by one project engineer (Erwyn Calderon) and one construction representative (Jim Killion), this small team manages four projects valued at \$3.9 million, to include the District command and control buildings. These twin, two-



**All stakeholders gathered for the turnover of the KAF heliport, which provides a new platform for warfighting operations. Pictured are the District leadership, members of the KAF Area Office; representatives from the Commander, KAF staff, Regional Support Group, and the contractors - Yenigün Inc. and Contrack International Inc.**

Photo by Mark Abueg



Photo by Brenda Beasley

**KAF Area Office personnel at the AES headquarters flag pole.**



Photo by Mark Abueg

**The Kandahar Airfield Area Office oversees construction of this headquarters building on Kandahar Airfield.**

story facilities will house the command staff and support offices and provide a central location for those processing in and out of the District. With all its projects, the Castle Project Office team works tirelessly to manage projects that will improve command and control and quality of life for more than 200 District personnel stationed at KAF.

Leading these three successful teams is the KAF Area Office staff, comprised of the officer in charge (Maj. Toney Riley), the area engineer (James Gehle), an office engineer (Kalid Williams), a liaison officer (Capt. Greg Ward), and the noncommissioned officer in charge (Sgt. 1st Class Alfonzo Gonzalez-Magdaleno). The most recent addition to the staff is Senior Master Sgt. Brent Sheehan, who just came to the area office in mid-February. The KAF Area Office is currently accomplishing the \$324 million construction program while preparing for another \$180 million in construction expected to be awarded by the end of the fiscal year, pushing the program to over half a billion dollars.

To support this program and provide workspace and billeting for the 23-person staff, the KAF Area Office will soon move into a new complex that is under construction. Once completed, the KAF Area Office compound in the South Park area will put the staff within walking distance of all South Park projects, within minutes of the Deep South and South Airfield construction sites, and closer to the North Airfield projects. This move will enhance the KAF Area Office's ability to carry out a construction program that increases KAF's mission capability and thus provides direct support to Operation Enduring Freedom throughout Afghanistan.

And that's what this high-powered team is about – improving operational facilities for ISAF as it works with the Afghan government to bring stability and governance to this nation. 🇦🇫

# New heliport supports operations at KAF

Story and photos by Mark Abueg



Air Force Capt. Gregory J. Ward, right, meets with contractors from Yenigün Insaat during a rotary wing turnover ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



Lt. Col. Robert Huntley, center, with the 643rd Regional Support Group, signs the DD Form 1354s (Transfer and Acceptance of Military Real Property) as the designated Army Central representative for KAF while Brian Zickefoose, left, airfield resident engineer, and Air Force Capt. Greg Ward look on.

The Kandahar province of Afghanistan is home to more than just thousands of coalition forces. Hundreds of aircraft are also housed on the bustling Kandahar Airfield, located 10 miles southeast of Kandahar City.

And just as more troops surge into Kandahar, so does the need to access more flights to and from one of the busiest landing zones in the world.

A recently constructed heliport was handed over to U.S. forces Jan. 31 to better sustain the high demand for military flights here.

“The heliport consists of two phases,” said Air Force Capt. Gregory J. Ward, liaison officer, Kandahar Airfield Area Office, Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES). “The first phase included the runway and parking apron. The second phase has two additional parking aprons, which extends the east and west sides of the original apron, and a FARP (forward area refueling point) on the north side. We turned over the runway and all parking aprons to the 643rd Regional Support Group (RSG). The FARP is still under construction.”

Ward said that the 643rd RSG assumed responsibility for the runway and aprons on behalf of U.S. Army Central (ARCENT). “The end user is the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which is being replaced by the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade,” he said.

The apron will accommodate up to 27 rotary wing aircraft, including the CH-47 Chinook and other helicopters.

“This is considerably more parking space than users had

before,” Ward said. “What we were using before – on another ramp here on KAF – was an expeditionary design where space was pretty tight. With the new apron, we have aircraft clearance that meets international standards. This is a permanent design that accommodates enduring operations and provides users with much more protection.”

The two-phase heliport project began in February 2009. Phase one consisted of 45,000 square meters of

ramp and 20,000 square meters of runway; Contract International Inc. constructed it for \$10.9 million. The second phase, constructed by Yenigün Insaat for \$16.9 million, consists of 120,000 square meters of ramp space and the FARP.

Ward indicated that not many turnovers have occurred on KAF because only a couple of contracts have been completed and closed out in AES’s recently ramped up military construction

program.

“Lt. Col. (Robert A.) Huntley was out here today to take possession of these projects,” Ward said. “He signed the DD Form 1354, which is the transfer of real property record from USACE to ARCENT.”

Huntley, who is the chief of Department of Public Works for the 643rd RSG and the U.S. Garrison master planner, is responsible for receiving the products and signing for the projects completed by the

Corps of Engineers.

“In Afghanistan, the road network is sub-standard so transportation by ground is an issue. Because of all the mountainous terrain, helicopters play a very, very significant role,” Huntley said. “We have a large number of helicopters present here, and we need space to operate those helicopters from on KAF.”

The FARP, which will be able to refuel six aircraft, is scheduled for completion in April. 

# Afghanistan Safety 101

by Sue Fox, Safety Officer

## What’s Wrong with this photo?

If you walked onto this construction site, what would you see wrong? How many safety violations can you find? To see if your answer wins a prize, send your submission to [Susan.R.Fox@usace.army.mil](mailto:Susan.R.Fox@usace.army.mil). We’ll carry the answers in the next issue of the Engineering Freedom magazine.



# Working space improves at Shindand Resident Office

Story by Joan Kibler

Afghanistan Engineer District-South employees at the Shindand Resident Office now have improved working conditions, thanks to a newly constructed conference room.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Brady, noncommissioned officer in charge, Shindand Resident Office, said that the resident office suffered from a serious lack of space, and this lack affected employees professionally and during their off-duty hours.

“We went from a tight room

with four desks to a room that has more office space and a conference room for meetings,” said Maj. Oscar Portillo, officer in charge, Shindand Resident Office.

“Before the conference room was completed, meetings were crammed into the tiny office or held outside if the weather permitted,” Portillo said. “We had no area to spread out plans or to meet together as a group. Productivity, efficiency and morale will positively increase because of the completion of this project.”

Brady said that the conference room can be used for relaxation during off-duty hours, too.

The \$18,929 project was completed by ZAAZTC Group of Herat in just over 30 days. The work was completed by an Afghan firm under the Afghan First program. Afghan First was created through Public Law 110-181, which limits competition in awarding contracts to Afghan-owned firms to increase their capability for succeeding in small-dollar-value federal construction contracts. 



## Travel Requirement

BY GLORIA DYSON, HR SPECIALIST

As of Feb. 14, J1 no longer needs to sign the civilian/military travel request form for verification of completion of the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Training. A copy of the confirmation receipt, not the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) certificate, will suffice as proof that you have completed your pre-R&R (rest and recuperation) Suicide Prevention Training. This should be attached to your travel request packet. J1 has revamped the civilian and military travel request forms located on our SharePoint and deleted the portion where a signature is required.

J1 will be responsible for the pre-training, and the Safety Office will be responsible for the post-training. The link to the training instructions can also be found on SharePoint under the HR tab under Travel.

## Long-term Care

BY GLORIA DYSON, HR SPECIALIST

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) Open Season runs from April 4 through June 24. Long-term care insurance is a way to protect your income and assets and remain financially independent should you need long-term care services at home, in a nursing home, or at another long-term care facility.

Most health insurance programs, including the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, TRICARE, and TRICARE

For Life, provide little or no coverage for long-term care. This is why the U.S. Office of Personnel Management sponsors a long-term care insurance program for members of the federal family.

This open season is the first abbreviated underwriting opportunity (applicants will answer a few health questions) for non-enrolled applicants since 2002.

Information on the program and application procedures may be found at <http://www.ltcfeds.com/>.

## Movement Planning

BY STEVE WILSON, AIR OFFICER

Your patience is needed as we get through the rainy season here. Please deliberately plan your movements during this time. Flights are cancelling daily due to bad weather, and passengers are getting stuck at down-range locations. Our business doesn't stop because of the weather, but everyone must be aware there is a risk of not moving when you want to in the next month.

Air Movement continually coordinates with Base Operations Weather for updates, and we will move passengers from manifested Global assets to other assets that are available to us. Therefore, when your flight is cancelled due to weather, we are unable to manifest and confirm your flight within a 96-hour window and passengers must fly Space A (available). This means the traveler may or may not move. Carefully think through your need to travel and give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination. 🇺🇸



**"Thanks to Master Sgt. Harvey Diaz's hard work and a little help from the Seabees," said Lt. Col. Douglas Hoenig, area officer in charge, "we now have the U.S. and Corps flags flying over the Kandahar Vicinity Area Office at Camp Lindsey."**

Courtesy Photo

# ON THE MOVE

## Moving in



Joshua Adekanbi



David Alexander



Paul Apodaca



Steven Belmore



Christopher Brooks



Geoffrey Chatfield



Roberto Chevres



SGT Craig Clark



SPC Travis Colston



Michael Covington



Kenneth Culver



MAJ Ferdinand Desir



Louis Dinatale



George Edgington



SPC Robert Fickett



Susan Fox



Raymond Greenheck



Scott Haan



David Heft



LTC Douglas Hoenig



Gary Jarrett



CPT Collin Joyce



Joshua Keyser



Robert Laconis



Linda Lee



Sherry Lee



Kian Liong



Scott Malone



Danilo Mayo



Richard McCullough



Sherria McGuire



SGT Mark Mintkenbaugh



Heather Moncrief



MSG Angel Morales-Perez



Nader Noori



Randy Nyland



Leslie Olson



SPC Luis Ortiz



Steven Osborne



Alejandro Pascual III



Ronaldo Rodriguez



Betty Rogers



Richard Rupert



Debra Scribner



SMSGT Brent Sheehan



Lovely Sibug



Bill Slezak



Rickey Slezak



Tom Snow



Albert Soliz



Ed Starnes



SPC Raymond Stewart



Billy Stout



John Swanson



Matthew Walden



MSG John Walls



CPT Gregory Ward



Christine Weisenberger



SFC Clint Wheeler



Billy Williams

**Photos unavailable at press time:** SFC Cecil Dawson and SSGT Marcus Mendiola.

## Moving on

Jeffrey Blanford  
Andrew Borden  
Roy Brase  
William Brown  
James Buckalew  
SFC Lourdes Caamano  
SGT Jessie Correia  
Leslie Crawford  
William Fitzgerald  
Mark Foster  
MAJ Kimberly Giles  
Thomas Howes

Juan Jaramillo  
Avril Jones  
Janelle Kaufold  
Joseph King  
Mitchell Moore  
SSG Lawrence Newton  
Jean Nicolas  
Greg Reiff  
Jerry Swean  
Irby Tucker  
MSG Charles Yepa