



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## **Corps partners with brigade combat team to pave \$3.5 million in unfinished road**

**KABUL** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently issued a \$3.5 million contract to manage the construction and design of 8.5 kilometers (5.2 miles) of road in the Balkh province of Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan Engineer District-North will oversee the pavement, survey and design of the currently unimproved road between the Deh dadi and Mes districts located in the city of Mazar-e Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

The road will have two separate lanes of traffic and will be designated a “major road” as defined in the “Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Public Works Interim Road and Highway Standards.”

In 2010, the Balkh Provincial Governor, Atta Mohammad Nur, requested the road to be paved during regular strategic talks with Col. Willard Burleson, commander of the 10th Mountain Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team.

Burleson deferred to the Corps expertise and management skills to oversee the project from design to completion. Today, the 170<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, commanded by Col. Patrick Matlock, has taken over for the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and will help the Corps carry out the mission of completing the road.

The project is funded through the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's commander's emergency response program, also known as CERP. The intent behind CERP projects is to give commanders discretion to use command funds for projects they feel will have an immediate impact and can be complete in year or less.

The Deh dadi to Mes road is expected to be complete in 275 days.

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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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – AFGHANISTAN ENGINEER DISTRICT-NORTH**  
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN