



July 2009

The Freedom

BUILDER

MAGAZINE



Change of Command



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



The Freedom BUILDER MAGAZINE

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All photographs appearing herein are by the Afghanistan Engineer District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of The Freedom Builder is to support the Commander's Internal Communication Program for the Afghanistan Engineer District. It also serves as the Commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies, operations, technical developments, and command philosophy to the Afghanistan Engineer District.

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Cover Image:

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, 52nd Chief of Engineers, hands the AED Corps Colors to Col. Michael McCormick, symbolizing the transfer of authority from one individual to another. The Change of Command ceremony took place in Kabul, Afghanistan July 9th.



(Photo by Bruce J. Huffman, full story pg. 6)

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Postcards from Afghanistan

The Public Affairs Office is expanding AED's Internal Communications Program with "Postcards from Afghanistan."

The postcards will appear on AED's Internet Site in PDF format and a copy will be sent to your home District Public Affairs Office.

The postcards consist of a 3 to 4 paragraph write up along with 2 to 3 photos with a photo caption describing what is happening in each photo.

The write-up is similar to a personal note from you to your family and friends, that focuses on a specific project or event, or that provides an overview of your total experience here in Afghanistan.

The Public Affairs Office will provide help needed to write these.

If you would like to be featured on one of these postcards, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 540-662-6578 or come visit us in the Azadi House, 1st floor, room 3, or e-mail joseph.marek@usace.army.mil.

Thanks in advance for helping AED's Internal Communications Program.



From the Commander ...

I very much look forward to working with all of you over the coming months. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a long tradition of service to the United States Armed Forces, and our nation. Indeed our organizational ties to the Army are of such significance, one needs to look no further than the words in the Army song. The second line and verse resolutely talks of building the nations might. A nation's might is measured largely by the capabilities of its armed forces. The United States Armed Forces and its Coalition partners have had a presence in Afghanistan since 2001. We are currently conducting a counter-insurgency operation in this country, aimed at defeating an insurgency that threatens the stability of Afghanistan. To accomplish this mission for the long-term we must help build Afghanistan's might. Primarily by providing critical infrastructure projects in support of the Afghan National Security Forces so that they may help to better secure the people of Afghanistan. A fundamental portion of any nation's might is also economic, fueled in part by its land and water infrastructure. Here too the Corps of Engineers will continue to play a vital role in providing roads, and more recently, assistance with water infrastructure, planning and project delivery in partnership

with the government of Afghanistan, as well as a number of U.S. and other International agencies. These infrastructure development efforts are all squarely aimed at supporting the people of Afghanistan and their quality of life. This mission of infrastructure delivery in support of the security and development lines of operation is a mission we have, and will continue to take very seriously. While much work has been done over the last eight years; much work remains if we are to achieve our objective. It is at the end of the day, a daunting task; a task as I see it, that can only be accomplished by teamwork with the government of Afghanistan, as well as a number of U.S. and other International agencies. I very much look forward to serving as the eighth District Commander, and I pledge my best efforts in this capacity. The District's magnificent employees and Soldiers will continue the legacy of service to the Armed Forces and the Nation by planning, designing, constructing and maintaining infrastructure and projects that continue to compliment ISAF counter-insurgency operations and help build and improve Afghanistan's security and economic posture.



Col. Michael McCormick



Command Sgt. Maj. Harry D. Farris

From the Command Sergeant Major ...

A few days ago, I was talking with an AED civilian who phrased a question to me, "so I hear you talking about NCO's

(Noncommissioned Officers), what's that? I realized that not everyone has actually had exposure to NCO's, let alone the military in general. So let me take this opportunity to explain.

The Secretary of the Army declared 2009 "The Year of the NCO", in recognition of Noncommissioned Officers commitment to service.

Today's NCO is an innovative, competent and professional leader grounded in heritage, values and tradition. Today's NCO embodies

the Warrior Ethos, champions continuous learning and is capable of leading, training and motivating diverse teams. Today's NCO is an adaptive leader who is proficient in joint and combined expeditionary warfare; is culturally astute and resilient to uncertain and ambiguous environments.

NCOs are known as the "backbone of the American Army" and are the standard keepers for the military - training, leading, coaching and mentoring Soldiers.

The NCO Corps provides invaluable service and sacrifice in the line of duty. They continually prove their dedication and their willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation.

With more than 234 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Historical and daily accounts of life as an NCO are exemplified by acts of courage, and a dedication and a willingness to do whatever it takes to complete the mission. NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

NCO's LEAD THE WAY! Essayons!

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer



No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as “The Backbone of the Army”.

I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!

Islam Qala Border Crossing Point opens



The Islam Qala Border Control Point along the Iran/Afghanistan border was officially opened June 17. The new facility which was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Herat Area Office will allow the Government of Afghanistan to control the flow of goods and personnel across this critical border crossing.



All traffic crossing the Iran border into Afghanistan will be diverted through the 800 acre border crossing complex. The crossing point will bring in much needed tax revenue to Afghanistan.



According to Col. Thomas E. O'Donovan, former AED commander, the Islam Qala border control point is one of the most important projects the Corps is doing in Afghanistan." O'Donovan is shown leading a group of VIP's during the ribbon cutting ceremony. U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry is seen on the left.



Ambassador Eikenberry makes remarks during the ribbon cutting ceremony. "This port is literally the door between worlds and people's that will contribute to a vibrant exchange of ideas, goods, and of services," said Eikenberry.



US Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry (center) and a group of Afghan VIP's cut the ribbon, officially opening the border crossing for use.



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Corps of Engineers Commanding General, looks on as Col. Michael McCormick addresses Afghanistan Engineer District personnel for the first time during the Change of Command Ceremony.

Colonel Michael McCormick assumes command of the Afghanistan Engineer District

By Bruce J. Huffman

Colonel Michael McCormick took command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District July 9th, replacing Colonel Thomas E. O'Donovan.

McCormick comes to AED from the Hurricane Protection Office in New Orleans, where he oversaw one of the most massive civil works projects in U.S. history: construction of the federal flood risk reduction system that protects the city of

New Orleans and southeast Louisiana. Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presided over the ceremony, which took place at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. During the ceremony, a formation of both military and civilian Corps of Engineers personnel stood at attention while members of the CJTF101 band played and Ms. Kendra Whaley, AED Resource Management Specialist, sang the National Anthem.

The Change of Command is a time-honored tradition which represents the continuity of authority and the passing of leadership responsibility from one individual to another. After the ceremony, AED personnel



Military and Civilian personnel participated in the Change of Command ceremony held at the Corps Headquarters in Kabul.

and guests welcomed McCormick at a reception held in the Qalaa House District Room.

The AED mission is to provide project management, construction and engineering services in the Central Asian Republics to facilitate the establishment of a secure and stable environment while promoting reconstruction and infrastructure development. AED is an integral part of a



Col. Michael McCormick receives the Guidon, symbolizing the transfer of authority of the District.

larger engineer community in the Afghan theater. It is comprised of seven Area Offices, 22 Resident Offices, and six Project Offices which are strategically located throughout Afghanistan. In the last year, the AED mission has more than doubled from \$1.6 to \$4 billion and the number of personnel has grown from 200 to about 500. To accommodate the increase in workload, a second Corps of Engineers District will be established in Kandahar during August 2009 to handle construction projects in Regional Commands South and West.

The District provides support in four major program areas: Afghan National Security Forces, which includes building facilities for the Afghan National Army and Police;



Col. McCormick was interviewed by the Afghan media after the ceremony.

U.S. and Coalition Forces Power Projection, which provides facilities for Coalition Forces; Counter Narcotics and Border Management Initiatives which provide

facilities to help stop the flow of narcotics and control Afghanistan's borders; and Strategic Reconstruction, which includes support to the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Commander's Emergency Response Program. In FY09 the Afghanistan Engineer District will award and/or build more than \$4 billion in construction projects throughout Afghanistan. 

Safety Bits

Battling Fatigue

by Theresa Duvall

Feeling tired, exhausted, or a lack of energy to get through the day? You could be suffering from fatigue. The majority of us suffered through a period of it during our first week in country mostly because of the time difference traveling to Afghanistan. Some may be experiencing it due to other factors.

Fatigue can be brought on by overwork, poor sleep, worry, dehydration, poor nutrition, lack of exercise, and even boredom. Adding stress into the mix can compound the effects of fatigue. Consequently, due to the sheer nature of our work fatigue has likely become something we just live with. Obviously this is not healthy for you or the organization. Long term fatigue can often lead to serious health issues as well as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome a debilitating disease requiring professional treatment.

Fatigue can also lead to mistakes and accidents, some deadly. I remember working in the Army Recruiting Command's safety office many years ago receiving one of the many accident report phone calls that came in throughout the day. The hesitant silence on the other end told me right away that this was not going to be the typical "I hit a deer" call. It turned out that one of the Recruiters was returning home from vacation with his wife and two small children in their private vehicle but they never made it. At 0350 in the morning their vehicle left the road, crossed a median and collided with another vehicle killing everyone except the smallest child. Fatigue played a big role in this accident. Don't let it happen to you.

Battle back against fatigue with the following tips:

- Limit caffeine intake. The more caffeine you take in the longer it stays in your system, preventing the restful sleep your body needs to unwind and recoup.
- Beware that sugar may give you the energy to get you through the day but eventually you are going to crash. Unfortunately the crash is usually short lived followed by grogginess. Not the kind of rest you need either.
- Exercise and stand up straight! Even walking will boost your energy level and stamina. Poor posture indicates that chest muscles are stronger than back muscles and hunching forward makes the heart and lungs work harder running down your body even more. Strengthen your back muscles and practice good posture to ensure good blood flow.
- Keep hydrated! We can't say this enough. Alternate water and Gatorade. Gatorade replaces electrolytes that have been lost throughout the day.
- Maintain a healthy diet. Eating fruits and vegetables will also aid in keeping hydrated because they contain water too!
- Keep active and include a little fun in your day. Don't let boredom of the mind drag down your body.

Hopefully if you plan an attack and carry it out, fatigue will hit the road.



A conceptual drawing of the new dining facility which is under construction at Qalaa House, the AED Headquarters.

Qalaa House welcomes new dining facility

By Joe Marek

To accommodate an increase in Corps personnel living, working and transitioning through Kabul, the Corps of Engineers is building a new state-of-the-art dining facility at Qalaa House, the Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Kabul. The new DFAC will be about four times larger than the existing facility and is scheduled to be completed this fall.

"There's been so much growth here, that the old DFAC seems to get smaller each day," said Tracy Hunter, Afghanistan Engineer District Dining Facility Manager. In the last year, AED has grown from 200 to about 500 personnel, and there's even more growth planned with a second District being formed in Kandahar in August. According to Hunter, the influx of new people at Qalaa House is pushing the old space past its intended limit, and the cooks struggle each day to prepare enough meals in the existing small outdated kitchen. "What's needed is more space; more space for cooking and eating," said Hunter.

According to Hunter, AED Employees get their food, eat, and barely notice the workings behind the scene, sometimes without full appreciation for the

advanced food preparation involved. The original kitchen, designed for around 120 meals a day, now serves close to a thousand. In some situations, this small area makes cooking on the outside grills inevitable. The eating area in the old DFAC is limited to around 48 patrons, which is not enough space for



Mark Patterson and other AED cooks work in close quarters to prepare a meal in the current DFAC kitchen.

the amount of people living and traveling through the compound. Personnel are forced to eat anywhere they can, from the outside picnic tables, their offices or wherever they can find a seat and a table.



Scaffolding surrounds the new DFAC which is currently under construction. The new facility will be four times larger than the current DFAC, and is scheduled to be completed in fall 2009.

However, all this is about to change. A considerably larger, two-story masonry building, with plenty of room for dining, meetings and other functions is currently under construction. According to Bernard McCain, project manager here at Qalaa, this building will definitely be the focal point and highlight to camp life. With a proposed kitchen area of 1660 square feet, more than double the current cooking area, preparing food will be more efficient and take less time than it does in the current cramped kitchen. State-of-the-art equipment and a better floor plan will make the cooks jobs much easier.

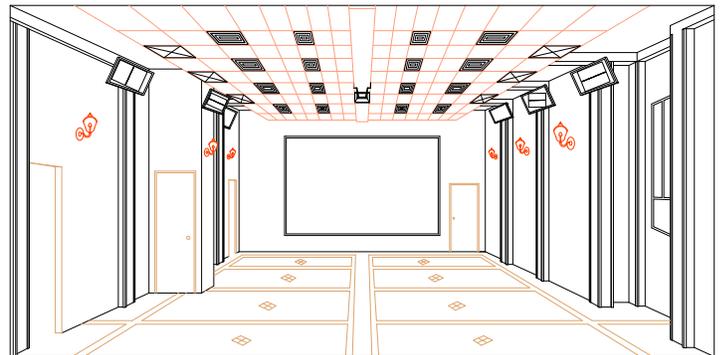


Farin McFarland (Construction Rep) and Tracy Hunter (Food Service Specialist) posing in front of the new DFAC construction sign.

Hunter has been working very closely with the architects and the project managers to get the details just right, and create the ultimate working space for the cooks on her staff. The new DFAC will be a union between design and function, architect and chef.

Construction on the building started in early March 2009, and is scheduled to be completed this

fall. The structure is a two-story block and stucco building designed to match the existing elements of the main Qalaa House headquarters building. The interior will feature stylish trim and molding and terrazzo flooring making it consistent with the other permanent structures located on the compound. The size difference compared to the existing DFAC is very noticeable when entering the building. The new dining area has 12 foot high ceilings and considerably more space to move around and sit. There will be two hand-washing stations at the entrance, and plenty of room for diners to comfortably wait in line as they approach the serving area. The food bar will run the width of the



Conceptual drawing of the second floor dining room, featuring six flat screen TV's and a built-in projector and big screen. (Drawn by Ahmad Reshad Bahaduri)

building and divide the space approximately in half; on one side the kitchen, and on the other, an 840 sq. ft. dining room with seating for about sixty people. The upper level dining room will be 1,556 sq. ft., and will seat about 120 people.

According to McCain, the new design will be aesthetically pleasing, with a relaxing atmosphere. Upstairs there will be six large flat screen televisions in the dining room, and a large built-in screen and projector at one end for dinner meetings, conferences and even entertainment. There will also be office space on the second floor for Hunter and her staff.

The food will continue to be stored in the CONEX containers outside next to the facility. More storage was recently added to accommodate the increased demand. There are two levels of CONEX boxes with six freezer units, five refrigerated units, and ten dry storage units just outside the DFAC.

Even the storage was designed with efficiency and function in mind. Extra storage space has been

built, in case a CONEX unit fails. If this happens, the problem can easily be resolved by transferring the failed unit's contents to another CONEX box; eliminating the possibility of food loss. "We have 45 pallets of food delivered each week," said Hunter. "If a refrigeration unit goes out, the loss could be catastrophic. You have to remember this is Afghanistan, and we have to plan for things like this. Sometimes it can take up to a month for a repairman to show up."

With this new facility, the cooking staff will be able to focus on food, allowing them to utilize their creative know-how in preparing tasty meals. With the buildings aesthetically pleasing décor and open floor plan with more seating, for dining, meetings, and entertainment, life here will be more enjoyable. In the near future going to the DFAC will be a pleasant and relaxing experience. The Corps of Engineers is making a difference here in Afghanistan and the new Dinning Facility will be a comforting place to help remind us what were working hard for. 🍴



Kitchen staff loading food into CONEX storage Units.



Each week 45 pallets of food and kitchen supplies are delivered to Qalaa House. This time last year, there were only 20 pallets being delivered each week. AED has grown from 200 to about 500 personnel in the last year, and is expected to grow even more in FY10. It's true, an Army marches on it's stomach.

ON POINT...

Whats the one thing you miss about home and what's the first thing you'll do when you get there?



SFC Roy Vincent
Construction Representative

I really miss is my family. The first thing I'm going to do when I get home is jump in my canoe and go paddling.



CPT Kevin Charles

I miss taking my wife on vacation. We usually go to our St. Lucia, West Indies home once a year. It's located between St. Martin and St Vincent. The first thing I'm doing is eat the local dish of salted fish and bananas. It is very delicious.



Kendra Whaley
Staff Accountant

I really miss my grandmother's home cooking, then going to the beach, Wrightsville Beach North Carolina to be exact.



Richard Manley
Construction Representative

What I miss most about home and the first thing I'm going to do when I get home is enjoy some outdoor recreation. I'm going mountain biking, golfing and any outdoor activity I can think of.



Mark Patterson
Food Service Specialist

I miss my piece of property in Pennsylvania and I'm looking forward to developing it. The first thing I'm going to do when I get back is build an 850 foot gravel road from the Highway to the main house.



Robert J. McKenney
District Counsel

I really miss my 4 year old daughter. I love the way she wakes me up in the morning. She runs in and jumps on me. I'm ending my tour in august and I want to keep coming home a surprise. I want to see the look on her face. The first thing I'll do is take her to the park.



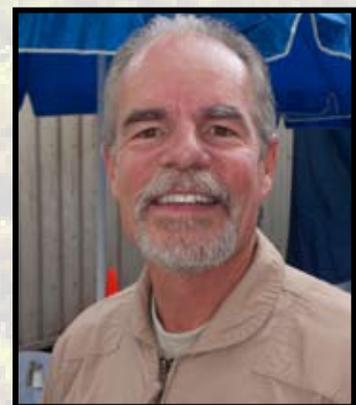
Kate Harper
Administrative Assistant

I really miss being able to put on a bathing suit and going out to sunbath, but the first thing I'm going to do is eat a cheese burger.



Pamela Harris
Closeout Specialist

I miss my aroma therapy, taking a relaxing bath after work, and enjoying a nice glass of wine. I plan on doing this as soon as I get home.



Joe Petters
Construction Representative

I really miss my children and grandchildren and the first thing I'll do is hop in my car and go visit them.



During a recent trip to Kabul, Afghanistan, the 52nd Chief of Engineers, Robert L. Van Antwerp, discusses the Corps of Engineers mission, and how the Corps role in Iraq and Afghanistan is evolving.

A candid interview with the Chief of Engineers

By Bruce J. Huffman

Q-Can you give us an overview of the Corps of Engineers and what you do?

Van Antwerp-The Corps of Engineers has a couple of big pieces, so let me break them down into thirds. One of those pieces is our Civil Works mission, and when a lot of people think about that they think of our water resources mission. The Corps of Engineers is in 33 other countries, not just Afghanistan and Iraq. We have 241 locks that we operate along the waterways of the United States. We have 12,000 miles of navigation channels. We have 926 harbors and ports that we are responsible for dredging. We have 610 dams and 383 of those have reservoirs behind them. We provide a great deal of risk reduction for people, because we are able to capture rains that come out of the mountains, and then dole them out at a rate that doesn't flood people out. Flood control is a big aspect of what we do. Another part is water storage and water quality, and of course we have recreation. Last year we had more than 380 million visitor days to our project sites. So that's the Civil Works part.

We have a military programs part, which actually dollar wise is bigger than the Civil Works piece. We're on Air Force and Army installations. We're doing Base Realignment and Closure, we're building facilities for Re-grow and Re-station the

Army; a huge program this year, which is four times larger than it is most years.

And then we have a third arm to the Corps, which is a little smaller dollar wise, but it's equally important, which is our research and development.



We have an organization called the Engineer Research and Development Labs and Community. Right here in Afghanistan we are doing a lot of research on improvised explosive devices. That organization will do about \$750 million this year.

So that's the Corps of Engineers in a nutshell. The part that we do over here in Afghanistan

and Iraq fits into the military program piece.

Q- Could you describe what types of projects you are doing in both Iraq and Afghanistan?

Van Antwerp-There are a lot of parallels, yet

some differences between the two theaters. Both Iraq and Afghanistan are working on what we call the Security Forces. Here it's the Afghan National Security Forces, which is the Police and the Afghan Army. One of the very unique things in Afghanistan is that we've contributed to what is very much like a West Point, which is their military academy. I was really thrilled and proud to hear that they graduated their first class in which there were a number of Engineers. One of the things we want to do while we're here is build capacity, and that capacity will come by them having their own engineers that can ultimately do the things that our engineers can do, and then have the ability to develop the infrastructure of this country.

Now there's another big piece, and it's equally important, and that's Military Construction. This is the work that helps secure our forces. We have to make sure they have places to live and that those facilities are to standard.

There's one other area that I would like to mention that we are just getting into. In fact, one of the reasons we are here now is to attend a water council. This is probably the first time they've had a council on this scale where the Afghan Minister of Energy and Water was the presiding official. They are really looking at water resources here in Afghanistan. I think there are probably two things that will really aid this country in getting on its feet, and enable it to get exports and imports; and one is water. Wherever they can irrigate, they can grow crops. So you have a real possibility for agriculture here if we can get the water piece right. The other part has to do with the transportation system, and it really has to do with how you can get the minerals out of these mountains. It's thought that they have considerable reserves, a mining industry if you will. So both of these mean you have to get things to market, and that's why another one of the things the Corps of Engineers is doing here is the road work. This will help the Afghans get their goods to market.

Q-Okay, so your building up security, and also



Currently AED has 1,225 Kilometers of roads under construction in Afghanistan.

building infrastructure like roads and water that will help create a lasting success in Afghanistan. **Van Antwerp-**Right, if you go back to U.S. history in the 1920's, we started to harness the waters of our nation. That's why you now have the Inland Waterway System, because we realized how important that infrastructure was. We also built a lot of our dams that provided those water supply systems, and gave us the ability to use water to our advantage. The other part was our National Highway System, and another factor was our rail system. I think there's been some talk about a rail system here, but it's a very expensive proposition through terrain like this. I think for the near-term it's going to be the road network that really does the trick.

Q-How do you see the Corps mission evolving in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Van Antwerp- Clearly here in Afghanistan the mission is growing. If we look at the end of our physical year, which is the end of September, between what's under contract and what's under construction, this theater will have almost \$4 billion in work. If we look toward next year FY10, there will probably be another billion dollars added onto that. The workload is growing at a very high



Afghan workers prepare rebar at a Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration facility under construction at Kandahar Air Field.



Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp discusses future growth of the AED South District that will be established in Kandahar, Afghanistan in Aug. 2009.

rate of speed. So we have to expand to be able to do that, because our function is to be there on-site to make sure when the project is brought across the finish line that it's quality, that it will stand the test of time, and that there's good operations and maintenance programs in place. So this means we have to have boots on the ground here for the Corps of Engineers. So what we are going to do is stand up a second Corps District here in Afghanistan. When we get done with the second Engineer District and bring in what's called a Joint Forces Engineer Command, we will have a structure that looks a lot like what was in Iraq when we had a division and three districts. So for this coming year you're going to see what is essentially a Division Headquarters evolve here, but it's going to be a Joint Forces Engineer Command that will control all theater engineer forces, to include NCR from the Navy, Red Horse, the Seabees, construction battalions from the Army and the two districts from the Corps of Engineers. In addition, we've stood up a Joint Program Integration Office. We have a great American, an SES, Witt Anderson from the North-



Relocatable conex barracks are being constructed at Kandahar Air Field for AED South personnel.

west Division over here, and he will stand up that Joint Program Integration Office. It will be one of the staff sections under this Joint Forces Engineer Command. So the theater is growing. We're trying to meet the workload here, and one of the important things that's going to come out in probably the next 40 to 60 days is the assessment that General McCrystal is doing. This will set the tone for the future, and will set our priorities. We know for one thing, that we will continue to work very hard on this security force mission.

Q-How does the Corps of Engineers fit into the big picture in Afghanistan, and is the JFEC a new tool to better integrate the Corps with the other units in the Afghan theater?

Van Antwerp- When you think about what is happening here in theater, they are going to institute under Lt. Gen. Rodriguez a three-star headquarters, whose mission will be determined when this new assessment comes out. And you will also have a four-star headquarters. What these headquarters



SES Witt Anderson discusses AED South construction with Brig. Gen. John McMahon.

need is someone who is responsible for all the engineer assets in theater, much like I am the Chief of Engineers for the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army. So essentially for all things engineer, you have one button. So that's part of it. To have an engineer command that can provide that one button touch for all things engineer for the whole Afghan theater. The other thing that we're looking at, and this is very long term is to refine what our organizational structure will be if we go into a new theater. So it's not experimenting for experimentation sake, but it is to stand up and begin to develop the doctrine for what things should look like in a new theater. Everything is growing so much that in some ways it has the same aspects of a new theater. This new structure is going to use some of



our theater engineer command assets, the 412th and 416th Engineers. It will start to bring together the Corps of Engineers and other construction assets. We've got some AFCE work with the Air Force being done, and those troop units like the NCR, Red Horse, the Seabees, and the construction effects battalions from the Army. What we're

doing is bringing this all together and as I say, tie it all up in a nice 'engineer bow' and ultimately you are taking the command priorities from those three and four star commands and meeting their needs as their engineer.

Q- Is there anything else you would like to say?

Van Antwerp- First of all, I'd like to say that I am so proud of what our district has done here. And because they've done such great work, that kind of work begets more work. We've learned a lot about how to operate in this theater. One of the things that we want to accomplish in the days ahead, and this is one of the command priorities, is to build capacity. So we are looking at how we can engage more Afghans in the business of engineering. How can we develop Afghans that can be Resident Office Managers, or Area Office Managers in our type of structure who can then manage their own projects? I think ultimately the success of the country depends on that kind of capacity building. So between the academy that can produce engineers, and the training and experience that they can get by working side-by-side with us, we are building the Afghan capacity. We help train them, we have mentors for them, and then when we're out on a project site we're side-by-side. The other part we're calling 'Afghan First', and what that means is that we want to employ as many Afghan contractors as we can, because what they go through responding to requests for proposals, and putting bids together, and obtaining materials etc., is also building that capacity. Ultimately a lot of these contractors would like to work on a world scale. They would like to have work in other countries too. But first they've got to understand how to do it, and how to build to international standards. So we've got some teaching to do. We've got some coaching, mentor-

ing and partnering to do, all with the intention of building capacity among the Afghans.

Q-How do you feel about the Corps role in bringing about freedom?

Van Antwerp- I think the Corps has a big role in providing freedom, in providing that security. These facilities that we're building, that these new Soldiers and Police forces will go in, if you think about it, if you have a good place to operate from, then you feel like a professional. That's what these new places will be. They're not gold plated, but when they go into those facilities they're going to feel like they are professionals. They earn good pay, and I think this buildup of the Afghan National Security Forces is going to provide security. The other thing about freedom is, that if they have the right security provided by their police forces and the Army, it will allow freedom of movement of the people. It allows them to go out and go to market and bring their goods in, and all of these things are so important to bringing about security. When you see people celebrating in the streets and going about their daily business without worry, that's a real boost to the country, and from there, that's where you get entrepreneurs. When you don't have that security, people are on edge. So that's what we want to get; we want to get off the edge and get on with normal living where people are secure and happy. If you are a farmer, you want to be able to bring your crops to market and not have to worry



about security. The other part from the construction industry is that we have a lot of attacks on Afghan and other contractors. This is a tough place to work. That security that's provided by the Afghan Army and Police force will also help the construction piece, because it will enable us to have the freedom of maneuver, to go and build throughout this country without worry of attack or kidnapping or loss of time on the job site. 🇺🇸

Snap Shots from Around the District



Existing underground fuel tanks that were installed by the Soviets, are refurbished to create a Class III Fuel Depot for the ANA in Pol-e-Charki.



Corps personnel inspect the welds on refurbished underground Soviet fuel tanks at the ANA Class III Fuel Depot under construction in Pol-e-Charki.



The Class III Fuel Depot under construction in Pol-e-Charki will be a distribution hub, providing bulk fuel for all the ANA bases throughout Afghanistan. The facility will have 2.8 million liter fuel storage capacity and various support buildings such as a fuel testing laboratory, a weigh station, a fire station, warehouses, a motor pool, a perimeter fence, guard towers and all supporting utility infrastructure.



Civilian and military participants in the AED Qalaa House Independence Day parade pose for a group photo with the 82nd Airborne Division All American Brass Quintet during the festivities held on 4 July. After the parade, AED personnel had a BBQ and a day filled with special events and activities in celebration of Independence Day.

ON THE MOVE

Moving in



Aaron Bradley



Robert Brochu



James Brown



Jack Childers



Tyrone Crear



Rick Durham



Theresa Duval



Timothy Gouger



Jane Harris



Pamala Harris



Michael Haskins



Timothy Inouye



Philip Kadala



Brian Kirchner



Dean Lang



Dennis Lindemeier



Joseph Marek



Michael McCollum



Julie Meyer



Raul Muniz



Danial Murphy



Name Name



Tait Nelson



Scott Robinson



Philip Schmitt



James Sivley



Edmund Starnes



Nancy Wallace



Sandra Williams



Mark Willis



Tony Aukstikainis



Basil Berchekas



SGT. James Branton



Theresa Duvall



Mark Mintkenbaugh



Lewis Nabity



Micheal Quint



Christina Ritchie



Victor Ross



Gordon Russ



Carlos Santiago



Philip Schmitt



Stephens Stello



Summer Fike



Roy Vincent



Clifford Watkins



Jeffrey Armstrong



Michael Burke



Miriam Gilmer



Paul Lawrence



Joanne Lucas



Douglas Newton



George Ofslager



Edwin Perdue



Timothy Runquist



Robert Wertheimer



George Anderson



SSG Jonathan Card



CPT Kevin Charles



Michaels Donesecc



Rexford Goodnight



William Worrall



Eric Hailston



Nathan Hix



Maryam Kahn



Jean Loomis



Sandra Moschettieri



Dianne Pacheco



Shin Patterson



Joseph Peters



Karen Petterson



Alan Schlachter



Frank Spears



Terry Wallace



William Weaver

Photo Not Available

Monica Bardsley
MAL John Raso
MAJ Jeremy Chapman
Rick Durham
Karen Holiday
LTC Stephen Jordan

Hamilton Batista
James Branton
SFC Craig Rudy
William Hamilton
SSG Sharon Hayes

Moving out

1LT Jared Jones
Cynthia Louis-Bell
CPT Richard Cox
Dennis McAdams
SSG Paul Kelly
Robin West
Fernando Sosa-Reyes
Joyce Jackson
Al Rehman
Lester Mastio

MSG David Shultz
LTC Gary Zickefoose
Suzan Rawlins-Meyer
Jason Holloway
Al Rehman
Mervin(Jim) Wolfe
Amy Matthews
Doug Jensen
Blake Burd
Josette Pullen

Roy Bell
LTC Bryan Pratt
MAJ Weedon Gallagher
Dorothy Ivey
Benjamin Wagner
Gary Smit
Orrin Israel
Richard Pecoraro
Rixby Hardy
Allen Sebastian