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Ground broken for ANA 1st Brigade, 215th Corps Garrison

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — A groundbreaking marked the ceremonial start to construction of a new garrison for the 1st Brigade, 215th Corps of the Afghan National Army Oct. 12 at Camp Garmsir, Helmand province.

The project will provide the buildings, roads, utilities and other infrastructure to support the 5,500 Afghan soldiers who make up the brigade.

The garrison will provide the 1st Brigade with the base it needs to be a long-term guarantor of security in Helmand province said Brig. Gen. Ali Shujale, commander of the brigade, in remarks translated by an interpreter.

“The contractor will build this project using a combination of arch-span and traditional brick and mortar construction,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South, which will oversee the construction. “The flexible mix of construction methods will allow us to quickly deliver a garrison with durable austere facilities, ready to meet the needs of the brigade, and able to withstand harsh Afghanistan conditions.”

The project will cost roughly \$83 million, and is expected to be completed in roughly a year and a half.

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USACE’s Afghanistan Engineer District-South provides design and construction services throughout southern Afghanistan to support the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. The work is carried out in Regional Commands South, Southwest and West with the goal of achieving counterinsurgency effects and bolstering the Afghan Government’s services to its people.

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Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham, South District commander, makes comments at the ground breaking. (USACE photo/Mark Ray)