



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## **New O&M contracts to sustain facilities, provide job training in Afghanistan**

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – Thousands of Afghan workers will fill operations and maintenance positions at Afghan police stations and army installations across the country as two contracts awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers take effect in coming days.

The Corps of Engineers selected ITT Corp., which is based in Colorado Springs, Colo., in late July to provide operations and maintenance services at 219 police stations and 110 army posts in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, which is the size of Texas.

ITT is scheduled to take over operations at Afghan police stations on Nov. 1, and at Afghan army installations on Dec. 1.

Together, the contracts are valued for as much as \$800 million over five years. One of the contracts, which covers facilities in the northern region of the country, can reach \$450 million. The other, which covers sites in the southern region, can reach \$350 million. Both contracts are for one year, with four one-year options.

The sites range in size from army installations that house 10,000 troops to police stations that accommodate 30 policemen.

Under terms of the contracts, ITT will perform both regular preventive maintenance services and unscheduled repair jobs.

ITT is expected to initially employ about 4,000 workers, approximately 80 percent of whom will be Afghans hired locally, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Chris West, chief of the Operations and Maintenance Division for the Corps of Engineers' northern Afghanistan district, which is based in Kabul.

An important aspect of the agreements is that ITT will provide Afghan workers with on-the-job training in facilities management and trades including carpentry, electrical work and plumbing.

The larger sites under contract feature power plants, water plants and waste-water treatment facilities, plus the power lines and water and sewer systems associated with them, West said. "The point is that they're high-tech," he said.

“The training component is important to get Afghans involved and let them take the lead in conducting and managing operations and maintenance. At some point in the near future, coalition forces will begin their drawdown and Afghans will have to take over the mission to maintain this infrastructure,” West said.

The Corps of Engineers selected ITT following a competitive process that involved five bidders. Since winning the awards, ITT executives have prepared to take over the job from two predecessor maintenance firms.

West said, “They’ve done surveys at every single one of those sites to determine manpower needs, supply needs and logistics needs. That was quite a task. Many of these sites are in relatively remote locations scattered across Afghanistan.”

Furthermore, company executives have been developing on-the-job training programs for their future employees. The company is likely to hire many workers who currently work at the sites for the predecessor firms, West said.

ITT’s responsibilities will grow as Afghanistan’s army and police force increase. The Corps of Engineers currently is adding about 10 new sites each month. ITT will pick up the operations and maintenance duties at those facilities as they open.

The facilities support Afghanistan’s security forces and are critical to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom, West said.

“It would not be overstating it to say that this is directly impacting the primary mission of the coalition forces here, which is enabling the Afghanistan National Army and the Afghanistan National Police to provide security for their country,” he said.

ITT is a high-technology engineering and manufacturing firm with worldwide operations in the defense and security sectors, as well as other business sectors.

The Corps of Engineers has approximately 34,000 civilians and Soldiers who provide engineering services in more than 90 countries worldwide. It has two districts in Afghanistan – the Afghanistan Engineer District-North, which is based in Kabul; and the Afghanistan Engineer District-South, which is based in Kandahar.

The Corps of Engineers is the primary organization building army posts, police stations, roads, airfields and other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to increase the country’s stability and to benefit its people.

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