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Page 2

AFGHANISTAN

Construction underway of ANA brigade compound in Zhari district

Page 4



US-Qatar Corps of Engineers Discuss Partnership and Collaborative Assistance

by Julie Shoemaker,
USACE Middle East District

WINCHESTER, Va. - The Qatar Emiri Corps of Engineers plans to improve its organization and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in a good position to help.

Three years ago, the Middle East District learned that the Qatar Emiri Corps of Engineers wanted to make improvements and started discussions on potential support. The District invited a contingent of Qatari engineer leaders to visit the United States to hear about specific organizations, processes, structure, and training opportunities that could benefit the QECE.

"When Gharib Ibrahim, our Qatar Area Engineer, first mentioned that the QECE was interested in our technical assistance, I realized this was an excellent opportunity for us to establish a professional partnership and help an important Gulf ally further shape its Corps of Engineers," said Rich Dickson, Program Development Engineer. "We offered them an opportunity to visit the United States and the Middle East District to help them understand how they could collaborate with USACE. The QECE leadership was very interested."

The official portion of the trip began April 22 when six Qatari generals arrived at the ...

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE READING](#)

Page 5



Vehicle maintenance facility receives Silver Award in Massachusetts engineering competition

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Page 4



USACE TAN real estate team pros at relationship building

KABUL, Afghanistan — Managing real estate in a kinetic environment ... [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Page 6



USACE strikes deals with Afghan land owners

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — It was handshakes, signatures and smiles May 6, as nine rightful Afghan land owners and ... [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

USACE TAN holds run/walk/bike event for "the Shin"

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Page 5



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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Construction underway of ANA brigade compound in Zhari district



Progress continues on construction of the future home of the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army. As of April 19, the project was about 15 percent complete and will accommodate 6,000 ANA personnel. (USACE Photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo)

COVER SHOT

A construction worker uses a seamer April 17, to join the seams in a metal arch that will form part of a structure at the future installation for the 3rd Brigade, 205th Afghan National Army Corps.

(USACE Photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo)



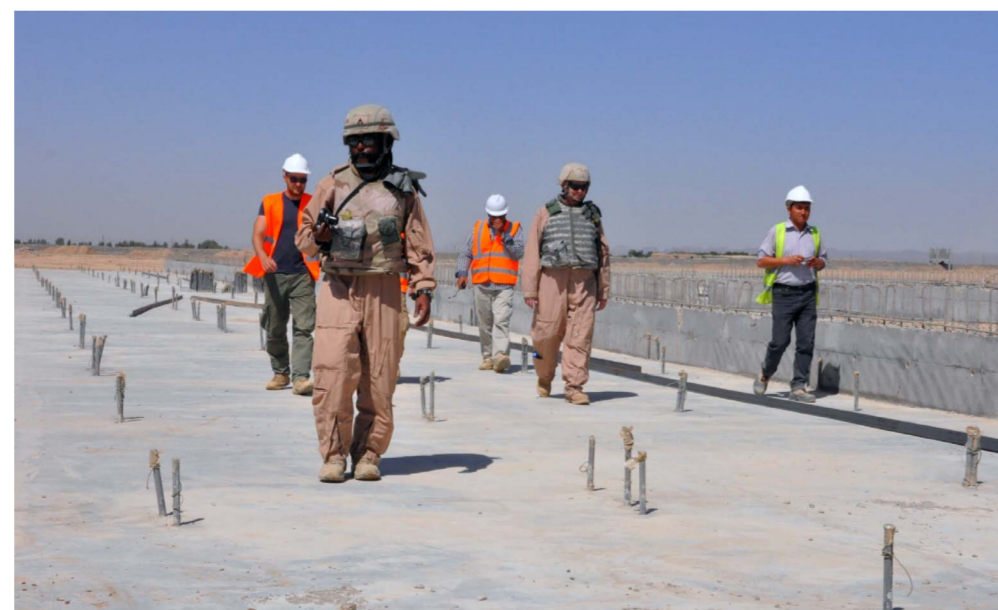
by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
USACE TRANSATLANTIC DISTRICT-SOUTH

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Construction of the future home of the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army is underway in the Zhari district in Kandahar province. Once complete, the installation will accommodate 6,000 personnel.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project includes administration buildings, training buildings, dining facilities, senior personnel quarters,

barracks, latrines and showers, fitness centers, guard towers, vehicle maintenance areas, armories, wastewater collection and treatment systems, electrical generation and distribution systems, fuel points, roadways, sidewalks, and more. The project is about 15 percent completed.

Although a contractor is building the project, USACE personnel, including Philip Merchant, conduct thorough inspections of the construction site several times weekly. As a quality



Philip Merchant, a quality assurance construction representative with the Afghanistan Engineer District-South (center) conducts an inspection of the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army construction site April 17. (USACE Photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo)

assurance construction representative, Merchant helps make sure construction is progressing in accordance with International Building Codes and the site's plans and specifications. As a civil engineer with 11 years of experience, including two in combat zones, Merchant, who deployed from the USACE Chicago District, has the expertise required to identify potential problems and coordinate corrective actions.

"My objective is to make sure the contractors here build safe and reliable facilities that comply with codes, plans and specifications, and within

the time and budget allotted because these are facilities that will enable Afghan National Army soldiers to serve and protect their communities," Merchant said.

The project is expected to be delivered to the ANA in April 2014.

For more news and information on USACE construction in Afghanistan, visit our website at www.aed.usace.army.mil/aes, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/US-Army-Corps-of-Engineers-Afghanistan-Engineer-District-South or on Flickr at www.flickr.com/photos/usace-tas.

ANA CONSTRUCTION Zhari district

1. A construction worker organizes spacing devices April 17 that will be used in construction of the future installation for the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army in Zhari district.

2. Progress continues on construction of the future installation for the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps, Afghan National Army (ANA), at Zhari District in Kandahar province, Af-

ghanistan, April 17, 2013. The project was about 15 percent complete and will accommodate 6,000 ANA personnel.

3/4. Philip Merchant, an Afghanistan Engineer District-South quality assurance construction representative, inspects the construction site April 17, of what will become the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army installation in Zhari district.



Construction workers bend rebar at the future installation for the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army in Zhari district, Afghanistan



U.S. Army
Col. Michael Price
conducts PDSS



Army Col. Michael J. Price, incoming commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Afghanistan District, conducts his pre-deployment site survey trip in May.

(USACE photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo)

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US-Qatar Corps of Engineers Discuss Partnership and Collaborative Assistance

by Julie Shoemaker
USACE TRANSATLANTIC MIDDLE EAST DISTRICT

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USACE TAN real estate team pros at relationship building



Mohammad Wais, left, and his father Haji Mohammad Osman, right, meet with Transatlantic Division North chief of real estate Kurt Reppe recently in Kabul. (Official USACE TAN photo by T.W. Lyman, released)

by Todd Lyman
USACE TRANSATLANTIC DISTRICT-NORTH

KABUL, Afghanistan — Managing real estate in a kinetic environment bears little resemblance to the work in the United States.

Yard signs, closing costs and open houses are nowhere to be seen in Afghanistan. Instead, because the Chief of Engineers has staff responsibility over all Department of the Army real estate matters in overseas areas, Kurt Reppe and his staff rely on knowledge, nego-

tiation and hard work to ensure we possess the space necessary to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Reppe, the chief of real estate for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic District North, is no battle field real estate novice. Reppe has been in theater more than five years broken up in stints at Bagram, Kandahar and Kabul. He expects to conclude this tour in December. Reppe belongs to Rock Island District in the States. Originally from Eau Claire, Wis., Reppe guides three realty specialists at Bagram, four with TAN (currently at Qalaa House here including one Afghan translator. After Transatlantic Afghanistan District stands up this summer, he will inherit two more realty professionals to carry on the challenging mission. The team is responsible for acquiring real estate support for U.S. Coalition Forces through leasing of private property; no-cost Land Use Agreements with the host nation; no-cost permits with NATO forces. After property is acquired, real estate's mission is to manage all contracts and to dispose of property when it's no longer needed. Finally, real estate professionals must obtain releases from all liabilities after disposition.

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USACE TAN holds run/walk/bike event for "the Shin"

by Todd Lyman
USACE TRANSATLANTIC DISTRICT-NORTH

KABUL, Afghanistan — Five days after the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic District-North (TAN) command at Qalaa House attended a memorial ceremony celebrating the life of Hyun K. Shin, 168 team mates honored Shin by running, walking or biking more than a thousand miles in his memory sporting bright red command shirts.

Shin, a logistics specialist, had been supporting Operation Enduring Freedom with TAN for 245 days of a one-year commitment when he died here April 7 while at work. His death was not the result of enemy actions, and the cause is being investigated per standard procedures.

"The Shin," as he introduced himself to the officer-in-charge at Jalalabad Resident Office, was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving as a medic from March 1976 to May 1977 with a tour in Korea. He began work at his home San Francisco District since April 2010. Col. Alfred A. Pantano, Jr., TAN commander described Shin as "one of our team mates and superstars" in a heartfelt note to the command announcing the sudden and unexpected loss.

Co-workers in 10 locations here ran, walked or biked a total of 1027.9 miles, more than quadrupling the goal of 245 miles...one mile for every day Shin served alongside his TAN team members April 19. During warm-ups and rest periods people shared anecdotes and memories of the charismatic



Three Transatlantic District - North employees bike in support of the Century run/walk/bike event held in memory of fellow USACE TAN employee Hyun K. Shin April 19. Co-workers in 10 locations here ran, walked or biked a total of 1027.9 miles. (Photo by B. Tobias, released)

Shin. Many displayed photos of Shin smiling broadly, something for which he was widely known.

Mission complete: Pantano urged all members "to celebrate his life and extraordinary service and sacrifices for our great nation." He concluded, "Undoubtedly, Mr. Shin's work ethic, extraordinary example, and legacy will inspire us always!" The Century Run/Walk/Bike in memory of "the Shin" April 19 is one more pleasant recollection TAN members will have of our comrade from service here.



Vehicle maintenance facility receives Silver Award in Massachusetts engineering competition

by Joan Kibler
USACE TRANSATLANTIC MIDDLE EAST DISTRICT

WINCHESTER, Va. - A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project received honors in an engineering competition sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts.

The project - the theater vehicle maintenance facility complex at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan - was submitted for competition by Tetra Tech, the architect-engineer firm that designed the facility on behalf of the Middle East District. The Afghanistan Engineer District-South carried out the construction.

ACEC's awards program recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value and ingenuity. The theater vehicle maintenance facility was among 13 projects that received Silver Awards during ceremonies in March. ACEC presented five Gold Awards and a Grand Conceptor Award, recognizing the highest engineering achievement.

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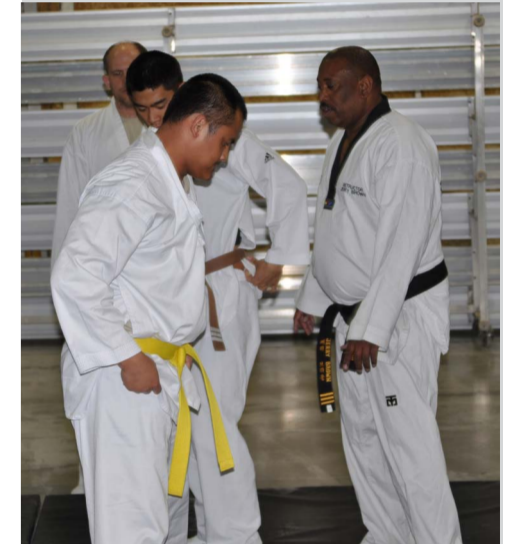


USACE Fort Worth District helps Jerry L. Brown Sr. demonstrate defensive techniques

(USACE TAN photos by T.W. Lyman/released)



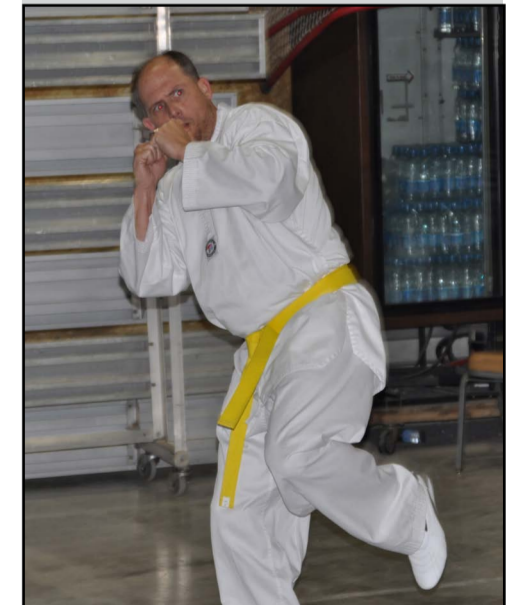
Christy L. Slater, from USACE Savannah District barracks resident office, Fort Bragg, N.C., throws instructor Jerry L. Brown Sr. during Taekwondo warmups at Qalaa House, Kabul, Afghanistan.



R.J. Rayos warms up prior to taekwondo instruction as Jerry L. Brown Sr. (right) looks on. Rayos successfully tested for his green belt at Qalaa House with Transatlantic District-North.



Simon Ng (left) from USACE Fort Worth District helps Jerry L. Brown Sr. demonstrate defensive technique prior to the belt test at Qalaa House, Kabul, Afghanistan.



Micah J. Perdue, from USACE Charleston District, practices kicking during warmups prior to his Taekwondo belt test at Qalaa House with Transatlantic District-North.



Keith Loos, chief of the small and bustling Real Estate Division at the Afghanistan Engineer District-South (left) Nick Norals, a South District realty specialist, and U.S. Army judge advocate Maj. Allison Mcfeatters prepare leases for landowners to sign May 5. (USACE Photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo)

USACE strikes deals with Afghan land owners

by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
USACE TRANSATLANTIC DISTRICT-SOUTH

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — It was handshakes, signatures and smiles May 6, as nine rightful Afghan land owners and the government of the United States, via the Afghanistan Engineer District-South Real Estate Division, entered into leases for land currently being used by U.S. forces in Afghanistan. “We’ve done our jobs right when all parties leave satisfied that the leasing process worked in a fair and just manner,” said Keith Loos, chief of the district’s Real Estate Division. The authority to acquire real estate in foreign countries in support of military contingency operations is delegated to the Assistant Secretary of the Army. Authority is further delegated to the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers of which the Afghanistan Engineer District-South is a part. “Our mission is to acquire, manage, and dispose of real estate in support of U.S. forces through leases for private property; no-cost land use agreements with the host nation; permits with NATO forces; and licenses for constructing Afghan National Security Forces projects,” said Loos. Sensitive operations sometimes make it impossible for real estate instruments to be in place before U.S. forces use privately-owned land. The troops sometimes displace private citizens from their land to quickly establish camps. As long as the United States has a continuing need for the base, the Real Estate Division enters into a lease retroactively and pays the rightful landowner. For some landowners, the process

of entering into a lease has taken as little as two months, for others, the process took more than one year. This is principally because the Real Estate Division goes to great lengths to make sure the U.S. government enters into leases with rightful owners instead of those who simply claim to be the landowners, but are not. “We have to protect the U.S. government against fraud,” explained Russ Wallace, a Real Estate Division economist. “A common challenge that arises with private lands and causes delays in establishing leases is verifying ownership when no legal documentation, such as a deed, exists,” added South District Realty Specialist Nick Norals. Since its establishment in 2009, the South District has acquired more

than 100,000 acres of land for approximately 300 bases, checkpoints and sites in its area of responsibility which include Badghis, Daykundi, Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces. During armed conflict or contingency operations, U.S. forces are authorized to use foreign real estate for such things as camp sites and the construction of fortifications, according to Army Field Manual 27-10, The Law of Land Warfare.

