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Contact:
Joan F. Kibler, (540) 667-5705; Roshan Cell 079-948-6821
joan.f.kibler@usace.army.mil

Security Upgrade improves entrance at Camp Zafar, Herat

Joan Kibler
Public Affairs Officer
Afghanistan Engineer District-South

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – An Afghan First company just contributed to improving the security and force protection for the 207th Afghan National Army Garrison at Camp Zafar, Herat. On Jan. 9 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES) turned over a guard house and security operations facility to the ANA garrison in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Representing the ANA were Maj. Gen. Zeyarat Shah Aabid, the brigade commander, and Brig. Gen. Mangal Amarkhil, the garrison commander. Donny Davidson, AES's Herat area engineer, and Mansour Achmadzai, president, United Universal Group (the contractor), also participated in the ceremony.



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

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

The guard house provides an additional security facility within Camp Zafar that acts as a main control point, said Jason McWilliams, office engineer, Herat area office. “The security operations facility provides a more substantial living quarters for the soldiers providing security for the main entry control point into Camp Zafar,” McWilliams said. “These soldiers operate around the clock.”

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

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

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

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

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