



FEATURE ARTICLE

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New military accommodations at Kandahar Airfield

By Staff Sergeant David K. Flaherty, Regional Command (South) Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (September 19) – U.S. servicemembers arriving at Kandahar Airfield (KAF) are about to see a big improvement in their living conditions.

A ribbon cutting ceremony on September 15 marked the opening of the first of three hardened living facilities built at KAF to facilitate the reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSOI) of U.S. and U.S.-sponsored personnel arriving in southern Afghanistan. The next two buildings are scheduled to open their doors before Christmas.

The 50-thousand square-foot barracks will house up to 1000 troops, are built with air-conditioning, indoor plumbing—complete with showers and restrooms—and are constructed with reinforced concrete to protect against indirect fire.

“This is the first of a permanent, long-term solution to how Kandahar is grown,” said Mark Rusczyk, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Engineer for the building construction. “We made sure there was room for expansion, so we can construct more hardened facilities when needed.”

These structures were planned in anticipation of the expected U.S. troop increase in southern Afghanistan. With a 50-year lifespan, the new RSOI barracks are a vast improvement over the facilities currently used by troops coming into KAF. The indoor plumbing alone will be a welcome improvement.

“Not having to put on your boots and go outside every time you use the bathroom in a big luxury for us,” said Sgt. Michael Mason, a combat engineer who was one of the first soldiers to stay in the new barracks. “This is the best barracks I’ve been in.”

There was definite urgency to getting these barracks into service. The project was completed in record time. More than 370 Afghan and Turkish contractors worked in two-week shifts over four months, averaging 18 to 22 hours a day to complete the building on time.

“We all worked very hard to complete such a large building. Words can’t express how I feel,” said Remzi Delibos, a Turkish Quality Control Manager with METAG Construction. “This building will live longer than I will,” he said with pride.



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (September 19) – Brigadier-General Daniel Schultz, Commanding General of 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, left, and Cahit Idil, right, President and Owner of Metag Construction, LLC, at the official opening of the new living quarters at Kandahar Airfield. (Photo by Sgt. Gemma Bibby)



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (September 19) – The new living quarters at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. Gemma Bibby)

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