



NATO TRAINING MISSION - AFGHANISTAN

SHOHNA BA SHOHNA



NTM-A
NATO Training Mission
AFGHANISTAN





Commitment to the Mission

By Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger
Commander, NTM-A/CSTC-A

“Hello, I must be going,” warbled Groucho Marx in the 1930 comedy film *Animal Crackers*. His character, Captain Geoffrey T. Spaulding, had made his name exploring Africa, but did not much want to hang around at a reception held in his honor. So Groucho entered by announcing he was leaving. That absurdity was one gem among an avalanche of jokes, one-liners, puns, and double-entendres in this classic movie. But in some ways, we have echoed Groucho’s overly clever greeting. And we’re not joking.

Coalition forces entered Afghanistan in the immediate aftermath of the Al Qaeda attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001. From the first days, we emphasized the transitory, temporary nature of our intervention. We were not intending to stay. Somebody, some undefined entity—NATO, the United Nations, a new Afghan government—would pick up the effort and go from there. Well, all of those organizations and more showed up, but the original actors remain on the stage. Nobody planned for 11 years of war, headed to 13 and beyond. But here we are.

The basic strategic alternatives have always been the same: stay or go. Staying forever might make sense if we came as conquerors. But that’s not why the coalition is here. We came to defeat Al Qaeda and its auxiliaries. That job isn’t done yet, and the liberated Afghans have proven willing to assume the main effort. We know that to win, the Afghans need advice and assistance. To deliver those, we need to stay, at least to some extent. But like Groucho, we also want to go.

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Going sure seems like a simple concept—just pack up and leave, yet it’s anything but easy to do. As we have seen in the drawdown of our coalition’s recently returned surge forces, as hard as it is to get into land-locked Afghanistan, it has proven even tougher to get out. And that’s providing we have the cooperation of the locals and the neighbors, no guarantee in past withdrawals from this hard country. Alexander the Great’s Macedonian phalanxes, Mongol horsemen, British Army regiments, and the Soviet Union’s motor rifle divisions all had to fight their way out. That’s a very hard road home, with defeat as unwelcome baggage.

So we are staying, in force through 2014, and in a focused advice and assistance capacity thereafter. Many of us are also going. Our Afghan teammates agree with both aspects of this way ahead, ensuring a smoother path out for the withdrawing elements and a purposeful future for those coalition forces that remain. For most of this war, we have led the fight with Afghan support. Sometime later in 2013, the Afghans will take the lead. They’re ready. Today, three of four defenders of this country wear Afghan uniforms.

As the Afghans take over, we’ll step back. That is the plan, and at this phase of the war it makes sense. But we will remain here engaged in the war effort. The Afghans want our help, and we’re willing to provide it. That battle-tested teamwork—our commitment and theirs to continued partnership—ensures that this war will turn out all right.



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Photo - Front Cover: An ANA Soldier opens the groundbreaking ceremony for the Afghanistan National Army Officers Academy with a prayer, Oct 10. Picture by MC3 (SW) Sean Weir.

Photo - Top: Afghan National Police (ANP) cadets stand in ranks while they receive instruction before boarding buses headed for Kabul, Afghanistan, International Airport on their way to Turkey for a six month advanced NCO training course. (Photo by MC2 Cory Rose)

Photo - Back Cover: Afghan National Police (ANP) cadets stand in line while entering Kabul Afghanistan International Airport on their way to Turkey for a six month advanced NCO training course. (Photo by MC2. Corey Rose)



Taking the lead: Infantry Branch School

Story and photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Weir
NTM-A Public Affairs

The Infantry Branch School (IBS) formally transitioned to Afghan National Army (ANA) control during a ceremony at Camp CNIK, Darulaman Garrison, Kabul, Oct. 2. The event represented the end of coalition participation in mentoring, advising and training at IBS. All training will be transitioned into the hands of ANA leaders and instructors.

As 1 of 8 specialty branch schools, the IBS is responsible for advanced infantry training, the development of the infantry leadership core and is designed to serve the current and future needs of the ANA. In 2010, coalition forces created the Infantry Training Advisory Team, which in turn built the framework for the IBS, and in two years turned it into a sustainable and credible infantry training organization.

Col. Abdul Sabor, IBS commandant, said, "The important thing is right now we can do our job alone, without coalition mentorship; our instructors and officers can do their job properly; and our future is good. We are getting better day by day, and as experience grows we will continue to get better.

"We see the result of hard work within the infantry school's personnel, the headquarters administration and the infantry schools trainers," said Sabor. "We thank our friends who performed their responsibility during the opening of the school. We thank them for their cooperation while we learned."

The transition marked a significant milestone in the evolution of the IBS and Afghan Army's capability towards an Afghan-led security force.

Brig. Gen. Richard Dennis, deputy commander Army, NTM-A said, "Infantry fighting requires discipline, leadership and a level of skill that is not common to all. Therefore, the infantry requires the very best preparation, the very best leaders, and this preparation is very much in the heart of the business of the Infantry Branch School."

The ceremony, which was solely set up by the ANA, contained speeches from both ANA and coalition leadership. Gifts of gratitude were exchanged and soldiers from the IBS performed a pass-in-review parade to conclude the ceremony as they saluted their coalition mentors and advisors one last time.

"This is a significant moment in the evolution of the Infantry Branch School and indeed the evolution of the Afghan national security force," said Dennis. "Today marks another step towards a smooth transition for the next phase of operations for the Afghan National Army, as part of the Afghan national security force, assuming greater responsibility for the security of Afghanistan and its people."

The IBS is the first training institution within the ANA Training and Education Command to operate solely under Afghanistan leadership.

"I think the IBS, because of the leadership that we see here, will go from strength to strength because they have a very clear understanding of what it is they need to achieve in terms of cementing rock-solid foundations of infantry professionalism for the ANA. And in Col. Sabor they have a commandant who I firmly believe will take this forward in a very successful fashion in the years ahead," said Dennis.



ANA soldiers from the Infantry Branch School, in Kabul, perform a 'pass-in-review' parade to conclude the transition ceremony as they saluted their coalition mentors and advisors one last time.



Brig. Gen. Richard Dennis, Deputy Commander Army NTM-A, presents Col. Abdul Sabor, Infantry Branch School (IBS) commandant, with a gift of appreciation during the IBS transition ceremony in Kabul.



ANSF Soldiers hit the books and promote literacy

Story and photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Rose
NTM-A Public Affairs

Ministry of Defense (MoD) hosted a function to celebrate the literacy achievements of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP) Sept. 5. Since the start of the literacy program in Nov. 2009 through Aug. 1, 2012, nearly 161,000 have achieved Level 1 (basic alphabet, short words, one's name, and counting to 1,000), 60,000 have achieved Level 2 (reading and writing in sentences), and 38,557 have achieved Level 3 (paragraph writing and comprehension).

"When many of these soldiers joined the Army they weren't able to read or write their names, but today is a new day," said Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, afghan national army chief of general staff.

Afghanistan has dealt with more than 30 years of insecurity, occupation, and the loss of an education infrastructure in terms of literacy which resulted in more than 11 million Afghans, ages 15 or older, who are unable to read or write.

"A former colleague gave me a saying, 'Sawad Zen Dagi Ast' ... 'Literacy is Life'. I'd like to take it one step further and say literacy is the LIFE BLOOD of opportunity," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Carol Marrujo, chief, literacy operations for NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. "It is our belief that Afghanistan will one day in the near future have a fully literate security force."

With the start of a literacy program within the ANA and the ANP, a significant number of Afghans have been afforded the ability to read and write and are eager to learn.



Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, ANA Chief of General Staff, spoke at the Ministry of Defense celebration for the accomplishments of the literacy program in the ANA and ANP.

"They're able to write letters to their families," said Karimi. "I always see them with books, and they're always so excited to attend classes."

Literacy and numeracy for the country of Afghanistan and especially the afghan national security force are critical for the development of a credible, professional, and self-sustainable force. The members of the force are required to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, compute, and use printed and written materials for their profession.



Ministry of Defense celebrated the accomplishments of the literacy program in the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP).



Adraskan National Training Center transitions to Afghan control despite attack near facility killing two

Story By Lt. David P. Varney, USN
Regional Support Command-West/NTM-A Public Affairs

Adraskan National Training Center (ANTC) formally transitioned to Afghan National Police (ANP) control at a ceremony held at the facility Sept. 29, despite a nearby attack killing one civilian, one ANP officer and wounding another.

This day could have put a shadow on the pending transition that occurred only hours after the attack. Instead, it galvanized the attendees. Prior to the beginning of the ceremony, participants observed a moment of silence and listened to a Muslim prayer.

Each keynote speaker remarked of the sacrifices that had been made by the coalition and the Afghans.

"Our Police are ready to take responsibility for this facility, and for this country, even if it takes our lives. These men and this ceremony demonstrates that," said Maj. Gen. Mashooq Silab, Afghan Ministry of Interior training commander, in his speech.

Silab also expressed his appreciation for the coalition and its efforts. "Ten years ago, we (ANP) didn't have any facilities. Now we have 11 permanent facilities in Afghanistan with the help of the International Security Assistance Forces. You have helped in many ways, working shoulder to shoulder with us, but the biggest contributions are the training centers, like ANTC, and we will never forget that. It is our responsibility to take care of this facility and to maintain it. On behalf of the Ministry of Interior, we thank you, and we will always remember what you have done," said Silab.

Members of Regional Support Command-West (RSC-W), tasked with the transition of ANTC to their Afghan partners, also attended the ceremony with U.S. Army Col. Keith Detwiler, RSC-W commander, and his base transition staff in the lead. Also attending were ANP ANTC Commander Col. Fazi Ahmad Khalili and the Italian Carabinieri training and mentoring cadre.

Detwiler, speaking just prior to the official transition documents being signed said, "This event marks the continued progress of transition in western Afghanistan. This progress is because of (ANP) Col. Khalili and (Italian Carabinieri) Lt. Col. Lingeri, their staff, instructors and mentors here. This progress comes at a very high cost, and we are reminded of this

cost with the loss of life today. We will mourn their loss and vow to never forget them by continuing the work they started to bring peace and stability to the people of Afghanistan."

Detwiler concluded his remarks by looking to the future. "This is a very proud day. However, the proudest days are yet to come. Five, 10, 20 years from now, ANTC will continue to produce well-trained police for Afghanistan. The coalition and our Afghan partners will always reflect on our past, but we must focus on our future ... and that future is the peace and stability for the people of the great nation of Afghanistan."

U.S. Army Capt. Frank Moy, RSC-W base transition logistics advisor, has transitioned several facilities to our Afghan partners remarked about the



Afghan National Training Center (ANTC) Commander Afghan National Army Col. Fazi Ahmad Khalili raises the Afghan flag to symbolize the transition of the base to Afghan control at a ceremony held at the facility Sept. 29.



comprehensive process of transition.

“Transitioning bases involves far more than simply tossing our Afghan partners the keys and wishing them luck,” Moy said. “It is a deliberate, thorough, and transparent process during which we ensure that the issues and concerns of all stakeholders are hammered out long before the turnover documents are signed.”

“It was great working with our Afghan partners, Moy said, “and with RSC-W colleagues U.S. Army Maj. Jeffrey Marsteller and Lithuanian army Lt. Col. Gintaras Vidzickas on the Adraskan Transition. The relationships and trust that we forged with Col. Khalili and his staff were invaluable as we worked together to develop solutions to challenges inherent in the transition process. It was certainly an interesting and fun experience.”

Khalili emphasized the quality of training his staff will give to their students at ANTC. “My hope is that the quality of this facility represents the quality of output month after month from this facility,” said Khalili. “Most

important are the trainees: When they come in, they know nothing. Here they will learn everything. After four months, they will enforce the rule of law to provide for a stable and secure future for Afghanistan.”

Khalili concluded his remarks, likening the training center and the mentorship they’ve received from their coalition mentors to the Chinese proverb: “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.”

ANTC is a \$12.4 million compound that provides training for the staff and students of the ANP, and Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) as well as additional facilities for training ANP recruits. Over 2,000 recruits are trained annually at the facility in specialized areas of law enforcement to include criminal investigation and special weapons and tactics. The compound includes an administration building, barracks, dining facility, and training facility.



Members of Regional Support Command-West stand in formation with Afghan National Police (ANP) officers awaiting the transition of Adraskan National Training Center to full Afghan control at a ceremony held at the facility Sept. 29.

Building the Afghan National Army Officers Academy an investment for ANA leadership

Photo and story by MC3 (SW) Sean Weir

A groundbreaking ceremony was held to commemorate the establishment of the Afghanistan National Army Officers Academy (ANAOA), Wednesday Oct. 10.

The ANAOA is an enduring training institution that will prepare new officers for leadership roles

within the Afghan National Army (ANA).

Lt. Gen Adrian J. Bradshaw, deputy commander ISAF, said, "The training will develop the next generation of military leaders in a brand new Afghan National Army Officers Academy. This is yet another example of how together ISAF and the Afghan national security forces are sustaining the progress we have made together in building a capable and professional force."

The ANAOA is currently under construction and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2013.

"The academy will endure past 2014. This is a clear demonstration of our commitment to stand by Afghanistan and help it grow stronger. All our nations are contributing personnel to the development and functioning of the academy," said Bradshaw.

The ANAOA demonstrates the international community's enduring commitment to the ANA as Afghan and coalition forces continue working together for a secure and peaceful Afghanistan.

"It's important to identify that from the moment this academy opens its doors to train officers, it will be commanded, led and staffed by the Afghan National Army," Bradshaw added. "The role of the coalition forces will be as mentors and advisors to those staff instructors, to assist where required. Beyond the period of mentoring, the academy will be run by and for Afghans. The project, therefore, is entirely in keeping with the many other initiatives which highlight the determination by the ISAF nations to move forward to a new prosperous time for the Afghan nation through the strengthening of the Afghan national security force."

The Officer Academy is based on the UK Forces Sandhurst model, and has the capacity to train 1500 officer candidates.

Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, chief of general staff for the ANA said, "This is a great occasion for me to witness one of the biggest steps in the expansion and development of the ANA and a great future for young officers who will be trained here as leaders of the future army."





Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, chief of general staff for the ANA, and Lt. Gen. Adrian J. Bradshaw, deputy commander ISAF, dig the first holes during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Afghanistan National Army Officers Academy, Oct. 10.



Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, chief of general staff for the ANA, gives a speech during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Afghanistan National Army Officers Academy, Oct. 10.



Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, chief of general staff for the ANA, and Lt. Gen. Adrian J. Bradshaw, deputy commander ISAF, cut the ceremonial ribbon on an excavator during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Afghanistan National Army Officers Academy, Oct. 10.



500 ANP depart Afghanistan to improve skills in Turkey

Story and photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Rose
NTM-A Public Affairs

Five hundred Afghan National Police (ANP) cadets boarded a plane at the Kabul, Afghanistan, International Airport Aug. 21 on their way to Turkey for a six-month advanced non-commissioned officer (NCO) training course.

"Our non-commissioned officers are closer to the soldiers and closer to the people," said ANP Col. Abdul Gardizi. "Every leader needs a good NCO with him in order to get the mission done, so I feel these men will benefit greatly from the advanced training."

Turkey accepted the request from NATO in mid 2011 to train thousands of Afghan homeland security forces as part of a NATO stabilization campaign.

"This means a lot to Afghanistan," said ANP cadet Sher Mohammad Ismael. "This means that our country is going to be built, and that we are going to come back and serve the people."

This six-month program will focus on intelligence, counterterrorism, security, narcotics, human rights, firearms use, building protection, close combat defense and security precautions against terrorist attacks in order to help the ANP become a better force, and further contributing to the security and stability of Afghanistan.

"I'm very happy I was chosen for this opportunity," said ANP cadet Ahmad Ghafari. "We're going to get the training that we need, and as policemen we're going to come back and serve our country in the best way possible."

NATO forces have handed over the security responsibilities of several areas across the country to Afghanistan, which is a process that will run through 2014 when Afghanistan takes over leadership of security duties from U.S. and coalition forces.



ANP cadets stand in the departures line of Kabul Afghanistan International Airport as they await a plane heading for Turkey.



Afghan National Police (ANP) cadets await a plane at the Kabul, Afghanistan, International Airport on their way to Turkey for a six-month advanced non-commissioned officer (NCO) training course.



First 2012 class of ANP officers graduate in Kandahar Province

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Pitts
Regional Support Command-South/NTM-A Unit Public Affairs Specialist



Hiji Torjhan, the landowner of Camp Nathan Smith, congratulates one of the graduating officers and presents him with his certificate Sept. 20, during a graduation ceremony.

Afghan National Police graduated new officers who have just completed the officer candidate school here Sept. 20, 2012.

Most of the 69 officers are from Spin Boldak, a border town near Pakistan, while the rest of the officers are from Kandahar City.

The six-month-long course, which began back in April, covered a wide range of police instruction including ethics, rule of law, civil rights, self defense, Afghan constitution, tactical weapons, and leadership in law enforcement.

The latest class to graduate from the ANP OCS program is the first class to have graduated from the entirely Afghan-led course without coalition support or help of advisors, which marks a milestone for the ANP. It is also the sign of gradual transition from coalition forces to Afghan control. "This was the first course the Afghans led without support from the coalition and their determination, resilience and passion reflected their determination to see their nation succeed," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jeffery Guzman, the Kandahar Training Center noncommissioned officer in charge.

Many of the new officers will have to overcome some obstacles as they begin working in their jobs. "The increased position comes with increased responsibility," said Col. Christopher Reed, the Regional Support Command-South commander, as he addressed the graduating class, explaining that they will face challenges and that they as leaders must lead by example.

The successful graduation shows that the ANP are able to sustain themselves with providing instructors and conducting the training at their academies, further bolstering their ranks and contributing to the security of the Kandahar province.



Afghan National Police graduates standing in formation, waiting to receive their certificates Sept. 20.

خروج مسافرين
Departures

