



The Main Effort

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ANA 205th establishes FLE to support Joint Sweep

**By CPT Joshua Thompson
2nd Brigade, 205th RSAC**

It was early in the morning on a mid-March day, 0330 to be exact, and the 5th Combat Service Support Kandak, 2nd Brigade of the Afghan National Army (ANA) 205th Corps had just finished lining up for an important operation.

The ANA Soldiers were participating in Operation Joint Sweep to provide support for the maneuver elements during the search for suspected Taliban leadership in a series of villages.

There were more than 50 ANA Soldiers and their equipment that comprised the Forward Logistics Element (FLE) for this mission.

The FLE is composed of a support package that includes food, water, fuel, medical, detainee handling and transportation support for the ANA, United States forces, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and the Afghan National Police (ANP).

This simple concept, however, has been a long time in the making, and this was the 5th Kandak's first opportunity to practice their trade doctrinally.

Joined with and leading the movement for the brigade command post, we moved behind the maneuver elements into position south of the target village and established a small logistics support area.

The ANA medical company executive officer (XO), 1st Lt. Mohammed Shah, quickly directed the seven-ton trucks carrying the supplies

into position behind the ridgeline and ordered the erection of the medical treatment area. He served as the officer-in-charge for the FLE and carefully coordinated its movement with his US embedded training team (ETT) counterpart.

The maneuver element had just finished clearing its second village and was moving to the next objective. Lt.



Afghan National Army Soldiers of the 5th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps establish a security perimeter during the setup of a Forward Logistics Element that supported Operation Joint Sweep in mid-March. During the operation, the FLE was required to move several times.

Shah discussed the options with his brigade XO, Col. Afzal. The two Soldiers decided that we should move to keep the FLE and the command post (CP) in the fight.

The Soldiers quickly tore down what they had set up, and we began to push forward to our next site, ensuring that the necessary supplies and support were within reach of the maneuver elements if needed.

We soon arrived at our next site and

again quickly set up to support our operations. This time there was some action, with shots fired within the village.

The ANA Soldiers in the FLE were anxious to help and were ready to provide support if needed.

Fortunately no one was injured, and the four detainees were released before the maneuver force moved to the next village.

No business yet for the FLE, but they were ready.

Lt. Shah told me that it was time to move again, and we searched the map for the next location.

He quickly found a spot to the southeast of the last two objectives, briefed me and the brigade XO and we move.

We then established our last FLE support site for the operation and were patiently awaiting news that our services were needed.

About an hour after setting up for the third time, we got the call to conduct a link-up with the maneuver units.

We tore down for the last time and headed into the village.

When we arrived, we found out that the target subjects were not found. However, the mission was far from unsuccessful. The 5th Kandak had its first opportunity to provide support to maneuver elements the way it is supposed to and was included in the process.

While the bad guys may have gotten away, the 5th Kandak considered the mission a victory and a step in the right direction for future operations within the brigade.

New camp for RSAC coming to life at Shir Zai

**By CDR Chad Snee
205th RSAC PAO**

In early February, construction of a new camp for United States forces of the 205th Regional Security Assistance Command (RSAC) began at Camp Shir Zai, home to the 205th “Hero” Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA).

A little more than a month later, the site bustles with activity: the framing for living quarters, office space and other buildings is taking form; security bunkers are sprouting in various locations; and trenches that will contain sewage lines snake their way around and through the camp.

The new camp will support the staff of the 205th RSAC, along with Soldiers and other personnel assigned to 1st Brigade, 205th RSAC.

Once the camp is complete, the 205th RSAC will be able to move off of Kandahar Airfield.

Navy Lt. Gabriel Parrilla, an engineer assigned to the Navy Embedded Training Team (ETT) at Shir Zai, said that about three more months of construction are required.

“If everything keeps running smoothly, the camp should be complete by the end of June and ready to receive



The new U.S. camp at Shir Zai is beginning to take shape. In the distance, living quarters and a bunker are rising from their foundations. The camp is expected to be ready for occupation in late June.

tenants,” Parrilla stated.

Parrilla stressed that the camp will have all the required facilities necessary to make it independent from Kandahar Airfield, including a dining facility, living quarters, latrine and shower facilities, a gym, and morale, welfare and recreation facilities.

Parrilla further emphasized that all contracts awards to this point have gone to Afghan companies.

“Part of our objective is to develop Afghanistan’s economic infrastructure

by using local companies whenever possible,” said Parrilla.

So far, the construction project holds contracts with four different companies. Contracts with one or two additional companies are pending.

In his role as a mentor and trainer, Parrilla works closely with the Afghan workers. He spends a great deal of time on the construction site, carefully observing their techniques and providing corrective guidance and instruction when needed.

“They are working hard,” Parrilla observed. “Part of my job is mentoring them on the best construction practices. I do this to help the local contractors.

“My working relationship with the Afghan employees is very good. When I see them doing things correctly, I praise them.

“They understand that I am looking out for them.”

As with any project of this scope, Parrilla acknowledged that there are challenges. For example, construction sometimes is delayed because a company did not allow sufficient lead time for materials to arrive when they are needed.

“To avoid these problems, I stress with company management that they must carefully read the provisions of their contract,” Parrilla said.

However, such obstacles are not insurmountable. They simply provide opportunities for Parrilla to help the Afghan firms improve their business practices.

The new camp is a visible manifestation of our commitment to helping Afghanistan and her people grow and prosper.

The companies that are working on the camp will take what they have learned and apply that knowledge to future projects that will benefit their own communities.

That is an outcome that we can all take justifiable pride in.



Focusing Down Range



**By CSM Martin Deck
205th RSAC CSM**

This is my last column for *The Main Effort*. I will be leaving shortly so I can attend the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss. I should be at Fort Carson for the arrival of the rest of you in June. I just want to say to all of you what an honor and a privilege it has been to serve you during the last year.

My replacement is Sgt. Maj. Bobby Albert from the 218th Separate Infantry Brigade out of Greenville, S.C. I’m sure he is ready to get started with his tour. Be ready for some changes in

leadership styles and the way things are done. As Col. Petrucci says, “The two dumbest guys are the guy before you and the guy after you.” There is a great deal of wisdom in this statement, as we can all attest to. So be ready for change when it happens.

The last thing I want to say is: everyone stay safe and make it back home. We recently lost a number of ANA Soldiers, and one of our own was wounded. Remember where you are and bring everybody home. Take care warriors. Keep your powder dry and your heads down.

ANA 205th Soldiers complete leadership course

**By CDR Chad Snee
205th RSAC PAO**

A graduation ceremony was held March 29 at Camp Shir Zai for 86 Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers who completed a course in team leadership.

The ANA Soldiers serve in the 205th “Hero” Corps under the command of Maj. Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi.

The young, eager Soldiers who successfully finished the course took a significant step toward becoming a noncommissioned officer (NCO) in the ANA.

In keeping with Afghan custom, the ceremony began with an invocation, followed by a melodic recitation of verses from the Holy Koran, Islam’s guiding book of spiritual discipline and instruction.

Gen. Raufi then took the podium to address the graduates.

Raufi began his remarks with general praise for the ANA, U.S. and British instructors who taught the course and expressed pleasure with the Soldiers’ performance.

“Your teachers helped you successfully complete the Team Leaders course, and I am very happy that you have done well,” Raufi stated.

“We are thankful for the United States and other countries that are here to teach and support us. The teachers are experienced, and we can learn much from them.”

The three-week course emphasizes leadership development and principles, and Raufi stressed to the graduates that they had a duty to use what they learned and pass on that knowledge.

“It is important that you apply what you have learned to operations in the field and that you teach your fellow Soldiers,” he continued.

“Such courses will help our Army become more professional. We must be powerful because our people are counting on us.

“You are young, and your minds are



Maj. Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi, right, commander of the ANA 205th “Hero” Corps, presents a graduation certificate to one of the 86 ANA Soldiers who successfully completed the Team Leaders course March 29.

fresh. This is a good time to learn and to improve your performance. We are counting on you.”

Raufi concluded by saying that if commanders at all levels exercise firm leadership, the ANA will be strong.

He reminded the graduates that they too will be in positions of command some day, if they work hard.

Raufi and the course instructors came up on stage to present the graduation certificates to the Soldiers. Upon receiving his recognition, each warrior exclaimed in a loud voice, “I serve Afghanistan. I protect Afghanistan!”

Certificates of appreciation were given to the instructors, in acknowledgement of their dedication on behalf of the graduates.

ANA Sgt. Sabar was pleased with the course and with his performance.

“I learned how to take care of my fellow Soldiers,” Sabar said. “I was happy to complete the course, and I hope I will be able to lead the Soldiers

working under me.”

Following the ceremony, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Victor Colon-Rosa explained that the overall objective of the course is to develop and mentor the young Soldiers in the ANA.

Colon-Rosa serves on the staff of a mobile training team based at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

“The Team Leader course is designed to give the Soldiers the skills they need to perform well as NCOs in the future,” stated Colon-Rosa.

“The ANA 205th Corps students did very well. This was my first class at Shir Zai, and these Soldiers were the best I have taught by far.”

The Team Leader course stands as a reminder that effective leaders must be nurtured and trained.

These 86 Soldiers took a significant step toward ensuring that the 205th “Hero” Corps will field disciplined, motivated leaders well into the future.

Four 205th RSAC Soldiers honored for service

**By CDR Chad Snee
205th RSAC PAO**

Four Soldiers assigned to the 205th Regional Security Assistance Command (RSAC) received the Army Commendation Medal for exemplary service at an awards ceremony held April 7.

End-of-tour medals also were presented to three 205th RSAC Soldiers at the same ceremony.

Spec. Ruben J. Archuleta was commended for exemplary job performance and resourcefulness as the communication section radio specialist.

His efforts had a direct impact on successful mission accomplishment and enabled the entire RSAC to integrate the myriad radio systems used throughout the command's area of operations.

The legal expertise of Maj. Steven E. Arntt played a significant role in the justification for his receiving the Army Commendation Medal.

While mentoring the Afghan National Army's 205th Corps military justice personnel, Arntt demonstrated a tenacious work ethic and can-do attitude that was instrumental in the success of the ANA 205th military justice personnel clearing a backlog of 27 cases in three weeks.

Arntt freely used all his civilian legal knowledge and experience in mentoring ANA 205th Corps judges, prosecutors and defense counsel to try, prosecute and defend military criminal cases.

He ensured that the cases were conducted using best practices and the highest ethical standards.

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin L. Cox was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for training Soldiers of the ANA 205th Corps to fire the D-30 Howitzer artillery piece.

Cox's insistence on precision and accuracy led to some of the first combat artillery engagements in Afghanistan and set the standard for ANA artillery readiness across the 205th Corps'



Spec. Ruben Archuleta, center, received the Army Commendation Medal April 7 for meritorious service while assigned as a radio specialist for the 205th Regional Security Assistance Command.



Col. Michael Petrucci presented end-of-tour medals April 7 to four Soldiers assigned to the 205th RSAC who completed their tours of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

area of operations.

The fourth Army Commendation Medal went to Sgt. Nathaniel J. Kimsey for meritorious service while assigned to the 205th RSAC as the communications section automation non-commissioned officer.

Kimsey's exemplary job performance and resourcefulness had a direct impact on successful mission accomplishment and enabled the entire 205th RSAC to integrate the myriad automation systems that were available during the deployment.

Maj. Ronald C. Smith received the Combat Medical Badge for performing medical duties while engaged in ground combat Sept. 3, 2006.

The Combat Infantry Badge was awarded to Maj. Ross Kihs for the performance of his duties while engaged in ground combat Dec. 7, 2006.

End-of-tour medals, including the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal, were presented to Spc. Archuleta, Maj. Jens Danielson and Sgt. Kimsey.

Following the presentation, Col. Michael J. Petrucci, commander of the 205th RSAC, called for a round of applause for the awardees.

"I think all of the Soldiers who received awards today would readily acknowledge that these honors also are a reflection of this command and what all of us do here," Petrucci stated.

He acknowledged that the deployment is coming to a close. With that reality in mind, he reminded those present to keep focused and to look out for one another.

"Although most of us know the exact day when we are leaving, we aren't done yet," he said.

Petrucci said that more such award ceremonies would be held in the coming weeks, as Soldiers and Sailors assigned to the 205th RSAC complete their assignments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and prepare to return to their families and their home duty stations.