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ISAF Commander presents coins for diesel generator power plants

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander, International Security Assistance Force, presented coins to several Soldiers and civilian members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a Soldier with the 372nd Military Police Company for their efforts on the diesel generator power plants serving Kandahar City.

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



Gen. David H. Petraeus, ISAF commander, and Col. Anthony Funkhouser, AES commander, talk during the presentation of coins for completion of the diesel power plant at Shurandam Industrial Park.

“The Corps of Engineers is proud to be part of the Afghan and U.S. government team working to bring additional power to promote business development in Kandahar City,” said Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, AES commander.

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

The bridging solution results in the installation of two 10-megawatt diesel generator power plants on the east and west sides of Kandahar City. The first of the power plants came on line Dec. 1, 2010, with Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the Afghan power utility company, energizing the plant at the Shurandam Industrial Park east of the city. The second plant on the west side of the city will come on line by early March.

AES will operate and maintain the power plants, in conjunction with DABS, for up to three years. Funkhouser said that AES and DABS will “continue to work together to exchange experience to keep the power plants running.”

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