



The Freedom BUILDER

MAGAZINE

November/December 2008



Deputy Chief of Engineers visits Afghanistan



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers®
Afghanistan Engineer District



The Freedom BUILDER MAGAZINE

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Articles or photographic submissions are welcome and should arrive in PAO by the 15th of each month preceding publication. They can be mailed to the below address or they can be e-mailed. If electronically submitted, all stories should be in Word document format and all photographs should be high resolution and include caption information.

All photographs appearing herein are by the Afghanistan Engineer District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of The Freedom Builder is to support the Commander's Internal Communication Program for the Afghanistan Engineer District. It also serves as the Commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies, operations, technical developments, and command philosophy to the Afghanistan Engineer District.

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Cover Image:

AED Commander Thomas E. O'Donovan (center) explains a project to Deputy Chief of Engineers Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley (right) at an AED project site in Kabul, see page 8. (Photo by Bruce J. Huffman)



CONTENTS

Volume 1, Issue 1

November/December 2008

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FEATURES

6 Cadets receive on-the-job training

8 Deputy Chief of Engineers visits Afghanistan

10 Partners seek O&M solutions

15 Photo Montage: AED holds Parrot Head party to celebrate successful end of year



DEPARTMENTS

From the Commander	3
News Briefs	4
Safety Bits	14
On the move	16

Postcards from Afghanistan

The Public Affairs Office is expanding AED's Internal Communications Program with "Postcards from Afghanistan."

The postcards will appear on AED's Internet Site in PDF format and a copy will be sent to your home District Public Affairs Office.

The postcards consist of a 3 to 4 paragraph write up along with 2 to 3 photos with a photo caption describing what is happening in each photo. The write-up is similar to a personal note from you to your family and friends, that focuses on a specific project or event, or that provides an overview of your total experience here in Afghanistan.

The Public Affairs Office will provide help needed to write these.

Shared Growth

Sgt. S. Preston, Quality Assurance Branch, Afghanistan Engineer District, Kabul, Afghanistan

... I recently started my fourth deployment to Afghanistan, since first arriving in this country in 2006. These deployments, totaling more than 2 years, were made possible by the support of my home engineer, the District and District Public Affairs Office. It is my honor to be in Afghanistan to be the highlight of my career as my primary duty is to support the AED in Afghanistan.

My technical coaching has helped Afghanistan's infrastructure. While I hope my presence will help the country's infrastructure, I hope my presence will help the country's infrastructure.

with each engineer and support. The district is the central focus of the AED's efforts. The district is the central focus of the AED's efforts. The district is the central focus of the AED's efforts.

There have been many challenges here. The most difficult has been the lack of infrastructure. The district is the central focus of the AED's efforts. The district is the central focus of the AED's efforts.

While I hope my presence will help the country's infrastructure, I hope my presence will help the country's infrastructure.

If you would like to be featured on one of these postcards, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 540-662-6578 or come visit us in the basement of the Azadi House, room 7, or e-mail Brenda.L.Beasley@usace.army.mil.

Thanks in advance for helping AED's Internal Communications Program.

From the Commander ...

I believe there are four focus areas that form the framework for my work as the Commander. These are integrity, teamwork, relationships, and results. Together these are what establish our reputation. You should know that the reputation of the Afghanistan Engineer District is a big part of what I think is important. I will explain these in a bit more detail.

My service to the Nation is an integral part of my character. While it is true that our life experiences shape our character, I believe the underlying foundation of character is the system of values we use to navigate through our paths in life. For me that is all about integrity. Integrity involves two fundamental intuitions: first, integrity is primarily a formal relationship one has to oneself or between parts or aspects of one's self; and second, integrity is connected in an important way to actions. Define it how you want; from personal beliefs, to character, to honesty, to workmanship and so on. How you define integrity is just a start. Lack of integrity is not an option for us. AED will act with integrity in everything we do.

Teamwork is critical to accomplishing our mission because none of us can do it alone. Each one of you brings skills that combine with other team members that create a sum greater than its parts. Different points of reference allow us to see the whole picture, not just the bubble that surrounds our affected area. Teamwork is how we relate to our co-workers.

Built on teamwork, I believe that our success comes at least as much from our relationships as our skills and experience. The relationships we build with the Afghans and other organizations outside of the Corps help us to develop a diversified and culturally sensitive plan. This allows us to execute our projects successfully.

Results are what integrity, teamwork, and relationships allow us to accomplish. In Afghanistan, results are challenging. However, we are making progress, not just quantitative measurements. Our work here will have a long-lasting ripple effect. Similar to how one drop of water hits a larger body of water and waves move in a radius outward from that initial point of contact. We are that initial contact that is the future of Afghanistan. To continue doing this we must ask: Are we making progress in working more effectively? Is teamwork helping us to find the best practices? Are we creating the right relationships to accomplish our missions?

These four areas – integrity, teamwork, relationships, and results – build our reputation. Our reputation is how our stakeholders view us; each of these pillars affects our reputation, and is in turn, affected by it. Our reputation is only as good as our last project. We can accomplish 100 great projects but damage our reputation by one project that struggles.



Col. Thomas E. O'Donovan

November is a time of remembrance, with Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving providing solemnity and gratitude. On Veteran's Day, we remember those who sacrificed their very lives throughout the history of our country. Their dedication allows us to enjoy the freedoms we cherish today. The tradition of Veteran's Day began as Armistice Day, when a moment of silence was observed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when World War I officially ended.

Although the actual observance didn't begin until 1918, the tradition of sacrifice for country began much earlier. Most of us recall the saying, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country," but how many of us remember it was a patriot named Nathan Hale who said those very words just before the British hung him as a spy? My point is that while we may not remember specific individuals, honoring their dedication and sacrifice helps make our nation great and will always be important.

I want to thank each of you and also your families at home. All of you have volunteered to deploy in support our mission, making personal sacrifices to serve at Afghanistan Engineer District. Your families have also made sacrifices, and have provided unwavering support to all of the Soldiers and Civilians executing our missions. This support is instrumental to our success. I personally thank you for your service.

Mission First, People Always!
Essays! 📄

News briefs

CFC makes giving easier for everyone

After receiving their pay, soldiers in ancient Rome had to pass by vendors selling items they just couldn't live without - especially since their supervisors were doing the selling. It wasn't uncommon for half or more of a paycheck to be "donated" for items the soldiers didn't want, but to which they couldn't say no.

Before the 1950s, soliciting for charitable donations was uncontrolled - and often out of control - causing problems for employees, charities and government agencies. Not unlike the ancient Roman soldiers, federal employees were often faced with departmental quotas for giving and felt pressure from supervisors to donate.

For the past 50 years, government employees haven't had to worry about things like undue pressure to donate to charities.

In 1956 President Dwight Eisenhower asked that a comprehensive and uniform policy be designed to address charitable giving by federal workers. What emerged was a system of timeframes throughout the year when charities were offered the chance to request donations in the workplace. The charities were grouped into three categories, with



each category allowed to raise funds once during the year.

The system was better, but there were still complaints about the amount of time and the expense of holding three separate fundraisers each year. In 1964, the first "Combined Federal Campaign" was held that consolidated all fundraisers into a single event. The result was that charitable giving increased by as much as 125 percent and employees and supervisors appreciated the single annual event.

Over the years, the number of charities has increased from less than 20 to more than 1,600. Employees can find just about any type of organization they might like to support, from international support systems to local environmental advocates.

Everyone can find an organization that fit his or her interest or something that is important, according to AED Commander Col. Thomas E. O'Donovan. For example, O'Donovan has supported the Achilles Track Club, an organization that helps veterans who have lost limbs continue their running by providing prosthetics. "As a Soldier and a runner, this organization is very dear to my heart," O'Donovan said. "I was pleased to find a charity that matches my interests so directly."

CFC has come a long ways from the days where charity meant donating your hard-earned pay for something you didn't really want - but if you wanted to keep your job - you just couldn't live without. Thanks to those who developed a combined campaign, the life of charitable giving became much easier.

This year's fall campaign runs from Nov. 1 until Nov. 30, and kicks off at the House Meeting Nov. 3. For more information on how you can donate, contact Michelle Thrift at 540-665-3475.

Source: Excerpt from story by Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office, Portland District, November 2006.

New "Citi" Government Travel Card - Transition Updates

By Pamela Gillum, Transatlantic Programs Center, Travel Card Coordinator

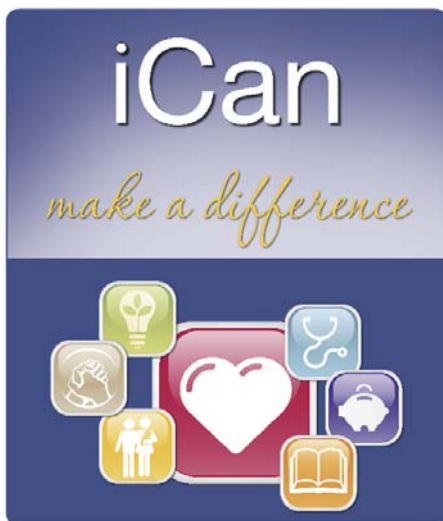
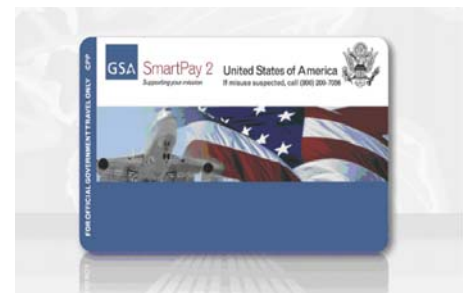
For those of you that have received your new "CITI" Government Travel Card please make sure to complete the receipt verification process below. If you should have received the new card and have not or have changed your mailing address since July please contact your APC immediately.

GRD: Joyce Maple, 540-665-4014

TAC/AED: Pamela Gillum, 540-665-3609

Upon receipt of your travel card please go the Web site listed below for on-line card receipt verification. The receipt verification is a very critical part of the transition process so please comply promptly. This will eliminate the closure of your new account with CITI and the need to reapply for a new "CITI" travel card.

Please remember that the



Receipt Verification Process does not activate the account. This will be done automatically by "CITT", 30 November 2008. Do not destroy your BOA Travel Card if you will be travelling before 30 November.

Web site for on-line card verification of receipt is:
<http://www.citimanager.com/dodtravel>

Verification by phone:
1-800-200-7056
– follow prompts

Benefits Open Season

*By Karen R. Williams, J1,
Civilian Personnel*

- Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB).
- Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).
- Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs).

The annual Benefits Open Season will run from Nov. 10 through Dec. 8. During this period, employees will have the opportunity to make elections or changes in three benefits programs:

FEHB: Employees may enroll in a health plan, change from one plan or option to another (i.e., high/standard, self only/self and family), or cancel their FEHB enrollment during the open season. Prior to the start of the open season, the OPM will post the 2009 FEHB guides and individual plan brochures on their website at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/>.

Employees who wish to make a change to their FEHB coverage must do so through the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or by telephone at 1-877-276-9287.

FEDVIP: During the open enrollment period, employees may enroll in supplemental dental and/or vision coverage, change from one plan or option to another, or cancel their enrollment. To learn more,

visit the OPM FEDVIP homepage at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision/> and the BENEFEDS website at <http://www.BENEFEDS.com>.

For questions regarding the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, please contact the customer service representatives at 1(877) 888-3337.

Employees who wish to elect the dental and/or vision insurance must do so through the BENEFEDS Portal (<http://www.BENEFEDS.com>).

FSAs: An FSA allows employees to set aside pre-tax dollars for out-of-pocket health care and dependent care expenses, thereby reducing the amount you pay in taxes.

Employees may choose either a health care FSA for out-of-pocket medical expenses such as co-pays, over-the-counter medications, etc., and/or a dependent care FSA for child and/or adult daycare expenses.

Employees who had an FSA account in 2008 must re-enroll for 2009 if they wish to continue this benefit. To learn more or to enroll, employees must contact FSAFEDS at <http://www.fsafeds.com> or by phone at 1-877-FSAFEDS (372-3337).

For 2009 Premium Rates for FEHB and FEDVIP visit the following Websites:

- 2009 FEHB Premiums
<http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/09rates/index.asp>
- 2009 FEDVIP Premiums
<http://www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision/index.asp>

If you have any questions, concerns or need assistance, please contact your AED Civilian Personnel Rep via e-mail (DLL-CEAED-J1 Civilian Personnel) or by telephone: Ms. Williams – ext. 2738; Ms. Ward – ext. 3476; Ms. Bustamante – ext. 1273; or Ms. Jewell – ext. 4724. ☎



Celebration of Life

In a celebration of life, love, happiness, joy, praise and worship, the Camp Eggers Gospel Choir, under the direction of AED's Spc. Carlos D. Benefield (far right, directing) and Exelena Whitaker (far left), along with the Catholic Singers and the Contemporary Gospel Band, performed Oct. 18 at the Clam Shell at Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Cadets receive on-the-job training

Story by Brenda L. Beasley

Afghan Cadets received interactive on-the-job training from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District, construction and engineering team members, as well as project and program managers, Aug. 16-31 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Through a Cadet Training Program coordinated by AED Capacity Development Program Manager Leslie J. Wright, the one senior and four junior Cadets from the National Military Academy Afghanistan were exposed to interactive training activities, which gave them the opportunity to apply engineering related theory taught in a class room setting to real world practice in the areas of operations and maintenance, construction, engineering, and project management.

“This effort adds value to the capacity development mission by ensuring that there are local Afghans equipped to operate, manage, engineer, and administer horizontal and vertical construction in Afghanistan,” said Wright.

The training began Aug. 16 with greetings from AED Commander Col. Thomas E. O’Donovan. Then an overview of the overall program was given by Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division Deputy Director Peter Frick and Engineering and Construction Division Director Russ Holemann.

An overview of the training program was provided by Afghanistan National Army Program Manager William D. Mullery and Kabul Area



Construction Representative William D. Breckinridge (2nd from left) discusses with the Cadets how the foundation and concrete slab was constructed at a logistics warehouse and how long it took. (Photo by Leslie J. Wright, Capacity Development Program Manager)

Engineer Officer in Charge Maj. Leigh Ford. Wright then ended the day explaining the connection between the Cadets participation in the program and the development of Afghan Capacity at the vocational, academic, professional and institutional levels.

Over the next 13 days, the five Cadets participated in a variety of exercises to include a Compound Safety Assessment Exercise and 12 site visits throughout the Kabul area, according to Wright. After each site visit, Cadets took part in a thought provoking exercise that was prepared by the AED project managers, construction representatives, project engineers, and the Capacity Development Program Manager who participated as AED mentors to the cadets.

Through this intensive



Construction Representative Robert L. Williams (far right) shows the Cadets a gate at the Ministry of Defense that has some foundation problems and asks them how they would design the foundation to resolve the issue. (Photo by Leslie J. Wright, Capacity Development Program Manager)



Capacity Development Program Manager Leslie J. Wright (left) with NMAA Cadets (left to right) Obaidullah Amanullah; Hameedullah Mohammad Musa; Shah Noor Mohammad Noor; Mohammad Nijat Imam Raza; and Mir Abas Mohammad Nadir at the graduation ceremony. (Photo by Bruce Huffman, public affairs officer)



Operations and Maintenance Project Manager Robert J. Szemanski (far right) shows the Cadets some issues that can come along after construction. He also explains the difference between an O&M issue and a warranty issue. (Photo by Leslie J. Wright, Capacity Development Program Manager)

applied-learning program, AED seized the opportunity to assist in building the individual capacity of Afghan engineers and Afghan project and program managers. “It will help ensure the sustainment of the United States Government infrastructure investment and the investment realized by the Afghan people,” said Wright.

Other benefits to the Afghan people include sustaining the development of higher learning institutions, adding value to long term local capacity development efforts, developing institutional knowledge on a sustainable basis, and developing and using local capacity to sustain infrastructure investment.


“Building the capacity of learning institutions will help the Afghan people sustain their infrastructure and build the projected work force that

they’ll need to sustain their infrastructure using locally appropriate engineering and construction standards and specifications,” said Wright.

Providing quality, responsive engineering and construction services to a variety of customers in Afghanistan is one of AED’s missions under their Strategic Reconstruction Program, according to Corps officials. Through this effort, the Corps performs a crucial role in the international efforts to facilitate establishing a secure and stable environment in Afghanistan while promoting reconstruction and infrastructure development.

More than 300 U.S. Civilian and Military personnel are assigned to the Corps’ Afghanistan Engineer District, according to Corps officials. They manage programs and projects that support a full spectrum of regional activities for the International Security Assistance Force; the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan and Regional Command - East, both of which are U.S. commands; the U.S. Agency for International Development; and other organizations operating in Afghanistan.

AED team members work with CSTC-A, USAID, donor nations and agencies to identify areas where projects have an immediate effect building alternative livelihoods, creating ownership and eroding enemy support.

The two-week AED sponsored on-the-job training program, a direct result of this effort, ended with a graduation ceremony Aug. 31 at AED Qalaa House, where each Afghan Cadet was presented with a graduation certificate. 



Deputy Chief of Engineers visits Afghanistan

By Bruce J. Huffman

In late October, Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Engineers, spent three days in Afghanistan with members of the Afghanistan Engineer District visiting projects, engaging other commanders and engineer units, and meeting with various stakeholders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Afghanistan's reconstruction.

During the trip, Riley visited an Afghan National Army facility under construction near Kabul. This project is one of 52 ANA facilities being built by AED throughout the country. According to Maj. Leigh Ford, Officer in Charge of the Kabul Area Office, most of AED's projects are for the Afghan National Security Forces, which includes the ANA and the Afghan National Police. AED is currently building four garrisons and five kandaks/battalions for the ANA and also has 324 ANP projects under construction throughout Afghanistan. "These projects provide the



facilities necessary for the Afghan National Security Forces to establish a secure and stable environment," said Ford.

According to Maj. Gen. Riley, the quality at the site was extremely good and came as a bit of a surprise. "This project had been delayed, because of problems with the contractor and I expected to see a lot of problems, said Riley, but Tony Beene, the AED Construction



Top left: Construction Representative Tony Beene briefs Deputy Chief of Engineers Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley on work taking place at the Afghanistan National Army Commando Battalion complex near Kabul. From left to right: Col. William Haight, Maj. Gen. Riley, Tony Beene, Maj. Leigh Ford, and Zsolt Haverland.

Left: An ANA training classroom under construction at Camp Commando.

Above: Deputy Chief of Engineers Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley (left) tours an ANA project with AED Construction Representative Tony Beene (right).

Representative on site, is working awful hard to make sure things go right.” Riley pointed out how amazing it was for one USACE Civilian to manage a \$20 or \$30 million project. “He’s not just doing the work of a Con

Rep., he’s a coach, a teacher and a mentor,” said Riley.

“The whole intent of the mission here is to provide a stable environment for the Afghans to govern their country; and there are two aspects to this mission,” said Riley. “First, we are providing stability and the facilities they need to do their jobs and provide security for the nation. The other aspect is a civil works program,” he said.

Riley and AED key leaders had dinner with Engineer Shouaudin Ziaie, Afghanistan’s Deputy Minister of Electricity and Water, and discussed how the Corps can help. “He was very interested in the Corps of Engineers’ assistance in helping establish water management, because Afghanistan is experiencing a severe draught,” said Riley. According to Ziaie, Afghanistan has problems with electricity, and doesn’t have the money to provide oil to run their power plants. “They need hydro power, water management, and they need food,” said Riley. According to Ziaie, prior to the war with the Russians Afghanistan produced

32 million hectares of food per year, and right now they are only producing about 18 million hectares. “In that time, the population has also doubled, said Riley, so they have about half the amount of food for twice the population.” “A very difficult situation, and we can help,” said Riley.

“I am enormously proud of AED and all the people, said Riley. Everyone I meet seems to love the work that they do, and enjoy the Afghan people.” “We are right in the center of what is going on in the world. Our work here and in Iraq is instrumental toward providing stability in the Middle East, and stability in the Middle East is probably one of the most important aspects of world progress and world stability. 🇺🇸

Partners seek O&M solutions

Story and photos by Brenda L. Beasley



Army Cpt. Frank Tedeschi, O&M Program Manager, CSTC-A CJ-ENG, explains the new O&M Project Request and Justification form that CTSC-A plans to use to help streamline the validation process.

Operations and maintenance professionals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District met with their counterparts at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept. 30 to discuss current and future challenges in maintaining Afghan National Army facilities.

The first-ever Installation Operations and Maintenance Conference was hosted by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan to help foster cooperation between the parties involved in building and maintaining the ANA infrastructure. Over 50 O&M partners were in attendance.

“O&M has been really hard to execute,” said Navy Capt. Jeffrey D. Paradee, Commander, Combined Joint Engineering Directorate, CSTC-A. “We’ve got cultural challenges to overcome. The goal for today is communication.”

Army Cpt. Frank Tedeschi, O&M Program Manager in CJ-ENG, CSTC-A, served as the master of ceremonies for the conference.

Participating partners included professionals from the Corps’ Afghanistan Engineer District, Military Professional Resources, Inc., the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment, Contract International, Inc., the Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V, and CSTC-A’s Installation Management Department.

CJ-ENG supports CSTC-A in the planning and construction of Afghanistan National Security Forces facilities and mentoring ANSF engineer staffs in order to develop a stable Afghanistan, and deter and defeat terrorism within Afghanistan’s borders, according to Tedeschi.

“All of you here are helping us execute this mission,” said Tedeschi. “We’re building facilities here that the Afghans don’t always know how to use and we have to synchronize our actions.”

Over the next fiscal year, CSTC-A plans to execute about \$1.4 billion in construction providing permanent facilities for the ANA



Terry L. Patton
Project Management Professional, AED



Orrin M. Israel
Deputy O&M Branch,
AED

throughout the nation of Afghanistan. Rapid growth in a war zone, cultural issues, a high rotation rate among the U.S. Civilian and military support staff, water conservation, facility care and maintenance at the ANA bases, lack of adequately trained ANA drivers, theft of facility property at the ANA bases, and technical

competency training of residual ANA facilities support staff are just a few of the challenges that are faced daily in Afghanistan.

The need for technical competency training for residual ANA facilities support staff is being addressed with an innovative

program. “The good news is that we have a program to address this issue – The Off-Ramping Program”, said Tedeschi. This program will train ANA craftsmen in skill sets such as carpentry, masonry, electrical wiring, heating and ventilation equipment repair, plumbing, basic English language skills and other technical areas. The Off-Ramp Program will help build technical capacity in the ranks of the ANA facilities support staff and allow for the transition of the facilities to the Afghans. This program also consists of a parallel management training program. While the craftsmen are undergoing technical skill training, the management staff such as the ANA Directors of Public Works at the installation level and the Command staff at the Afghanistan Installation Management Directorate are receiving training in the management and operation of a DPW Command.

Another innovative program is the development of a design guide specific to Afghanistan that is being prepared by AED’s Chester S. Nakamura. All of these programs are being implemented with the goal that the facilities which are now being constructed will continue to be cared for after CSTC-A has completed their mission in Afghanistan.

The road ahead will call for synchronizing actions across CSTC-A, validating minor construction projects, developing a DPW Capacity in the ANA, developing an environmental/HAZMAT framework, properly maintaining facilities, curbing theft and waste on the ANA bases, and developing a sense of ownership in the ANA facilities by the ANA soldiers that are stationed there.

“Everyone here needs to be a mentor,” said Tedeschi. “There is a big push for developing environmental standards, and ownership at the ANA facilities by the ANA soldiers.”

Under the ANA construction program, nine brigades/garrisons were completed in fiscal year 2008 and in 2009 there are plans to build five more brigades and four more kandaks (battalions), according to the AED’s Terry L. Patton, Project Management Professional.

AED’s project management mission is to

conduct project management, construction and engineering in the Central Asian Republics to facilitate the establishment of a secure and stable environment while promoting reconstruction and infrastructure development, said Patton.

The overall AED Operations and Maintenance Program is designed to preserve and maintain all facilities and infrastructure that are built for the ANA in such a condition that they may be effectively used for their designated functional purpose, and to support the U.S. Government's policy of sustainability through training, and completing a phased turnover of facility engineer operations to the Afghanistan Ministry of Defense.

"We're supporting construction and reconstruction of Afghanistan," said Patton. "We have the workload of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Division with only 370 Soldiers and Civilians to make it happen."

The project management process includes being the primary point of contact for the customer, which in this case is CSTC-A, said AED's Orrin M. Israel, the deputy of O&M Branch. It also includes determining the requirements and scopes of work; developing annual goals and objectives with the customer; overseeing the program funds; developing the base contract and the modifications to support the requirements; coordinating with the Contracting Officer on the funding and budgeting requirements in the contract; working with the Contracting Officer to execute the options in the contract; and coordinating with O&M execution offices on the contract requirements.

AED is the execution arm of a countrywide O&M contract that supports the ANA bases and facilities that have been constructed for the people of Afghanistan. The contract scope of work for the ANA facilities includes providing O&M services for ANA permanent facilities throughout Afghanistan, routine scheduled preventive maintenance, non-routine repair and replacement as needed, and providing 24-Hour emergency support, said Israel.

To help carry out this mission, the AED O&M Branch participates in mentoring



AED's Cheryl O. Sims (right) accepts a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of Sgt. 1st Class Brian Herbert for his outstanding facilities support to the National Military Academy of Afghanistan and CSTC-A. It was signed and presented by Navy Capt. Jeffrey D. Paradee, Director, CSTC-A CJ-ENG (left).



For his outstanding facilities support to the National Military Academy of Afghanistan and CSTC-A, AED's Jerry Buchanan (left) receives a Certificate of Achievement from Navy Cmdr. Joseph Y. Kan, Deputy Director CSTC-A CJ-ENG.

ANA DPW staff, coordinating new worksite activities, providing feedback for lessons learned to construction activities, and serving as Contracting Officer Representatives for the countrywide O&M contract. This mission is carried out at over 25 Afghan National Army Sites in Kabul and seven active locations around the greater Afghanistan area, with nine locations coming on-line shortly. These sites also include garrisons, hospital complexes, ammunition supply points, logistics centers, and air corps facilities.

“A second fundamental goal of the AED O&M team is to transition this sustainment service capability to the Afghan people,” said Israel. “And our requirements are growing exponentially!”

Over the next year, many new bases will be added to the countrywide O&M contract. These bases will be located at Gamberi, Shindand, Gomal, Khairkot, Farah, Konduz, and Jalalabad, and more sites are planned because of the construction of Afghan National Police stations throughout the country, according to Israel. By March 2010, the ANP program will have over 500 sites that will be receiving contracted O&M support services under a countrywide ANP O&M support contract managed by AED.

CTSC-A is also customer to the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment, according to Air Force 1st Lt. Brandon Rocker, who gave AFCEE’s program overview. AFCEE provides integrated engineering and environmental management, execution and technical services to ensure sustainable installations optimize Air Force capabilities.

AFCEE has been involved in Afghanistan since 2006. Their challenges include staying ahead of the rapid ANA projected growth, acquisition timelines, increased internal and external scrutiny, and security, said Rocker.

“When we turn over a building, we’re just representatives of the client,” said Rocker. “We’re the middle man – the mediator for everything. We’re required to ensure the contractor has set up dates for turnover.”

To help accomplish turning over the facilities to the ANA, Contract International, Inc. comes into play, according to Country Manager Leroy Cobb, who provided their company overview. Their O&M Division provides quality services and supplies to the ANA through the guidance and resources of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District.

CII trains local national workers to perform functions needed on ANA Military installations. They provide round-the-clock maintenance services to installations all around the country; integrate environmental safety & health practices into the everyday

lives of their workers; provide a workplace that ensures a better future for the local national workers by achieving better quality, better skills, and a well trained workforce that will be able to adapt to the changing needs of the customer; and improve the quality of life for the local economy by creating jobs and teaching skills that will work for any organization.



E. Neil Myers
Off-Ramping Program
Manager, AED

“We have a lot of challenges to get materials to the sites we provide O&M support services too and we’ve come up with innovative ways to get our materials to these austere locations,” said Cobb.

The Off-Ramping program will be performed through a training contract managed by AED. The program will be initiated through three stages of various degrees or levels of training, according to AED’s Off-Ramping Program Manager Neil Myers.

The first stage involves selecting two different types of candidates for training - skilled-trade workers and facility engineer managers. The candidates will be local hires by each garrison and only have to meet the ethnicity of that garrison. ETT’s and MPRI representatives will work with the Installation Command on best candidate selection, according to Myers. They’ll conduct basic skill testing and literacy assessments of the candidates. The candidates will then attend a combination of onsite and offsite training.

Formal classroom training is the second stage. Skilled-trade students are provided courses consisting of electrical, plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, painting, masonry, locksmith, heavy equipment operator, generator operation and maintenance, and language – literacy. The facility engineer managers are offered courses in DPW management orientation, budgeting and

programming, office administration, logistics, warehouse management, purchasing, master planning and installation support report preparation, safety and fire protection, environmental protection, real property management, basic typing skills and the use of applicable computer programs.

The third and final stage will involve all students returning to the installation where they'll receive on-the-job training. The skilled-trade students will be paired with selected O&M contractor craftsmen and the facility engineer managers will be partnered with O&M contractor facility managers. After completing this last phase of training, the students will receive final testing and a graduation certificate.

“Graduates will be given an appropriate increase in pay so that they won't take their skills elsewhere,” said Tedeschi. “We need to make it financially attractive for them to stay on the base and take care of it.”

Other issues and challenges include getting the full support of the ANA senior leadership for the off-ramp efforts, enhancing the facility engineer staff involvement and

responsibilities in the overall O&M, and teaching them accountability for tools, parts, and materials.

“At installations where they have a strong building manager program, the maintenance of the facilities greatly improved,” said Tedeschi. “We need to emphasis becoming a good building manager.” It's also very important to educate the installation commanders on the building manager's role and how to utilize the building manager, he added.

Communicating and coordinating is the key to successfully combating future O&M challenges. “We're in a different culture, with a different language,” said Navy Cmdr. Joseph Y. Kan, Deputy Director CJ-ENG, CSTC-A. “We have constant turnovers, multiple services, and multiple acronyms. We have to be able to communicate and coordinate with each other to enable Afghans to stand on their own – educationally, culturally, and literarily. If we only build and maintain, we have not done our job. We have to mentor. We have to develop Afghans.” 🇦🇫

Safety Bits

Provided by Safety and Occupational Health

PERSONAL WELLNESS

- Get Adequate rest.
- Exercise.
- Drink plenty of bottled water.
- Practice good hygiene.
- Feeling ill? - Go to the clinic.

- Leave the critters alone.

LIVING QUARTERS

- Know escape routes.
- No smoking in rooms.
- Locate portable fire extinguishers.
- Don't daisy-chain power strips.
- Don't power appliances with power strips.
- Unplug power strip/ cord when hot to touch.
- Keep flashlight/ batteries in rooms.
- Don't hang curtains.

- Keep rooms clean.

CONVOYS

- Personal protective equipment.
 - IBA (fully-closed).
 - Kevlar (chin-strap in place).
 - Safety glasses (TAC eye wear is ballistic).
 - Hearing protection.
 - Gloves.
 - Boots.
- Passengers turn off cell phones.
- Obey all instructions. 🇦🇫

AED holds Parrot Head party to celebrate successful end of year



ON THE MOVE

Moving in



Sgt. Samuel
Dean



Lt. Col. David
Schultz



Cynthia Yost



Jeffrey Yost



Jeffrey
Usavage



Charles
Bauer



Karen Vance



Sherry
Gilbert



Paris Embree



Ronald
Ashley



Huong
Huynh



Mark
Patterson



Lewis
Righin



Ken
Rochefort



Larry
Weatherwax



Nova
Robbins



David
Burford



Ferdinand
Guese



Spc. Richard
Baker



Cpl. Debra
Kidd

Moving out

Grant Allen
Lawrence Allen
Chris Beaman
Arliss Bess
Valdez Blackwell
Clay Bolton
Lt. Col. Douglas Brown
Gerald Buchanan
Kathy Clemens
Joseph Crews
Daniel Dunkel
Billie Fagan
Kathleen Farrell

Peter Frick
Yadira Gill
Lt. Joshua Haynes
LaShawn Hazel
Angela Janssen
Chad Jungman
Thomas Luzano
Chris Kim
Drasutis Maciunas
Matthew Noone
Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Parella
Donald Patton
Milton Ricks

Lt. Col. Larry Smith
Master Sgt. Delbert Tackett
Miles Wagatsuma