



Afghan workers install the form work for the storm water trench for the parking lot at the hospital addition, which will eventually tie into the base storm water system.

KPRO work improves quality of life

By Brenda L. Beasley

Ongoing construction projects in Kandahar are helping to improve the quality of life for the Afghan Soldier and the local Afghan worker. It's here at the Afghanistan Engineer District's Kandahar Provincial Resident Office that a five-person team is overseeing 12 construction projects that focus on making a difference.

Seven of these projects are located throughout Kandahar and five of them are located within the ANA base at Camp Hero.

According to Timothy R. Taylor, resident engineer for the KPRO, the 205th ANA Brigade at Camp Hero has been assigned the most missions and is one of the fastest growing ANA brigades in the country.

Camp Hero projects include an insulation upgrade to the outside of the ANA barracks that will help to regulate the inside temperatures so the Afghan Soldiers will be more comfortable in a climate that experiences extreme temperatures. A hospital addition, which will



Standing in the future parking lot for the hospital addition, KPRO Resident Engineer Timothy R. Taylor (left) and the contracted civil engineer supervisor discuss the project's progress.



Left: AED's Operations and Maintenance Construction Representative Patrick J. Anderson (left) visits the Afghan National Army Dining Facility at Camp Hero with the site manager.

Below: An Afghan worker paints primer underneath the cable tray on the concrete wall in the hallway. This 50-bed hospital addition will double the size of the current hospital that was completed in the fall of 2007.



be about three times bigger than the current facility, will help provide an increase in available medical care. "Once the ANA hospital addition is complete, it'll be the nicest hospital in southern Afghanistan," said Patrick J. Anderson, a construction representative for AED's Operations and Maintenance.

Afghan Soldiers are not the only ones who use the medical facility. It's also used as a trauma unit for the local Afghans. "We've had a few mass-causality incidents and they've had to bring the victims here," said Anderson, who's been involved with the projects in Kandahar for about 28 months. The causality victims would have died without the prompt medical attention they received at the ANA hospital.

The expansion of the 205th ANA Brigade is causing them to quickly reach their prime power capacity at Camp Hero. "They're building it and

we don't have the power distribution to power it," said Anderson, an engineer technician out of the Corps New Orleans District. To address this problem, the KPRO is negotiating with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, their Operations and Maintenance partner, for two more generators for the power plant and two more feeders for the power lines.

With the ANA expanding, the staff at the KPRO will also be increasing to help meet the increased construction workload. One of the projects under construction is a new two-story KPRO facility that will



Afghan workers make wire ties for the rebar (reinforcing steel) that will be used to help form the foundation of the new Kandahar Provincial Resident Office facility.

To moderate the temperatures inside the ANA barracks, wall insulation for the heating and cooling upgrades is being installed at Camp Hero.





Left: An Afghan worker bends rebar for the KPRO foundation. The rebar comes in 40-foot length straight pieces and has to be cut to size and bent so that it can be used to provide strength to the concrete.

Below: Afghan workers put form work around the rebar for the KPRO foundation to create a form for the concrete that will be placed. The facility is scheduled to be completed by the end of April.



provide offices on the second floor and billeting for 10 people on the first floor, said Taylor.

In this fast-paced, highly-charged environment at Kandahar, the KPRO is not the only one who faces challenges in getting projects completed; their contractors also face many challenges. They run into problems getting materials to the job site and finding skilled laborers to do the work. They're using construction techniques that have been passed down for years, said Taylor. Mentoring them in modern construction techniques will help them to increase their productivity and help to improve their quality of life.

"Construction here is difficult and challenging at times," said Taylor, also a project engineer from the Corps' Baltimore District. "But nothing is more rewarding than knowing we're helping the Afghan people develop alternate methods of construction that will be passed on for generations."

By mentoring the local Afghan workers on newer updated construction methods, and renovating and building facilities for the Afghan Soldiers at Camp Hero, AED's Kandahar Provincial Resident Office is helping to make a difference in the quality of life for the Afghan people. 🇦🇫