



TAA TIDBITS

USACE - Transatlantic Afghanistan District

Vol. 4, April 2017

Commander's Corner



All,
Wow, where did March go? It was a very busy month and there is much for us to feel good about.

We met with many of our partners and stakeholders this

past month, including the Afghan Ministry of Energy and Water, and DABS (Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat), who are our main partners in improving Afghanistan's electric transmission system and increasing the capacity of the national electric grid. Then, this past weekend we followed this up by focusing more on the technical issues. Also, our Afghan Infrastructure Fund team and I will be participating in a USAID hosted meeting to address National Electric Grid coordination, and strategic communication and prioritization challenges.

Our submission for the 2017 USACE Project Development Team of the Year nomination has made it to USACE Headquarters for consideration. The Marshal Fahim National Defense University Phase II PDT did a remarkable job bringing this essential Military Education and Training complex to fruition. We are hoping that a MFNDU Phase II ribbon cutting will be forthcoming soon before Maj. Gen. Kaiser departs this summer.

We also submitted Rob Newman, our DDPM and AIF Program manager for Program Manager of the Year. As most of you know, under his leadership the AIF program, especially the National Grid projects, have made incredible progress in resolving the real estate and other issues. His nomination was also endorsed by

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Shaheen WPP facility sets stage for more women in ANDSF

The cornerstone facility of a project designed to attract more Afghan women to join the ranks of the Afghan National Defense Security Forces (ANDSF) was turned over at Camp Shaheen, just outside of Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Mar. 8.

The new barracks and daycare facility compounds are the first permanent facilities to be completed for the Women's Participation Program (WPP), an initiative being driven by Afghanistan's first lady. The ribbon-cutting coincided with International Women's Day.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Transatlantic Afghanistan District (USACE-TAA) started construction on the \$1.4 million facility in December 2015. The two-story barracks can house up to 54 women as they train to become Soldiers in the ANA.

USACE-TAA's commander said that while the barracks and daycare are not the most complicated facilities the Corps has built in Afghanistan, the buildings symbolize a great accomplishment.

"They represent opportunity and economic prosperity for Afghanistan, and the spirit of a people with great potential, the Afghan



From left, Maj. Gen. Richard Kaiser, commander, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Muhmand Katawasi, commander, Afghan National Army 209th Corps, Col. Jon Chytka, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Transatlantic Afghanistan District, and Mr. Dost, chief of lawyers, 209th Corps, cut the ribbon marking the turnover of permanent facilities for the Women's Participation Program barracks on Camp Shaheen, Afghanistan, Mar. 8.

people," said Col. Jon Chytka.

"I remember when I was here in 2010, almost all of our prime contractors were international companies. Now fast forward to 2017, and more than 96 percent of our lead contractors are Afghan firms," he said. "We have so many capable Afghan firms that we (USACE) have recently been able to create an Afghan First program allowing us to limit competition for work to only Afghan firms, truly amazing."

Chytka went on to praise the strides the Afghan construction industry has made in recent years. He cited how nine different Afghan sub-contractors provided material for the construction and outfitting of the barracks and daycare, with 75 percent of

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Submissions

TAA Tidbits is your monthly internal newsletter. It is a chance to share non-project good news (and photos) from here or back home, as well as upcoming activities at your duty station.

So whether you are in Marmal, Kandahar, or somewhere in between, be sure to drop the editor a line at michael.a.glasch@usace.army.mil. The deadline is the 25th of each month.

Meet our new teammates



Name: Tim Bishop
Home District: Omaha
TAA position: Con Rep
Duty location: NKC



Name: Vic Charles
Home District: Schedule A
TAA position: Logistics/J4
Duty location: BAF



Name: Debra Funk
Home District: Fort Worth
TAA position: Admin/J4
Duty location: BAF



Name: Trinita Hall
Home District: Baltimore
TAA position: Transportation Manager/J4
Duty location: BAF



The Graduate

Congratulations to Morgan Durham, son of our own Damon Durham and his wife Juno, on his graduation for high school. Morgan graduated mar. 1, from Ginoza High School on Okinawa. Morgan kept a long-standing family tradition as his mother, sister and grandparents all graduated from Ginoza. Morgan has been accepted into Okinawa Christian College where he plans to pursue a degree in English Communications.



those materials and products produced in Afghanistan.

“This is a great example of Afghan companies putting Afghans to work, putting bread on their family’s table and hope in their hearts,” he said.

The Afghan government has a goal to increase the number of women serving within the ANDSF (ANA and Afghan National Police (ANP)), to ten percent of the total force. The man in charge of helping develop the Afghan security forces said building new facilities is not the end solution to that objective, but rather it is the first stepping stone.

“Brick, mortar and windows alone do not make a strong Army,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Kaiser, commander, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. “It is the people who live and serve in buildings like this that make an Army strong.”

The cultural practices in Afghanistan often keep men and women from being able to intermingle. The plan of the WPP is to build separate, safe and secure, walled-off living facilities for women to make becoming members of the ANDSF more appealing to female Afghans and their families.

“The facilities here for the women are just fantastic,” said Australian Col. Bronwyn Wheeler, gender advisor, CSTC-A. “It gives them somewhere that is secure, and is safe, and they are able to support each other while they are doing their training in a facility that provides everything for them.

“I think that compounds like this provides good reassurance for families whose daughters want to go off and join the military,” Wheeler added. “I think knowing they are coming to a facility like this where their



The two-story barracks (above) and daycare facility (below) on Camp Shaheen, Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, were the first permanent structures for the Afghan National Security Defense Forces’ Women’s Participation Program to be turned over at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Mar. 8. The barracks will house up to 54 female Soldiers as they train to become members of the Afghan National Army.

daughters are going to be safe while training to serve their country is a great reassurance for them, and I think it provides them with a little more hope that their daughters will do well.”

Being able to recruit large numbers of females is critical to the future success of the ANDSF. The Afghan Army is currently authorized 195,000 Soldiers, but only has 170,000 within its ranks.

“Women are important to the strategy of the entire Army,” said Kaiser. “All they want to be is part of the team, with mutual respect as a Soldier.”

Kaiser went on to warn ANA leaders that if they don’t embrace the WPP, it is the Army as a whole that will suffer.

“They (Afghan women) are capable, they

are competent, and they are qualified to serve in so many areas. If the Army ignores the contributions that women can give, you will lose them,” he said. “They will be hired be someone else, and they will show you just how competent, how capable, how professional they are.”

USACE-TAA currently has 22 additional projects totaling more than \$86 million under contract for the WPP throughout Afghanistan. Those projects include a \$5.9 million ANP academy female staff college that will be able to train 300 women at a time, and Police Town, an entire complex that will include family housing, a primary school and a clinic.



Security Brief

Team,

As we move into April, I feel we should review on how to respond to an Active Shooter event. I have listed the steps below:

1. Evacuate. If you have an opportunity to evacuate the area then do so. Don't worry about personal belongings at this time. Your safety is what matters most.
 2. Hide Out. If you can't evacuate then find a place to hide, preferably inside a room. Lock the door or barricade the door if it can't be locked. Stand away from doors and windows.
 3. Take Action. As a last resort, take action against the shooter/attacker. Know your capabilities and listen to your "fight or flight" response. If you choose to fight, attack with a great means of violence. Remember, this person is trying to kill you.
- Remember that different weapons also result in different responses.



Bullets can ricochet and skim across the floor so lying down is not a good option; crouching is preferred. Grenades and other bombs typically disperse shrapnel up and out. Lie down on the floor and cover your head.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. We're here for you.

-J2/J3 Team

Chytka

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TAD and passed up to USACE HQ.

Also in the past month, we achieved several important BODs including the Mazar-e-Sharif Afghan National Army's 4th Special Mission Wing security and hangar upgrades, as well as the Kandahar ANA A-29 Munitions Storage and Combat Aircraft Parking Area. Congrats to all of you who had a part in bringing these projects to BOD.

We also had a super month of pre-awards and meeting our commitments, kudos. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you be recognized in the upcoming town halls.

Thank you all for what you do.

ESSAYONS!

-COL Chytka



Aerial view of Marshal Fahim National Defense University, Phase II.



Celebrating Women's History Month

Command, Sgt. Maj. Chad Blanset, Christina Vila and Maj. Jennifer Etters, cut the cake at TAA's Women's History luncheon at the Jirga Center Mar 22. Etters was one of the main speakers, and recounted her experience as one of the first women to complete the Sappers Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Anjna O'Connor was the second speaker, having to deliver her message via VTC about how the facilities USACE-TAA is building will have a positive impact on the future of the women of Afghanistan.

SHARP resources now available for DA civilians

Beginning in January, Secretary of the Army Directive 2017-02 provides for the immediate implementation, during a one-year pilot program, to allow SHARP professionals to be able to assist Department of the Army civilians by offering referral services, restricted and unrestricted reporting, and entering information into the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database, or DSAID.

"The significance of the SHARP Program being fully accessible to DA civilians is tremendous. It shows the Army's intent on improving and enhancing the SHARP program across the enterprise," said Dr. Julie Lindahl, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command SHARP program manager. "This further exemplifies that it takes people to complete the mission, so it's important we take care of our people, both military and civilian. Additionally, it improves the readiness of the workforce, posturing us for resilient and steadfast capabilities."

With this new avenue of support, Army civilian employees will have access to the full Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, or SAPR, services that are offered to active-duty servicemembers. They will also have access to SAPR advocacy services of a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, or SARC, and a SAPR victim advocate, or VA.

This does not include additional medical entitlements or legal services to which they are not already authorized by law or policy.

"This is a big deal. Civilians work alongside Soldiers day in and day out, sometimes working the same mission and responsibilities so they deserve the same rights and options," Lindahl said. "The military has a 'one team, one fight' mentality, so it's only fair and equitable that all personnel be afforded services and support. There is no bias when it comes to sexual assault; it can happen to anyone by anyone. We need to protect our people which in turn protects our mission."

DA civilians who believe they are victims of sexual assault may file either an unrestricted or restricted report and receive assistive services from SARCs, SHARP VAs and victim representatives, or VRs. SHARP cases will also be entered into DSAID.

Unrestricted reporting will result in notification to the supervisor or chain of command and the appropriate military or civilian law enforcement agency. A criminal investigation will be initiated and prosecution is possible.

Restricted reporting results in no notification to the supervisor, chain of command or



law enforcement. No criminal investigation will occur, thus limiting the government's ability to hold the alleged assailant accountable.

"The SHARP program provides services and support to victims of sexual assault by a non-intimate partner," Lindahl said. "There are two reporting options, restricted and unrestricted, which Soldiers, DA civilians, and adult family members can elect. This new directive and trial period affords DA civilians sexual assault services and support, however they still go to the local Equal Employment Opportunity office for assistance with sexual harassment complaints."

Emergency medical services at a military medical treatment facility are authorized. Nonemergency medical services at a facility are not authorized unless the victim is otherwise legally entitled to the services. SARCs, VAs or VRs may help victims find off-post resources such as rape crisis centers and counseling services.

Civilian victims are not required to use SARCs, VAs or VRs to report a sexual assault. This is not a change in terms or conditions of employment for DA civilians and use of these services is strictly voluntary.

"This will benefit the civilian workforce across the enterprise because it shows that

they matter just as much as the military personnel," Lindahl said. "This effort was achieved by tireless research, analysis, and manpower to request an exception to policy. The Army acknowledges the need for improvement and recognizes the benefit of enhancing and expanding services and support."

"This effort is a complete win for US-ASMD/ARSTRAT given our geographical disbursement, with majority civilian population," she added. "We are now well-appointed and ready to fully support and service the entire command. The SHARP program has come a long way, with vast improvements, and this just proves that we continue to foster developments and enhancements."

Who to call?

The TAA SHARP program manager is Capt. James Mehr, NIPR: 6685

Bagram SHARP representative:

Maj. Kira Crocker (TF White Eagle)

NIPR: 318-481-4080 SIPR: 308-431-4053

SHARP Representatives are being trained and will soon be certified at all of our outlying offices.