



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps of Engineers completes small but significant project in Kabul

KABUL – The Corps of Engineers’ Afghanistan Engineer District – North turned over a small but significant project to the Afghanistan National Army during a ceremony Jan. 5 in front of the Kabul Military Training Center.

“This project will enhance the ANA’s ability to keep this facility safe,” said LTC Steve Danner, the officer in charge of the district’s Kabul Area Office. “Any measure taken to increase security is vital.”

The training center, known as KMTC, is the primary training area for the Afghanistan National Army in the country’s capital, and hence is a potential target for anti-Afghanistan forces.

The project, minor in relation to some of the district’s other ventures, consists of two entry control points, four drop-arm gates, barriers and a gravel road. But in light of a recent attack on the compound, its impact could prove to be considerable.

On Dec. 19, 2010, two suicide bombers opened fire on the compound. One would-be bomber was killed, the other detonated himself, killing five ANA soldiers and wounding nine others.



KMTC and AED-N officials officially open the security upgrades project for use by the ANA. (Corps of Engineers photo by David A. Salazar)

The project, having begun in April 2010, was nearing completion but was not yet being used.

A representative of the Afghan construction firm performing the work on the project, known as Massoud, was on his way to the project when he heard the blast.

Although none of the construction crew was injured during the attack, Massoud said the incident invigorated the workers to complete the project.

“Everybody got scared, some people didn’t want to come to work,” Massoud said in English. “But we had to get it done. (The incident) gave us all a good sense of how this tiny thing we’re building down here can help ensure the security of our soldiers.”

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