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Contact:
Joe Marek, (540) 662-6578
joseph.a.marek@usace.army.mil

Corps of Engineers completes ammo storage bunkers for Afghan army

KABUL – The Afghanistan National Army took possession of a \$3.3 million ammunition storage facility, a strategically important installation provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

The secure installation in a secret location east of Kabul is a fully operational storage facility that will safely hold arms and munitions for the Afghan army in its fight against insurgents. The facility serves as a major supply point for the Afghan army.

The storage facility consists of 13 reinforced concrete bunkers covered in sand and carved into hillsides. Each 116-square-meter bunker can accommodate Type A ammunition, which is high explosives. The facility also features two 900-square-meter arms storage buildings, which are scheduled to be completed in two weeks.

“This will not only benefit the Afghan army here in Kabul, but it’s a major supply point for the whole Afghan National Army nationwide,” said Lt. Col. Steve Danner, who serves as the officer in charge of the Army Corps of Engineers’ Kabul Area Office.

Personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, and Korean contracting company Krima Construction Corp., turned over the facility to Afghan Gen. Abdul Wakil Hotak and other Afghan military officials.

Development of the facility was dependent on Afghan sub-contractors and as many as 100 Afghan laborers, said S.Y. Park, the country director for Krima. The principle subcontractors were First Class Construction & Logistics, Noor Taq Zafar Construction Co., Zahir Parsa Road & Construction Co., and Global Gate Construction & Logistics Services, all of which are Afghan owned. They performed tasks ranging from building roads leading to the site, to excavating the hillside for the placement of each bunker.

Several officials attended a grand opening and toured the facility. They included: Hotak and other officers from the Afghan army; Danner, Capt. Jesus Perez, construction representative Joe Humet, project manager Sayed Zamir, senior engineer Abdul Rahman Hafizi and civil engineer Fazel Rahim Amiri from the Corps of Engineers; and Park from Kirma; among others.

“I would like to give my appreciation to CSTC-A, the Corps of Engineers, and Kirma for all their hard work and for completing this important project for us,” Hotak said. “I also look forward to future work with the Corps of engineers and CSTC-A.”

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