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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps of Engineers awards contract for \$20.5 million engineering school

KABUL – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the award of a \$20.5 million contract for the construction of an engineering school for the Afghanistan National Army in Mazar-E Sharif on Thursday, Jan. 27.

The Engineer Branch School will be built within Camp Shaheen, a large Afghan army installation in Balkh Province, in northern Afghanistan near the Uzbekistan border. Construction on the school complex is expected to begin in early February and be complete in November 2012.

The school will be used to train Afghan army officers as engineers. The training effort is critical to the coalition forces' goal of transferring operation and maintenance of newly construction facilities across the country to Afghan forces in coming years.

The complex will house as many as 1,000 trainees and staff members, and will feature several structures, including classrooms, an administration building, barracks, a dining facility, warehouses and latrines, among other facilities.

The contract was awarded to the joint venture of Assist/KCC JV of Mazar-E Sharif. The partnership is comprised of two Afghan construction firms – Assist Consultants Inc., which is based in Kabul; and Kahkashan Balkh Building and Road Construction Co., which is based in Mazar-E Sharif.

The Corps of Engineers is the primary organization building army bases, police stations, roads, airstrips and other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to increase the country's stability and economy. The Corps of Engineers has two districts in the country – Afghanistan Engineer District-North, which is based in Kabul; and Afghanistan Engineer District-South, which is based in Kandahar.

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