



# Local Nationals Receive Award

Story by: MAJ Jeffery K. Jensen

left to Right, Fazal Raheem, Ahmed Reshad Bahaduri, Eng and Yonus Amiri posing with Local National workers who made the completion of the Res 6 project a success.

**KABUL** - An award and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on 24 August at Qalaa House, Kabul, to honor 4 Afghan Citizens and 1 USACE employee for an accomplishment that no other local contractor has been able to match.

Engineer Mohammad Yonus Amiri and Ahmad Shah Lali of Mustafa Shadab Construction Company (MSCC) each received an award for completing a construction project 43 percent ahead of schedule. Even more important is that their renovation of storage complexes to living quarters came at a critical time for the Afghanistan Engineer District. In the past year the number of personnel assigned to AED has been increasing faster than living quarters can be constructed and it was expected that the latest surge beginning in June would bust

the capacity of Qalaa house and force newcomers to sleep on cots. By completing this



LTC Lefebvre congratulates Eng. Yonus Amiri, for his accomplishment

project Yonus increased the housing capacity enough to ensure that each newcomer had a comfortable place to sleep.

In a speech during the ceremony LtCol Stephen Lefebvre, Deputy Commander AED-N, said “Today is a good day for AED and a good day for Afghanistan.” LtCol Lefebvre also presented awards to Fazal Raheem, Ahmed Reshad Bahaduri, and Faron McFarland for their work as quality assurance representatives on the project. Fazal and Ahmed are local nationals that have been hired as QA representatives under a services contract and are part of a capacity development initiative. Mr. McFarland served as the lead QA and he constantly praised the contractor for his organization skills. “They had a mindset of what they wanted to do and they kept driving towards that, they overcame every challenge that was thrown at them,” he said.

According to AED reports approximately one-third of all projects in Afghanistan are more than 10 percent behind schedule and

only a few are ahead of schedule. In an interview following the ceremony LtCol Jason Williams, Kabul Area OIC, was asked how the contractor was able to complete this project ahead of schedule when so many contractors have been unable to. LtCol Williams said “MSCC has demonstrated a profound ability to perform to USACE standards and simultaneously deliver a quality product well ahead of schedule.” “A mark of excellence few contractors are able to claim given the existing construction environment” he continued.

Although it remains to be seen if this accomplishment can ever be duplicated it is clear that the leadership of the Afghanistan Engineer District are grateful for work being performed by the awardees. LtCol Williams summed it up by saying “We are proud of their accomplishment.”



From left to right, Fazal Raheem, LTC Lefebvre, Eng. Yonus Amiri, Ahmed Reshad Bahaduri, and Faron McFarland