



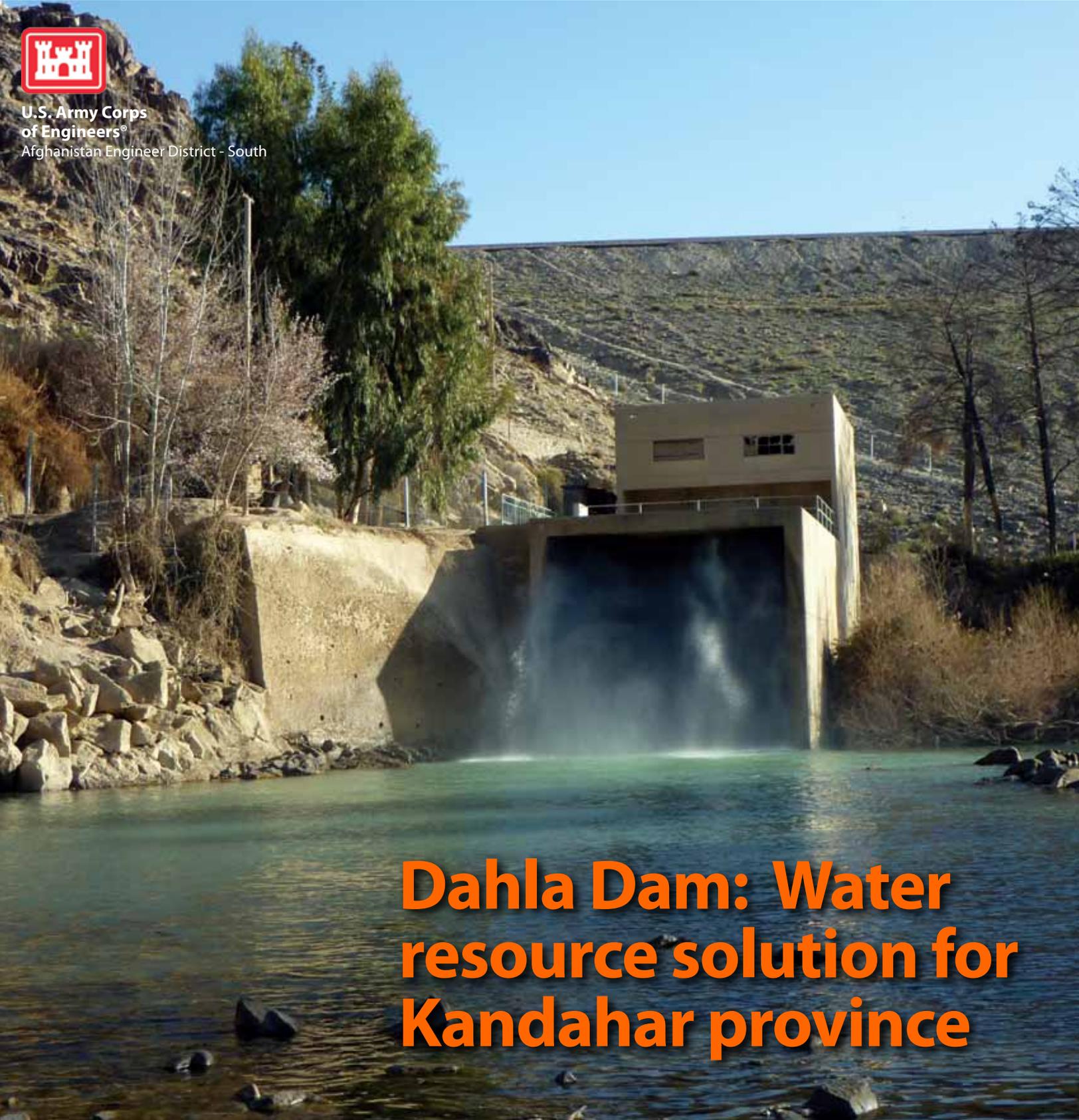
Serving the Afghanistan Engineer District-South

Engineering Freedom

March/April 2011



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



**Dahla Dam: Water
resource solution for
Kandahar province**



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

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On the cover ...

The outlet tunnel at Dahla Dam, used for releasing water, experiences leakage through worn valves. The Canadian government is expected to repair this structure. See story, page 12. Photo by Steve Bredthauer.





Commander's message...

Happy New Year, 1390! Nowruz (translates to New Day), March 21, marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the new year in the Afghan calendar. It is also the halfway point for our fiscal year leaving us with the preponderance of our program to accomplish in the third and fourth quarters. So far this fiscal year, we have completed more than 68 projects valued at more than \$377 million. We still have 114 projects valued at more than \$1.4 billion to award. We need to fasten our chin straps and get ready for a fast paced spring and summer. We must focus on completing our milestones and executing our construction placement while making our contract awards. I am confident this team is up for the challenges and will make the Corps proud when we deliver one of the largest programs in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - not just one of the largest programs but a program at the center of the main effort to defeat the insurgency threat.

There have been, and will continue to be, many changes this spring and summer. Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox has returned home from a successful 16-month tour in Iraq and is back in Winchester, Va. He will be visiting us this spring to see all the efforts our team is accomplishing as the most productive district per capita in the Corps. We welcome him back. We will see the Gulf Region District reflag to an area office under the Middle East District this summer.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." I know everyone in the district is trying and truly making a difference. I see this each time I go out to visit a project, celebrate a ribbon-cutting event, or look around our Kandahar Airfield compound. Everywhere I travel, I receive laudatory comments from our

Afghan partners, the Marine mentors and the C-7 Engineer in Regional Command Southwest, the commander of Regional Command West and all of the battlespace owners in Regional Command South. I always attribute our success to our hard-working volunteers who are part of the AED-South team. As I do in each edition of our magazine, I want to mention some of our teammates who are making a difference around the theater.

The first is the ever-gregarious **Michael Bailey**, our district security manager (DSM) who has been with us since September 2010. Mike came to us from Medical Command Security and Intelligence at Fort Eustis, Va., and has had the distinct honor to serve as our first civilian security manager in AED-South. As the DSM, he is responsible for operational, information, personnel, anti-terrorism and physical security. He is a consummate team player and is the vital link between Transatlantic Division and AED-South when it comes to reviewing security clearance issues and coordinating personal interim security clearances that can help speed up the deployment process for new hires and has kept us free of security violations.

The ever-smiling **Gloria Dyson** has been our Human Resources Specialist in the J1 office since June 2010. During this time, she has expertly orchestrated the significant growth in our civilian manpower and greatly improved upon the level of service for more than 220 civilians in theater. Most recently, she has coordinated the integration of the Afghan Recruitment Cell (ARC), the addition of the travel specialist function to J1, and led major rewrites of several key personnel policies to improve AED-South operations.

The ever-deployed **David Carte**, our Kandahar Vicinity area engineer, has served with us for the last 24 months. He started his tour as the area engineer

for the Helmand Area Office and served in the Kandahar Vicinity Area Office for the last 12 months. Dave has been instrumental to the success of so many key projects in the midst of the surge operations in Kandahar, Tarin Kowt and Zabul provinces. Dave was a key member of the Project Delivery Team for the Kandahar City power project, one of the largest Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) projects in history. We recently said farewell to Dave but we expect him to deploy again.

Elliott Porter, the ever-industrious member of the Water and Infrastructure Team, has taken on the additional duties of CERP subject matter expert for AED-South, in addition to his role as a project manager for CERP roads, vertical, and renewable energy projects. Elliott is indispensable to the CERP process of obtaining funds from U.S. Forces - Afghanistan and Central Command. Elliott is innovative and takes the initiative. He is developing the first renewable energy CERP project for AED-South and recently boarded textbooks and materials for Kandahar and Herat Universities. Recently, he volunteered to serve as project manager for the Reconstruction Security Support Services, an important service for our team.

The ever-detail-oriented **Warren Cheek** is the lead architect in the engineering branch. He was responsible for the development of 12 RFPs (Requests for Proposals) for the ANP (Afghan National Police) program with a cumulative value of \$60 million. Warren has had responsibility for the entire ANP program after his predecessor (Joe King) left two months ago. His effort is recognized due to its uniqueness; Warren's many years of Overseas' Contingency Operations experience puts him in a position to write RFPs with complex site challenges a huge accomplishment for the district.

*I am confident this team is up
for the challenges ...*

The ever-resourceful Tarin Kowt runway team did an incredible job under a lot of pressure from IJC (International Security Assistance Force Joint Command) to deliver the project by the end of March to facilitate C-17 traffic. Congrats to **Maj. Sam Bebb, Jim Myers, George Bittorf** and **Rita Bocchieri**. The construction started on Feb. 24, 2010, with the requirement that scheduling of construction would allow air operations to continue for helicopters, C-130s and C-17s. Coordination of construction operations and air operations was critical to the success of both requirements. The AED-South team and Air Operation Battalion worked closely together to reach both goals with a myriad of operational and supply challenges (to include limited deliveries of cement). The projected date of concrete pavement completion was late March, and that goal was attained with complete pavement placement being completed March 20.

The ever-Kentucky basketball fan **Eric Lambert** is one highly motivated project engineer responsible for five contracts

with 11 projects valued at more than \$133 million. Due to his tireless efforts spearheading the development of the Deep South area on Kandahar Airfield, he has mitigated multiple conflicts through diligent coordination. A priceless asset to the area office, Eric exemplifies the hard-working ethics of AED-South.

Chip Nieman, our ever-laborious KAF office engineer, arrived only one month ago and has already made an impression and made some astonishing improvements. Charged with closing out more than 65 outstanding modifications, in the first month on the team he helped reduce that amount by more than 30 percent and now continues to fairly and equitably negotiate with contractors. Chip's dedication, expertise and professionalism demonstrate he is one of the highest caliber employees in AED-South.

The ever-diligent **Cpl. Robert J. Ryan** demonstrates stellar performance with our biometrics team. He's traveled the entire District area and enrolled countless personnel in the HIIDE

(Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment) system. In addition, he uncovered several flaws in the BATS (Biometric Automated Toolset System) which he provided to the program manager to correct. He has been shifted from task to task and always accepts new challenges. He also picked up the Air Movement assignment for Cpl. Erika M. Stormont who was on rest and recuperation.

I simply can't extend enough thanks to all our Department of the Army Civilians, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and contractors for their contributions. Let me close with a famous quote from Edmund Burke who said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Every single one of our teammates has stepped up to the line and volunteered to do their part. Let's continue to deliver and make a difference. Thanks for all you do! 🇺🇸

AED-South Teamwork!
Rebel 6



Command Sergeant Major's message ...

Since I arrived here last July, this district has blossomed in every fashion – from awarding contracts and turning over projects to improving the living and working conditions.

We are placing more construction – critical for turning over facilities to the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police and for providing the infrastructure that supports the surge in operations of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. Concurrently, we're positively affecting commerce because of the two power plants constructed on the east and west sides of Kandahar City and other projects that improve the lives of Afghan citizens.

This district – just a year-and-a-half old – is developing the processes and the 'rhythm' it needs to bring together this massive construction program and positively contribute to the goals established for the Afghanistan government to take over lead responsibility for security. This is an awesome responsibility, and you are part of a historic event.

News coverage about Afghanistan points to the gains. The nation is meeting its goals for recruiting soldiers and police officers, and they are being trained and mentored through ISAF (NATO International Security Assistance Force). In some areas, Afghan forces are assuming lead responsibility for security. Afghan citizens are able to move about more freely and resume their normal lifestyles in areas of southern Afghanistan, whereas they couldn't a year ago. A recent poll points to statistics indicating that Afghans are more positive about the future of their country than ever before.

Keep your focus on the goal. We must continue to award contracts, complete construction according to schedule, and turn over projects that support counterinsurgency operations and strengthen Afghan forces.

At the same time, AED-South leadership has focused on improving living and working conditions. We have gone from austere arrangements to adequate office space at Kandahar Airfield; in the field offices, we have contracts in place to increase work space.

The same applies to our living space. Many people are moving into their new rooms. Thank you for your patience during this process. Construction schedules slipped and materials weren't always delivered in a timely fashion, but you remained flexible as these finishing touches occurred.

Even with the positive changes of moving to new offices and quarters, doing so can be a bit stressful since it adds to an already significant workload for most of us. During this time, I would ask that you be especially mindful of others. A great many people occupy a relatively small space, and we normally see each other for hours on end. Be careful of short tempers. I also would ask you to maintain the same consideration of others as you would in your home or former workplace. Take care of yourselves, look out for the person beside you and keep the facilities clean.

Keep up the great work! 🇺🇸

Honoring the combat patch, pin tradition

by Davie E. Carte

Since the beginning of organized society, there has been a military establishment. Today, our sophisticated multi-service military observes many customs, traditions and procedures traceable to the earliest warriors. Traditions are the glue that holds family and friends together. For example, we enjoy holiday meals where the whole family and close friends get together to share their kinship or we get together for that favorite outing on the fourth of July. Like families, the military has similar traditions, such as their uniform, music, drill and ceremony. This article examines one of those traditions plus a new tradition for the Corps of Engineers.

Military Patch

Looking back at our military traditions, George Washington first appointed engineer officers in the Army on June 16, 1775. Since the American Revolution, engineers have served in all subsequent American wars. The Army established the Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch on March 16, 1802. Since its inception, the Corps has responded to the ever-changing face of military construction and has played an integral part in developing not only the United States but numerous nations the world over.

October 19, 1918, during World War I, General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing began a tradition - the wearing of shoulder sleeve insignia. The tradition began as American Soldiers marked their vehicles with baggage markings reflecting regional symbolism. It is generally believed that the 81st Infantry Division, the "wildcats" of South Carolina, was the first U.S. Army unit authorized to display shoulder sleeve insignias.

Today, an Army Soldier is the only service member authorized to wear a unit patch on the uniform.

The unit patch is based on a unit's



activity in or support of a domestic or overseas ground combat operation against hostile forces. The combat patch confirms a Soldier's status as a combat veteran. The combat patch is officially known as the "shoulder sleeve insignia, former wartime service," though most Soldiers know it simply as the "combat patch."

To this day, we continue this tradition with the Corps of Engineers patch. The globe refers to the diverse activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers both in the continental United States and overseas. The dividers symbolize the design and planning that go into every project undertaken as an organization. The tower signifies the construction mission and the staying power of what the Corps builds.

All of us, Soldiers and Civilians alike, are part of this proud tradition. We have shared the same hardships, the same environmental impacts and the same beliefs in our mission. Together we have gone to foreign lands, leading by example and demonstrating America's values. We encourage the belief in freedom as well as embracing personal responsibility to nurture the growth of a fledgling country into a prosperous nation.

According to Army regulations, the combat patch, or shoulder sleeve insignia, is authorized for wear as soon as a Soldier deploys to a combat zone. However, no regulation can standardize the personal significance of a combat patch. There is general camaraderie in sharing a uniform but an even closer bond in wearing the same shoulder sleeve insignia. It's a connection one shares with a unique class of people, those few who can relate to one another through their experiences and selfless service to their country. Nothing brings people closer than the "remember when" stories that these Soldiers now share. More importantly, it signifies a time in one's life and in the relationship with his or her unit. Many of us are putting a patch on for the first time. When you're retired, you will always remember this day and not only be proud of your service to your country but of this patch on your right shoulder.

Civilian Combat Pin

With the two wars - Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom - the Corps of Engineers started a new tradition for its Civilian personnel who share those hardships and hazards with our military personnel. Since this is a fledgling tradition, its meaning is

still being developed by those who came before you and those who follow you. This does not diminish the symbolism or the meaning of this Combat Pin.

The Combat Pin shows your willingness to not only sacrifice time away from your family and friends but also to share your technical knowledge to accomplish the construction effort far from the comforts of home. Construction in the United States is hard, but during combat operations it is more difficult. You have to ensure there are logistics to move materials, the contractor understands the customer's requirements, and the project gets completed in a timely manner with lasting quality. Most importantly, we need to be good stewards of those dollars. This is difficult at best since in trying to meet all these requirements, they sometimes contradict each other. But, we have shown that we can meet this challenge, with strength, courage, sweat and sometimes blood to get the assigned mission completed.



This Combat Pin binds you and your brothers and sisters in arms together in a relationship like no other — your shared experiences, endured hardships, and most of all, the joined brotherhood of your selfless service and the thin line which protects our freedom and the freedom of others. This bond is shared both in sweat and blood, the loneliness of leaving our loved ones behind, knowing our families at home will have memories without us. However, our new fraternity will have memories of why we are here.

For many of you, this is your first time in a combat situation where you are enduring these hardships, which brings you into a small band of brothers and sisters who have been there and done that. This combat pin shows your love for freedom and your willingness to place yourself on the front line to show others what it means to live in a country free of oppression. You will look back on this day and remember being part of something greater than yourself — being part of helping a nation become free and self-governing. (Editor's note: David Carte served as the Kandahar Area Engineer before redeploying.)

South improves quality of life

by Brenda Beasley

A vision seen through a haze of fine powder-like dirt is now a reality. On April 2, a ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the grand opening of Afghanistan Engineer District-South's new office and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) buildings at Kandahar Airfield.

"A lot of folks were involved with the vision of expanding this compound while completing our mission," said AED-South Commander Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser. "We're getting to enjoy the fruits of their efforts."

As a major part of the command group's overall goal to improve the quality of life at AED-South, the two buildings fulfill the criteria for adequate office and MWR space to support a rapidly growing district, which had greatly exceeded the capacity limit of the buildings that existed before, said Michael Scarano, the deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management.

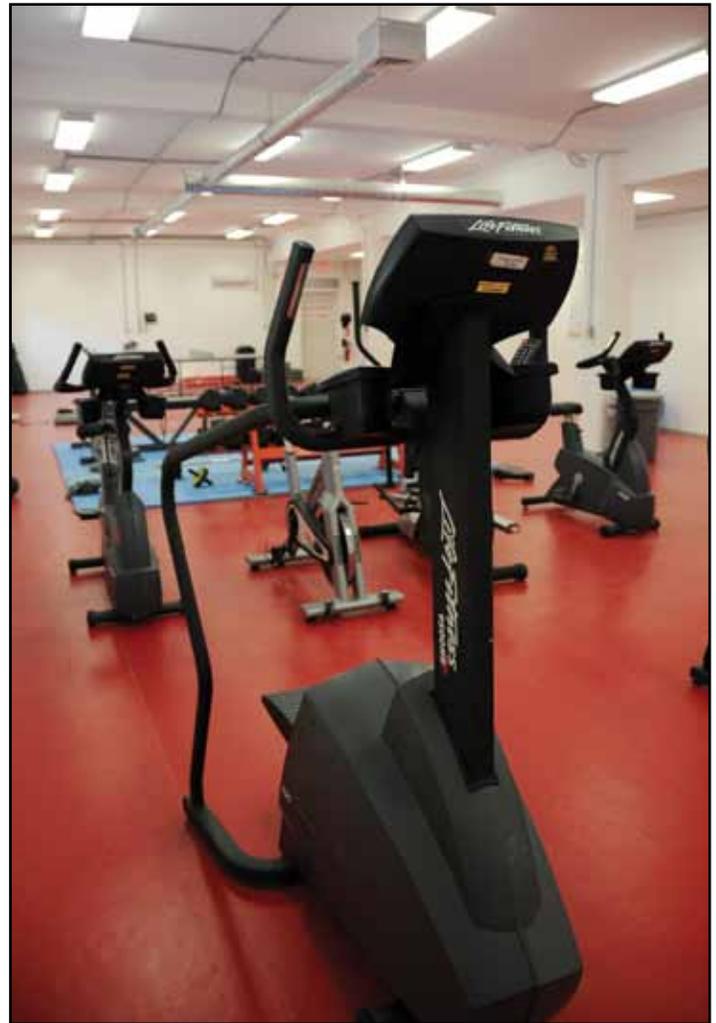
"Completion of these two buildings is a very satisfying milestone," he said. "Like the commander, one of the first things I recognized when I arrived here was the grossly inadequate facilities for our people to live and work."

Building 6 houses office space for the command group, Office of Counsel, Safety Office, Resource Management Office, Public Affairs Office and the J shops - J1 (Manpower and Personnel); J2 (Joint Staff Intelligence); J3 (Operations); and J4 (Logistics).

Building 7 is almost exclusively MWR activities with a gym, a lounge, a movie room and a kitchen. "The kitchen provides us with the opportunity to host special events and is of sufficient size to serve the number of people we have here," said Scarano, who's deployed from the Corps' New York District. There are also two additional conference rooms and a high quality billeting area for transient visitors and guests.

"On a more personal note, it's a thrill for me to see such high quality working and MWR space for great teammates," he added.

Awarded in June 2010 and completed in February 2011, the two buildings at \$600,000 each provide an additional 2,400 square meters of floor space, according to Douglas J. Jamieson, a



New gym facility.



New office space.



Command group cuts ribbon to commemorate buildings 6 and 7 completion.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Linker

Thoughts on 'Quality of Life' improvements

Maureen Jordan, Program Analyst (deployed from Baltimore District)

We now have someplace to come and relax, to get away from the hectic days. I feel like we now have a little piece of home in Afghanistan.



Erwyn Calderon, Project Engineer FOB Dwyer (Omaha District)

This is awesome! I started this project then went to FOB Dwyer because they needed help. I'm here today because I'm getting ready to leave on R&R. We really needed this facility to boost everyone's morale. We now have our very own nice gym!



Portia Stagge, Cartographer Technician (St. Louis District)

This means progress. We've come a long way from tents. Living accommodations have improved immensely from a year ago. We now have single rooms with cable TV, telephones, and dotcom internet access. The gym is great! I'll start using our own gym



instead of going to the NATO gym. I think that once we get some group activities going, we'll also start coming together socially as a group.

Otis Anderson, Electrical Engineer (Savannah District)

I now have a place where I can sit and unwind and meet my fellow team members who I don't work directly with. The gym is nice, but playing basketball is my workout. However, I may use it from time to time.



Paul Sidney, Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt (Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, Warren, Mich.)

This puts into tangible benefit what the USACE folks talk about when going from good to great. In 18 months, we've gone from tents and a small cadre of specialists, experts and engineers to a full blown district with all the functionality and results that normally wouldn't be attained in this amount of time. I went to the other gyms and MWR areas to see what they were about.



Having this on our compound makes it convenient. It allows me to put in my hours and accomplish the mission and at same time balance my personal needs and requirements. We should not have any of our people complaining about our amenities. We are living large compared to the warfighters we support. When the weather's cold, you overdress. If you don't, you wish you had. Our facilities are like that for me. I know it's there; when the spirit moves me, I'll be indulging in the pleasures of the MWR. It's a good thing.

Frances Hinkley, Project Manager Afghan National Police (Mobile District)

It's convenient to have a gym on our compound. It's also good to have a place to gather and get to know our co-workers better outside of the office.



Staff Sgt. Marcus Mendiola, J4 (Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wa.)

I've been here for two months. This is improving the quality of life for our Soldiers and Civilians. It's a morale booster. I don't have to go so far to go to a gym, or wait in the long lines to use the equipment like at the NATO gym. I can do my workout, then go upstairs, watch TV and relax ... nice. 🇺🇸



structural engineer (Schedule A employee from Seattle, Wash.) who serves as a project manager in the Facilities Management Branch.

"These facilities should make it easier for people to do their jobs, because they'll have better relaxation time," said Jamieson. "I was lucky enough to be part of the planning and execution, and it's a joy to see it finished."

Next on the "improving quality of life" schedule are two buildings containing single-room billeting. Building 9 is complete and now occupied, building 8 is nearly complete. Graneyville is scheduled for much needed upgrade and rehabilitation.

"I appreciate everyone's support," said Funkhouser in his closing remarks. "This is good living! 🇺🇸"



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Linker

Following the ribbon cutting, team members gathered for brunch.

Environmental Office visits distant FOBs

by Michael Bell, Environmental Officer



Courtesy Photo

Tarnak River Valley near Forward Operating Base Mescall in Zabul province, Afghanistan.

*The Romanians are coming!
The Romanians are coming!*

As part of a continuing battlespace strategy to move U.S. Stryker Forces from Zabul province to western Afghanistan, U.S. Forces are turning over forward operating bases (FOBs) to the Romanian Army. The Romanians are mentoring Afghan National Army soldiers. Both the Afghanistan Engineer District-South Environmental and Real Estate Offices are involved in the closure or transfer of bases from or to U.S. control. An Environmental Site Closure Survey Report must be conducted to identify environmentally sensitive and hazardous waste areas that could impact military and civilian health.

Brian Johnson, chief of the Civil and Environmental Section, recognizes the importance of the District's involvement in base transfers. "The orderly and seamless transfer of property from the United States to others builds credibility and trust," said Johnson. "We limit our liability by delineating environmental trouble spots and cleaning up after ourselves."

The Environmental Office is privileged to visit distant FOBs with unique populations and characteristics. The Zabul province populations are from the United States, Romania and Afghanistan. These are close-knit groups who must



Courtesy Photo

Atghar kitchen.

rely on each other for survival. The characteristics are basically outdoor toilets, outdoor cooking and cleaning areas, and cold showers. Working generators are valuable and fuel is flown in by air. Computers and telephones are usually for officers only. Hot meals are typically served in the morning and evening with no choice of items. Mail call is a huge event and supplies all of the luxuries.

I recall my recent visits to Atghar, Shamulzia and Mescall. When I prepare for trips, there is a sense of both dread

and excitement because I don't know what to expect, especially when there is no Corps of Engineers presence. What should I take, where do I stay, what do I eat ... and of course, is it dangerous? The missions are coordinated with Stryker engineers who are well prepared. We usually fly via rotary wing. The Stryker engineers provide maps, connections and security. I usually have at least one armed military member with me at all times.

Even though the trips are stressful, they are very rewarding. I remember one day in particular at FOB Mescall.



Courtesy Photo

Atghar, Zabul province, with ANA guard post at top.



Courtesy Photo

Heather Moncrief at workstation (and bedroom) at FOB Lagman, Zabul province, Afghanistan.

The FOB sits on the top of a 500-meter cliff overlooking the Tarnak River valley. After conducting the survey, we bedded down on cots in an old transient tent. We were woken at 4 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning to view a crystal clear sky. The outer bases typically have no outside

lighting and the starscape is incredible. As the sun rose, the mountains were blue and the river silver. After enjoying the stars and sunrise, we went to breakfast where the Romanians served us cold eggs Benedict. We spent the rest of the morning sitting against the outside of

Hesco barriers, overlooking the dramatic valley, and waiting for a ride. It was the most peaceful and beautiful Thanksgiving I have ever had. At the same time, the experience also makes me appreciate all the conveniences I have at Kandahar Airfield.

Heather Moncrief, an environmental engineer, shared her experience while visiting FOB Lagman this past March. “Though I will never forget the ammunition-box desk and five-gallon-bucket chair that served as my ‘work station’ or the view of Alexander the Great’s fortress visible from anywhere in camp, my take-home moment from FOB Lagman would have to be standing on top of the Hesco barriers at sunset, looking out at the children playing in the cool of the evening,” she said. “It was such a stark contrast to what was going on behind me – a guy training his bomb-sniffing dog to find bricks of C4, soldiers readying themselves to go out on a patrol convoy, and Blackhawk helicopters taking off and landing in tandem. It was a good reminder that even during time of adversity, life goes on.”

The base closure and transfer process will increase the workload for the AED-South Real Estate and Environmental Offices. However, the opportunities to see the country and make a difference are worth the extra work. 🇺🇸



Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps Afghan National Army, stand in formation during the ceremonial event.

New garrison improves combat readiness

by Brenda Beasley

Completion of an Afghan National Army garrison to support about 1,000 troops was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting and flag-raising ceremony March 14 in Nimroz province. ANA officials, local Afghan government officials, U.S. Marine Corps mentor representatives, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South officials, and more than 400 ANA troops turned out for the celebration.

Guest speaker for the event was Brig. Gen. Abdul Wasea, commanding general of the 2nd Brigade, ANA 215th Corps. An avid supporter of providing security and stability throughout Nimroz province, Wasea has worked to strengthen the partnerships between the local village elders, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Afghan National Security Forces.

“We have conducted more than 28,000 combat activities with the help of the U.S. Marines,” said Wasea through an interpreter. “We need to try and have readiness to prevent all acts against this area.”

Construction of the ANA garrison was managed by AED-South. The \$34 million project was awarded in June 2008 to FCEC UIP Joint Venture, an Afghan firm. It includes officer barracks, enlisted barracks, a battalion storage facility, a maintenance facility, an arms and ammunition storage facility, a fuel distribution and storage facility, a communications

facility, a dining facility, a sanitary sewer network, and a generator plant.

“This ANA compound will provide necessary security for the Nimroz province and will serve as a vital training center and regional hub for the ANA,” said Edmund W. Starnes, the resident engineer of the AED-South Delaram Resident Office.

The garrison is being completed in two phases. The contractor for phase one provided a product that is above average in quality, added Starnes. Phase two construction, with a target award date of early third



Afghan National Army leaders raise the flag to officially open their new garrison (military post) at Delaram March 14.

quarter fiscal year 2011, will expand the current facility to accommodate 4,300 personnel.

It sits on what used to be known as Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delaram 1 and is

across from FOB Delaram 2, where soldiers of the 215th Corps currently serve with troops from the Georgian Army and U.S. Marines. It's located about one kilometer southeast of the city of

Delaram, which serves as a major transportation center in western Afghanistan, with several major roads converging on the area, including Highway 1 known as the Ring Road, Route 515

to Farah City, Route 522 to Gulistan and Route 606 to Iran.

Following the ceremony, the commanders shared light refreshments with the elders of Delaram and then toured the 22-building facility. "These buildings were built by Afghans for Afghans," commented AED-South Commander Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser while shaking hands with Wasea during the tour.

With completion of this vital training center and regional hub, soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, are more equipped to provide security and stability throughout Nimroz province. 



Photo by Edward Starnes

Brig. Gen. Abdul Wasea (center) speaks with AED-South Commander Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser while touring the ANA garrison, as elders from Delaram look on.



Dahla Dam

Water resource solution for Kandahar province

by Joan Kibler

Water equals livelihood for 80 percent of the population of the arid Kandahar province where agriculture is the primary industry. Most of that population lives along the Arghandab River and its irrigation system – a system that starts at Dahla Dam.

Thirty years of war and resulting neglect have destroyed agriculture areas in a region that had been known as the breadbasket of Afghanistan. In a valley once lush with crops and orchards, farmers wait for a reliable water supply that will feed their families and bring income.

The Afghanistan National and Kandahar Provincial governments have identified the Arghandab Irrigation Rehabilitation Project, including Dahla Dam, as a key priority for national reconstruction, according to published reports. That's because it's both the largest dam and the largest irrigation system in Kandahar province.

With sufficient water supply, the Arghandab Valley can once again produce wheat, corn, melon and other crops, as well as pomegranates, grapes and apricots.

The project has two main components for improving water distribution and control: repairs to Dahla Dam and its reservoir pool, which has lost approximately 30 percent of its capacity due to accumulated sediment; and repairs to the downstream irrigation network, which was losing up to 60 percent of the water flow because of deficiencies in the existing infrastructure.

The Canadian government has invested \$50 million over a three-year period on the second component – repairing the irrigation network, according to its website. The Canadians have been replacing generators and repairing water valves to improve water flow from Dahla Dam, fixing the gates that control water flow from the Arghandab River into the canal system, repairing the canals, and working with Afghans to improve water management and crop production.

As the Canadian government completes its work on the irrigation network, ISAF Regional Command South asked the Afghanistan Engineer District-South to study the first component of the Arghandab Irrigation Project – how to increase the water reservoir capacity of the Dahla Dam, located 21 miles northeast of Kandahar City.

“This is a collaborative effort with the Corps of Engineers stateside to complete this study quickly,” said Annette Evans, AED-South Water and Infrastructure program manager. “We have agencies across the globe focused on how we can increase water storage at Dahla Dam.”

Steve Bredthauer, AED-South project manager, said that the Canadian government identified three alternatives for increasing the water reservoir capacity of Dahla Dam:

- Raise Dahla Dam to increase the storage capacity, to replace the lost capacity from the accumulation of sediment.
- Construct a new dam upstream to provide additional water storage.
- Remove the sediment in Dahla Dam through dredging and provide upstream sediment control.

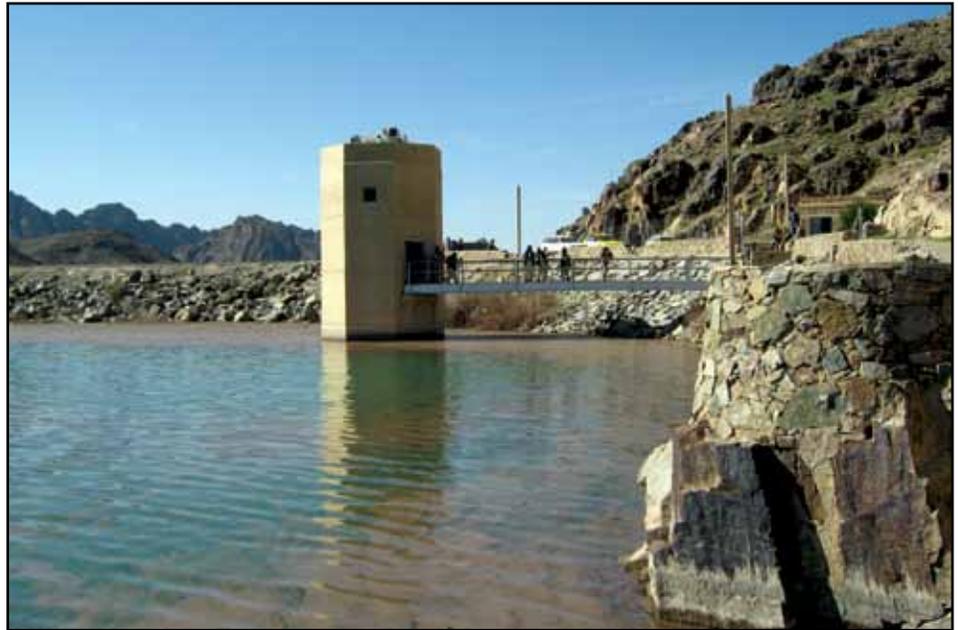
The first initiative was a study by Tetra Tech of Framingham, Mass., under contract with the Corps of Engineers Middle East District of Winchester, Va., to further assess the options identified by the Canadians.

Constructing a new dam upstream is a viable option, Bredthauer said. “However, it would take longer to get to construction since little field data is available at identified sites. Studies for a new upstream dam are continuing, but it is not considered an immediate construction option.”

The option of dredging the existing reservoir was eliminated because it was too costly and time consuming, Evans said.

The remaining option, raising Dahla Dam, became the primary consideration.

Concurrently, AED-South was completing a master plan for delivering potable water to Kandahar City. “We



Courtesy Photo

The study team examined the condition of the intake gate tower at Dahla Dam during their visit in March.



Photo by Steve Bredthauer

In mid-March, Dahla Dam’s reservoir was full.

concluded that Dahla Dam can supply potable water to the city as well as being used for irrigation purposes,” Evans said. “But the dam would have to be raised to increase the volume to sufficiently meet both purposes.”

Bredthauer said that the Corps of Engineers Omaha District will complete a study for raising the water storage capacity of Dahla Dam. “Omaha District has extensive expertise in designing, constructing and operating water resource projects, and the district has also completed previous assessments at Dahla Dam,” he said.

“Omaha District is on the fast track to complete this study by September,” Bredthauer said. “By January 2012, Omaha will provide a contract package

for the dam raise, which will take place in two separate phases beginning in fiscal year 2012.

“This theater has a sense of urgency to get things done, as the U.S. government prepares for a major transition point in 2014,” said Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, AED-South commander. He told the Omaha team to “look at what can be done immediately. Look at phasing the work so that we achieve momentum. This dam is now used for irrigation, but it can have other purposes.”

The nine-person Omaha District team, led by project manager Chris Fassero, spent a week in Kandahar province in mid-March visiting Dahla Dam and meeting with officials from RC-South, the Canadian International



Courtesy Photo

The team studying repairs to Dahla Dam and its reservoir pool included members from Omaha District and AED-South. Two Soldiers, at each end of the group photo, accompanied the team. Back row, left to right: Kevin Adams, Terry Matuska, Chris Fassero, Dave Ray, Dan Pridal, Bret Budd. Front row, left to right: Steve Bredthauer, Josh Melliger, Gene Sturm, Sandy Barnum, Ron Cates.



Photo by Steve Bredthauer

The study team assesses the abutment conditions at Dahla Dam.

Development Agency, Afghan Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team, Dahla Dam operators and the Joint Program Integration Office.

Dahla Dam, originally named the Arghandab Dam, was built by the U.S. Agency for International Development and completed in 1952. Dahla Dam was originally constructed to provide flood control, irrigation water and hydroelectric power; however, equipment for power production was never installed.

According to reports, the original design did not include any sediment control measures, and none were incorporated in the following years.

“Approximately thirty percent of the original storage capacity in the reservoir

extensive deforestation,” Melliger said. “In addition, the land previously supported grazing by the nomadic tribes, but with restrictions in movement due to war, the land has now been overgrazed.

“The sedimentation problem is widespread,” Melliger continued. “As part of our study, we will attempt to identify areas with high sediment loads and determine if smaller dams or rings of rock can be used to trap the sediment to keep it from reaching Dahla Dam.”

The team will also look at the use of revegetation to prevent erosion. “Our environmental mitigation plan will consider whether selective revegetation in areas of high erosion is a viable option for reducing the sediment load to the reservoir,” Fassero said.

has been filled with sediment,” said Josh Melliger, Omaha hydraulic engineer.

The area – because of its arid climate and erosive soils – is already susceptible to sedimentation, but it has been complicated by other factors, Melliger said.

“As a result of the war, Afghanistan has suffered

“We may propose some of these techniques in the first phase of the contract that can start immediately,” Fassero continued.

Most of the flow for the Arghandab River comes from melting snow in the high Hindu Kush Mountains west of Kabul.

“Dahla Dam collects most of its water in February through April,” Melliger said. “Then the irrigation demands hit in May through August. We will study the best methods to store water and release it when it’s needed the most.”

With the study due by September, Fassero said they will have to fast track their work and reach out to other Corps districts with water resources expertise.

“We must complete this project on a much tighter schedule than a typical civil works project in the United States,” Fassero said. “In the States, it may take five years before you move dirt on a project of this size, but some of the considerations are different here. For instance, we don’t have to share the study cost with a local sponsor. We’ll also be working with the team at AED-South to identify opportunities for accelerating the project construction.”

While the Omaha District has worked on other projects for the Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan, this visit was the first for this team.

“I was impressed with the level of concern (about the irrigation system) expressed by the Afghan Dahla Dam manager from MEW with whom we met,” Fassero said. He expressed a strong willingness on the part of MEW to work with the United States to improve Dahla Dam.

“I was impressed with the skill of the Soldiers at FOB (forward operating base) Frontenac, who provided transportation and security for our site visit to the dam,” Fassero continued. “It was interesting to hear their perspective on the importance of working directly with the local citizens near the dam and to watch as they addressed several questions from people at the dam site.

“I was impressed with what the Corps of Engineers people have to understand about Afghanistan to operate effectively here. The complexities of working here became much more evident in the political, cultural and social context,” Fassero concluded.

For Melliger, he views the opportunity as one where he can build trust. “The personal contact is a great opportunity and very beneficial for the project. I want the Afghans to know we’re here to do the best job that we can for them to improve their water supply.”



Engineers from several agencies gathered for the ISAF Regional Command Infrastructure Planning Conference at the 205th Corps, Afghan National Army, at Camp Hero.

Infrastructure planning conference highlights upcoming ANA facilities

by Joan Kibler

With projects to award in fiscal year 2011 that total nearly \$2 billion and fiscal year 2012 projects estimated at about \$1.5 billion, how does the Afghanistan Engineer District-South stay abreast of upcoming projects?

Several members of the AED-South participated in the ISAF Regional Command Infrastructure Planning Conference held at the 205th Corps, Afghan National Army (ANA), Camp Hero, March 23.

The preponderance of the district's work is for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). In fiscal year 2011, just over half the program value is for ANSF projects; in 2012, that percentage rises to two-thirds of the program value.

"For us, attending these conferences helps us encompass the end users' needs," said Joseph Moyer, ANSF program manager, AED-South.

"Knowing the planned facilities helps us prepare for work that's coming," said Paul Apodaca, resident engineer for AED-South's Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office. "This knowledge allows us to integrate the proposed work with how we construct the on-going projects to make sure it all integrates as planned."

Conference participants included the engineer staffs from an array of military partners and stakeholders, all of whom play a role in building ANSF infrastructure. Attending were

representatives from the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/ Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (NTM-A/CSTC-A), ISAF Joint Command (IJC), the 205th Hero Corps Coalition Advisory Team, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, the Joint Program Integration Office and AED-South.

In his opening remarks, Australian Lt. Col. Guy A. M. Moten, military advisor from the Coalition Advisory Team, said the conference focuses on discussing projects to ensure the ANA has adequate facilities. The Coalition Advisory Team – with members from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States – mentors the ANA at Camp Hero.

"The facilities must be suited to the ANA – to their way of doing business and their way of living," Moten said. "Infrastructure planning needs ANA input, consultation and acceptance as well as (consideration of) their capability to support their activities now and into the future – 10 or 20 years from now. This is particularly relevant when ISAF or coalition support is likely to be limited in the future, and the ANA will be responsible to maintain their own facilities."

Infrastructure planning conferences are held in each Region about every four months, according to Lt. Col. John Wranek from IJC Security Partnering, Combined Joint Engineer Branch. "These conferences provide us with the opportunity to plan and review the final lay down of permanent infrastructure for the

ANA and ANP (Afghan National Police) units.

"The planning conferences have different focuses depending on where they're held," Wranek said. "At this conference, we're focused mainly on ANA facilities since this is the priority for Regional Command South."

Moten said that the 205th Corps is one of the leading ANA units as far as its capabilities to accomplish its mission, with much of the infrastructure already in place to support its soldiers. However, more facilities are needed at this strategically important camp located near Kandahar.

The Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office has been responsible for the expansion of Camp Hero over the last six months.

"I want USACE educated about the upcoming program for the 205th Corps," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mark Edelson, NTM-A Engineer, who is being replaced by Lt. Cmdr. Brian Nottingham. NTM-A is responsible for training, fielding and sustaining the ANSF.

"We have a plan to meet the facility requirements," Edelson said. "Sometimes it seems like it goes in fits and starts, but we are finding homes for 250 kandaks (battalion-sized bases) that support the fielding of some 195,000 ANA soldiers."

Conference participants exchanged information and discussed potential issues at each location where ANA units will be fielded.

"The nominal timeline is 32 months from determining the location for a unit to project turnover," Edelson said. "This is too long. We are looking at ways to speed up construction and make the camps the same – using the cookie cutter effect."

Michael Scarano, AED-South deputy for programs and project management, acknowledged that many projects take 50 percent longer here, in part because of overcommitted contractors and the inability to get construction supplies and materials quickly in a war zone.

"We try to hold contractors to their due date," Scarano said. "When completion dates can't be met, we are committed to giving you our best estimate of when the project will be completed."

Among the efforts to turn over facilities faster is the use of

arch-rolled steel buildings, instead of block with a stucco finish, to provide some of the facility needs at the ANA camps.

"The Corps of Engineers has partnered with CSTC-A to provide 100 percent design drawings for the arch-rolled steel buildings," said Dean Homleid, ANA project manager, AED-South. "Using these designs, CSTC-A, the Corps, the Defense Logistics Agency and other partners are procuring and delivering rolled steel to Afghanistan. The first shipment will contain enough material for AED-South to construct two ANA garrisons."

Moyer said that use of steel is expected to save time during construction. "We have 10 projects using arch-rolled buildings to award this fiscal year," he said. "Those 10 projects are valued at approximately \$645 million. We anticipate even more projects in fiscal year 2012 using arch-rolled steel buildings."

Edelson said that even with standardizing facilities, engineer staffs must match the facility to the location and the purpose of the unit. "Because the geographic areas vary, the plans may not match the situation on the ground, plus the facility requirements must be meshed with the training and equipment receipt."

Since units are being fielded quickly, some must move into temporary facilities. "We can move infantry units into an area with tents and other temporary structures relatively quickly, but we have to do more detailed planning for the specialty battalions, like engineer units," Edelson said.

Wranek said that at the national level, IJC and NTM-A works closely with the Afghan Ministries of Defense and Interior to align facility requirements with the needs of the ANA and the ANP. Concurrently, units like the Australian Coalition Advisory Team function as the liaison between the 205th Corps and Regional Command South for issues dealing with the ANA garrison.

"Living conditions affect the morale and health of soldiers," Edelson said. "Brigade camps are important for the overall health of the fighting force, and we must continue to take steps to improve the living conditions as these soldiers are rapidly fielded." ■

IEEE Spectrum editor learns bridging solution by Joan Kibler

Afghanistan Engineer District-South hosted the executive editor of IEEE Spectrum magazine in early April. Glenn Zorpette embedded with ISAF Regional Command South to write about the Kandahar-Helmand Power



L to R: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Black, Staff Sgt. Travis Stark, Glenn Zorpette, and an IAP Worldwide Services employee.

Initiative.

Zorpette met with several organizations involved with providing power to Kandahar City, including RC-South, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team. He embedded with AED-South for several days to learn about the power bridging solution, which is providing power on the east and west sides of Kandahar City through two diesel generator power plants.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Black set up tours of the Baghi-Pul plant, led by Staff Sgt. Travis Stark (249th Prime Power Battalion) and the Shurandam Industrial Park plant, led by Sgt. Fenix Batista (also of the 249th). Navy Cmdr. Frank Zelenka, RC-South Infrastructure, participated in these meetings on April 5.

On April 6, Black escorted Zorpette to



Glenn Zorpette, left, receives detailed information from Engineer Fazal Ahmad.

the Breshna Kot power plant, which is the primary source of power for Kandahar City. There he met with Engineer Fazal Ahmad, chief engineer with Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, the Afghan national utility provider.

Zorpette plans to write a feature article for IEEE Spectrum. ■

AES Team Kandahar Area Office

by Lt. Col. Douglas Hoenig



Mission: Kandahar Area Office (KAO) executes construction management and quality assurance oversight for a \$500 million construction program that promotes reconstruction and infrastructure development in the Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, and Daykundi provinces of Afghanistan, an area covering more than 94,000 square kilometers.

It is a great honor for me to serve with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Afghanistan Engineer District-South here in Kandahar. It is an even bigger honor for me to describe the roles and responsibilities of the military and civilian team members of KAO, which includes more than 30 assigned and 60 attached personnel. The area office is located on forward operating base (FOB) Lindsey, adjacent to the Afghanistan National Army base at Camp Hero, just outside the perimeter of Kandahar



Kandahar Area Office and Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office at FOB Lindsey.



KAO, left to right, Lt. Col. Doug Hoenig (OIC), Master Sgt. Angel Morales (NCOIC), Debra Scribner, Connie Adams, David Carte, and Richard Kell.

Airfield (KAF).

I have been the officer-in-charge (OIC) of KAO for the last six months, and David Carte was the area engineer for the past 12 months. We currently have three resident offices subordinate to KAO: Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office, Tarin Kowt Resident Office, and Qalat Resident Office. Each resident office oversees construction activities in a portion of our very large area of responsibility. I had the opportunity to travel across southern Afghanistan during the first half of my tour and personally observe the great work our USACE team members, contractors and Afghan partners are doing. It is very challenging to build anything during irregular warfare, but all the stakeholders involved with our 53 projects have stepped up and delivered.

Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office

KVRO is co-located with KAO on FOB Lindsey and has responsibility for the \$300 million construction program in Kandahar province. KVRO is lead by the OIC, Air Force Maj. Ferdinand K. Desir, and Paul Apodaca, the resident engineer. The main effort of KVRO over the last six months has been the expansion of Camp Hero for the Afghanistan National Army and the expansion of the Joint Regional Afghan National Police Center (JRAC). Another big effort has gone in to the Spin Boldak to Pakistan border road project.



KVRO, left to right, Brian Combs, Ajmal Niaz, Rodger Johns, Alan Eastridge, Michael Covington, Dora Karnes, Bob McKechnie, Paul Apodaca and Maj. Bull Desir (OIC). (Not shown: Matt Walden, John Terry, Jack Markland and Jon Jorgenson.)



KVRO, Ministry of the Interior (MOI) Regional Building-Kandahar.



KVRO, Spin Boldak to Pakistan Border road project (demolition of old road).

KVRO also stood up two project offices over the last several months: one at FOB Spin Boldak and one at FOB Ramrod.

Tarin Kowt Resident Office

TKRO is located on Multinational Base Tarin Kowt and has responsibility for the \$100 million program in Uruzgan and Daykundi provinces. Army Maj. Samantha Bebb previously served as the OIC for TKRO, and the resident engineer is Bill Kiddy. Air Force Capt. Matthew Strickler recently arrived and will be taking the place of Bebb as the OIC. TKRO's main effort has been the military construction runway upgrades project. The concrete placement for the new runway was completed March 3. The runway was turned over for C-130 traffic



TKRO, left to right, James Meyers, Leslie Olson, Maj. Samantha Bebb (OIC), Bill Kiddy, Capt. Matthew Strickler, and George Bittorf (not shown, George Edgington).



TKRO, Tarin Kowt Runway Upgrades Project (finishing concrete placement on runway).



TKRO, Route Bear road project (road width challenges).

March 8, and for C-17 traffic March 22. Another key project for TKRO has been the Route Bear road project. This project gets us one step closer to completely paving Route Bear from Kandahar to Tarin Kowt. TKRO is also planning to stand up a project office at FOB Frontenac in the near future.

Qalat Resident Office

QRO is located on FOB Apache and has responsibility for the \$100 million program in Zabul province. Air Force Maj. Chris Pewterbaugh previously served as the OIC, and Michael Osborne is the resident engineer. Air Force Maj. Greg Anderson just recently arrived and has taken over from Pewterbaugh as the OIC. The main effort for QRO is three road projects that link the outlying districts of Zabul with the provincial center of gravity - the city of Qalat. The Qalat to Mizan, Qalat to Layshor, and Layshor to Shinkay roads have definitely been a challenge. The roads cover more than 100 kilometers of the most hostile territory for contractors in southern



QRO, left to right, front row. Spc. Josue Flores, Michael Osborne, Maj. Chris Pewterbaugh (OIC), Sgt. Craig Clark, and Master Sgt. Angel Espinoza. Back row, Spc. Ronny Alvarez, Spc. James Bounds, Sgt. Mark Minkenbaugh, Spc. Robert Fickett, and Spc. Teon Stepney.



Lt. Col. Doug Hoenig presents Maj. Chris Pewterbaugh with the Bronze deFleury Medal



QRO, Layshor to Shinkay road project, looking west towards Layshor.



QRO, Layshor to Shinkay road project (Dab Pass).

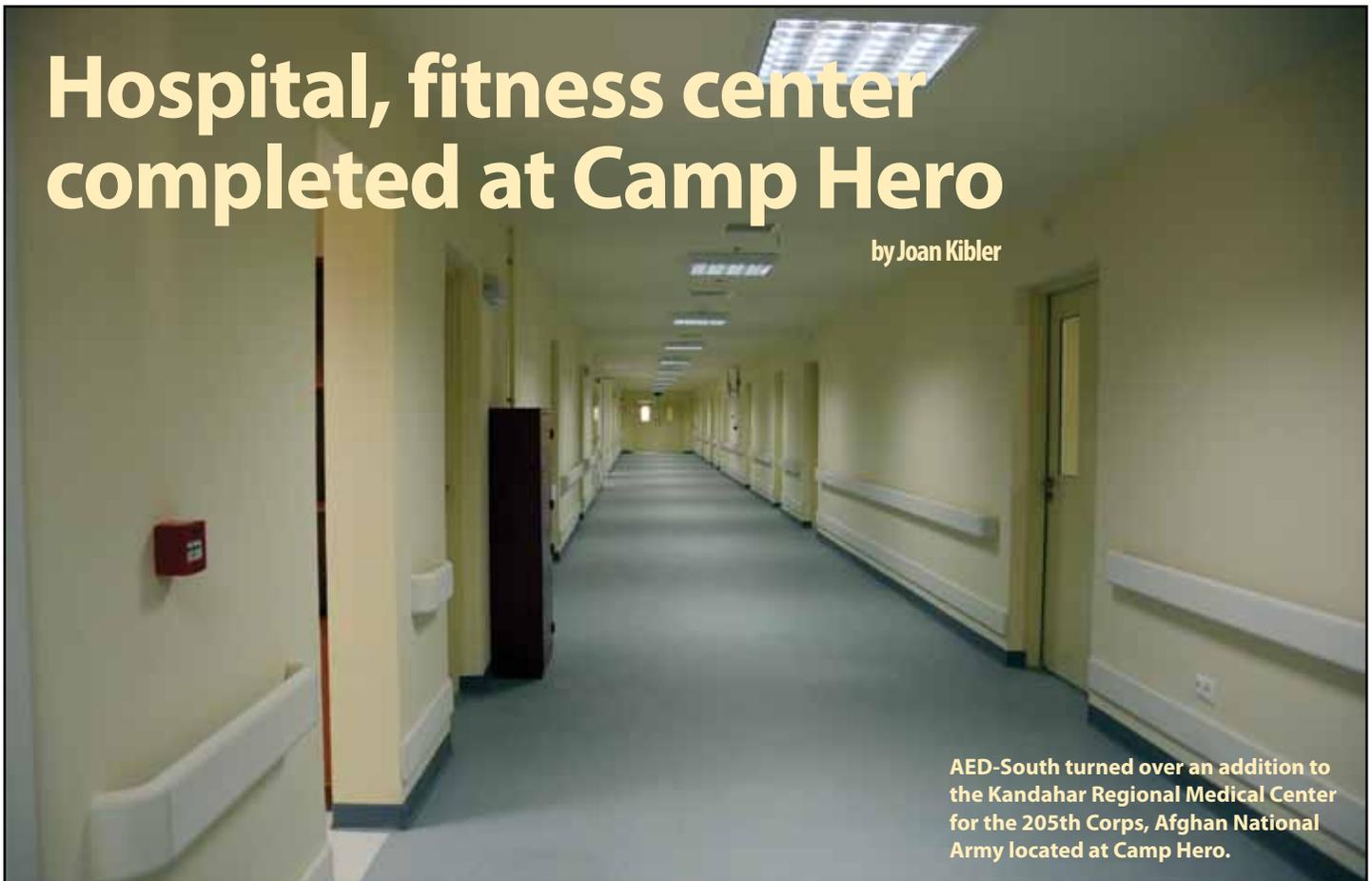
Afghanistan. During the first three years of the projects, contractors have suffered more than 100 casualties and 50 damaged vehicles trying to build these critical roads for the people of Zabul province. The biggest challenge ahead will be the construction of the Layshor to Shinkay Road, phase 3 - Dab Pass.

On Feb. 26, I had the distinct pleasure of presenting Pewterbaugh with a Bronze Star Medal for his combat service over the last 12 months. I also presented him with the Bronze deFleury Medal for 10 plus years of service to the Engineer Regiment. Pewterbaugh provided excellent support to the joint engineer team during multiple deployments, support to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and support during the disaster relief mission in response to the 2005 Pakistan earthquake.

I look forward to the challenges ahead for KAO in the coming months. Some of the faces are changing across the KAO staff, but the mission goes on, as the program will almost double this year. I will continue to challenge the resident offices to get out and see our remote projects and to work hard on communicating the status of our projects to the myriad of project stakeholders. 

Hospital, fitness center completed at Camp Hero

by Joan Kibler



AED-South turned over an addition to the Kandahar Regional Medical Center for the 205th Corps, Afghan National Army located at Camp Hero.

The Afghanistan Engineer District-South handed over two Afghan National Army projects March 23 at Camp Hero near Kandahar.

On behalf of the Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office, Paul Apodaca, resident engineer, and Ajmal Niaz, project engineer, signed the facilities over to U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mark Edelson, engineer, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/ Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (NTM-A/ CSTC-A).

The projects – an addition to the Kandahar Regional Medical Center and a fitness center – support the 205th Corps.

Edelson said he was pleased with the buildings and with the progress of construction over the last few months.



Kandahar Regional Medical Center.

“When Cmdr. Edelson visited the hospital addition in November, the ductwork and plumbing were still being installed,” said Joseph Moyer, ANSF program manager. “Four months later, he toured a hospital facility with the same features you’d find in a small-town hospital stateside. The quality of the work and attention to detail made this transfer

of property from USACE to CSTC-A an easy transition.”

The prior contract had been terminated, and it was re-awarded to Omran Consulting, Construction and Engineering Company, an Afghan firm, for \$3.2 million in March 2010. Omran also constructed the addition at the Herat Regional Military Hospital.

“The hospital addition provides another patient care facility, along with administrative and visitor areas,” said Billy Waites, project manager for the hospital addition. “It provides 46 additional beds at Camp Hero.”

Also included are a pharmacy, CT scanner, VIP rooms and a dining room.

The fitness center was part of the Garrison Upgrades contract awarded in November 2008 and is the last project in the contract to be turned over, according to Chad Richards, project manager.

“The fitness center also has a soccer field with a track around it and two sets of bleachers,” Richards said.

Also included in the \$3.2 million garrison upgrades contract are a public works building, an operations center, and an addition to the fire station.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies for both facilities will be scheduled. 📧



Navy Cmdr. Mark Edelson, center, signs on the dotted line after throwing the ball around the new gym. Paul Apodaca, left, and Ajmal Niaz, right, stand by for final signature.

Honeybees help promote sustainable environment

by Brenda Beasley

As subject matter experts on bees, AED-South Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Martha E. Kiene and Joint Staff Intelligence Chief Lt. Col. John Carpenter made a trip to Qalat, the provincial capital of Zabul, Afghanistan, March 11 to assist the Qalat Provincial



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. John E. Carpenter holds up a bee frame while in Qalat.

Reconstruction Team with introducing honeybees to local farmers as a long term, sustainable agricultural project.

As a means of providing environmental sustainability, Kiene recommended the program in the Zabul area to help promote the small business community. She and Carpenter worked with Arkansas National Guard Soldiers from the Agricultural Development Team (ADT) at Forward Operating Base Apache in Zabul in support of bringing in bees to help pollinate almond groves and increase their crop yield.

The first bees are now on site and will be monitored by the ADT and the local agricultural official.

Bees are the best pollinators for plants, according to Carpenter. Sixty-five percent of all food we eat is a result of bee pollination.

“I’ve always had an interest in sustainability and helping the environment and saw beekeeping as a way to help my community and the environment,” said Kiene. She became interested in beekeeping and pollination in California while she was assigned to Los Angeles District. When she moved to Corps headquarters in 2008, she bought her first hive and now has three hives in her backyard in Springfield, Va. “I am truly a backyard beekeeper,” she



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Martha E. Kiene, right, speaks with Afghan farmers and Agricultural Development Team Soldiers on site in Qalat.

added. “Honeybees are nature at its finest. Keeping and learning about bees has been an extraordinary experience.”

Carpenter also shares an interest in promoting bees as an agricultural force multiplier. He and his wife began beekeeping in Charlotte, N.C., in 1993. After getting their first bees and equipment, they ended up buying land and an apple orchard in the area. They have kept up with beekeeping over the years and even obtained certification as Master Bee Keeper Level 1. “It is a lifetime hobby, that has continued here in Afghanistan,” he added. 📧

Afghanistan Safety 101

by Sue Fox, Safety Officer

What's wrong with this photo?

In our last issue of the Engineering Freedom magazine, we asked: If you walked onto this construction site, what would you see wrong? How many safety violations can you find?

And the winner's are!

Since we have very observant people in the district, there had to be first, second and third place winners. All participants get honorable mention and are also awarded a prize.

1st Place goes to Ed Starnes with 10 correct safety violations submitted.

2nd Place goes to Tim Wynn with seven correct safety violations submitted.

3rd Place goes to a tie between Leslie Olson and Muneer Shetab who each submitted six correct answers.

Honorable Mentions go to Alejandro Pascual, Nabil Abourialy, Alan Eastridge, Garry Runyans, and two of our Afghan citizens, Jawid Ahadi and Tariq Taheri.

Congratulations to all of them for recognizing hazards to our contract workers. 🇦🇫

The 15 deficiencies on this job site are:

- There are no guardrails at the opening to protect the worker from falling.
- There are no toeboards installed on the scaffolding.
- Inadequate bracing on the scaffolding. With the scaffold constructed in this way, it is more than four times taller than its width and is required to be braced or have outriggers.
- There was access to the scaffolding outside of the range of the photo, but it may have been inadequate due to the length of the scaffold.
- Worker is not wearing fall protection.
- Worker is not wearing a hard hat.
- The worker is standing under the load to receive it.
- There is no tag line to guide the load safely.
- The area does not have a barrier installed to warn personnel of a hazard and to keep them from being injured.
- Crane operator does not have a clear view of the load.
- There is no signalman to direct the crane operator in lifting an unseen load on the end of his hook.
- There are no guardrails on the upper level of the scaffold in front of the building.
- There are no cross members built into the scaffold.
- There was no Site Safety and Health Officer on site.
- Unknown substance in the 55-gallon drum - could be fuel or water. It is required that all substances be labeled.



Courtesy Photo

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Brenda Beasley

Col. Anthony Funkhouser and Command Sgt. Maj. Rickie Virgil present the Project Delivery Team winners with a project poster. Accepting for the team are, left to right, Victor Ross, Jennifer Zimmerman, and Sonny Sapida.

PDT First Quarter FY11 Winner

BY LAUREL STEVENS

Congratulations are in order for the first winner of the Project Delivery Team of the Quarter for AED-South. The panel's selection was awarded to the ANA Kandak at Qal-e-Naw project. Project manager is Jennifer Zimmerman, ANSF ANA. The team received certificates and a project poster was placed in the PPMD halls of Bldg 1.

The design and construction of the ANA Kandak at Qal-e-Naw, Badghis Province, is a joint effort between USACE, CSTC-A, and the Spanish, providing a fully functioning base to the ANA.

This project includes a command/enlisted/NCO barracks, training buildings, dining facility, food storage, restrooms, bunkers, wastewater treatment plant, water distribution system, entry control points and guard towers. It was awarded in March 2009 for \$16.5 million.

Each quarter a high performing team will be selected and awarded the honor of PDT Team of the Quarter. At the end of the year the four teams will compete for PDT of the Year.

Keepsakes of your tour

AED-South's Employees Activities Committee is selling a variety of inexpensive district keepsakes. These items include belt buckles, mouse pads, Christmas ornaments, T-shirts, blanket throws and much more. Some of the items cost as little as \$5. The monies earned from the sale of these keepsakes will be used to help support AES's morale and welfare program, which benefits District employees.

Guard towers get spotlights

Security at the Afghan National Army garrison at Camp Zafar was improved when nine spotlights were installed on existing guard towers. The \$92,520 project in Herat province was completed March 8, according to Jason McWilliams, the office engineer at AED-South's Herat Area Office. The contract was awarded under the Afghan First program, which limits competition to Afghan-owned firms. 



Courtesy Photo

ON THE MOVE

Moving in



MAJ Greg Anderson



Otis Anderson



Jeff Ball



Brooksie Crosby



Daniel Dykstra



Brett Frazier



Michael French



SPC Michael Green



Patrick Grey



MAJ Anthony Hammett



Greg Hegge



Stephen Karwan



Thomas Luzano



Donald Nieman



Patricia Prentiss



Samuel Schlachter



Frank Scopa



James Slomer



CPT Matthew Strickler



Richard Webb



Mark Wright



Tim Wynn

Photos unavailable at press time: SPC David Allison, SGT Richard Baker, SPC Rex Gilliam, Nathan Gonzalez, SGT Andrew Thode, and SFC Claudia White.

Moving on

Tamara Arnold
Tony Aukstikalnis
Tom Baker
SFC David Brady
David Carte
MSGT Harvey Diaz
Jereme Degarlais
TSGT Chris Ellard
Thomas Ingram

Darrell Ling
Julianne McLeod
SSG Joseph McManus
MSGT Dennis Nordin
CPT Gary Phillips
Aaron Sandine
Joe Shaffer
Sharon Wilkinson-Barnes