



NATO TRAINING MISSION - AFGHANISTAN

SHOHNA BA SHOHNA



NTM-A
NATO Training Mission
AFGHANISTAN





Among the People

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

Mao Zedong gets a lot of credit for defining the nature of people's war. In the 1920s and 1930s, Mao's Chinese Communist Party struggled to survive the onslaughts of their Kuomintang Chinese adversaries and later, the attacks of the invading Imperial Japanese Army. In most of their campaigns, the Communist forces were outnumbered, outgunned, and outmaneuvered. And yet in the end, they won.

Why?

Mao understood that the people of China were his greatest allies. No weapons or tactics, not even the skilled Imperial Japanese regiments, could overcome his forces as long as the Communists kept the trust of the Chinese peasants. Mao was not the first political-military leader to figure this out. George Washington, the Duke of Wellington, and Giuseppe Garibaldi, among many others tracing all the way back to the era of Sun Tzu and Alexander the Great, learned it too. But Mao had the sense to write it all down. "The guerrilla," he offered, "must move amongst the people as a fish swims in the sea."

The poetry of that simple sentence applies equally well to those endeavoring to defeat insurgents and terrorists. To win a war among the people, Soldiers must demonstrate the discipline and empathy necessary to gain popular trust. This demands proper behavior. Soldiers must not steal from villagers, oppress civilians, burn houses, or kill animals. That is the ideal for a winning force in a people's war. It is the goal for today's Afghan military and police.

Our Taliban opponents consistently try to hide among the Afghan people. As Coalition Soldiers, it's very hard for us to separate Taliban fighters from the local populace. We don't move like fish in the sea. We are much more like scuba divers, out of our element, poking here and there with a speargun, trying to nail the bad ones. We have the skill and firepower to win our encounters. Gaining popular trust is much, much tougher.

Afghan Soldiers and Police can and do swim like fish in the sea of villagers—provided the uniformed Afghan forces have gained the confidence of their fellow citizens. We have seen this over and over again. Areas where the Taliban once roamed freely are now patrolled by Afghan Soldiers and Police. The insurgent fish don't last long when bigger, tougher—yet rule abiding and law enforcing—fish arrive and thrive. One village at a time, the Afghan National Security Forces are holding the hard-won gains of this war. They are doing it with the support of Afghan elders and families.

None of that is easy. It requires leadership, training, and discipline. Those proper behaviors start in our military and police training centers and continue in partnered unit operations. Our example means a lot, yet in the end, our Afghan teammates must take the lead and focus on their war-winning partners—the people of Afghanistan. Afghan Soldiers and Police know that. Every day, with our help, they are earning the trust and confidence of their countrymen. Like Mao—they are earning their victory among the people.

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Photo - Front Cover: Afghan National Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Student stacks several pieces of confiscated unexploded ordnance at the Kabul Military Training Center’s demolition range, May 29. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Fahey)
 Photo - Top: Afghan National Army leadership cuts the ribbon at the Kabul Central Fire Station, officially opening the station during a ceremony and fire-fighting demonstration in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 6. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott A. Buchholz)
 Photo - Back Cover: Firefighters demonstrate new firefighting equipment and procedures to Afghan National Army leadership following a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the Kabul Central Fire Station, in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 6. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott A. Buchholz)



RMTC Transitions to ANA Hands

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

Over 1,300 soldiers joined the ranks of the Afghan National Army (ANA) after graduating from basic warrior training July 5 at the Regional Military Training Center (RMTC) in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.

“About 9 weeks ago, the candidates of Regional Basic Warrior Training course 186 entered the gates of the compound as civilians,” said Canadian Maj. Gen. James Ferron, deputy commanding general of operations for NTM-A. “Today you will step off of this parade field as members of a team, a brotherhood, qualified basic soldiers in the ANA.”

The ceremony marked the end of the training mission for coalition participation in mentoring and advising army training at RMTC- North. The training will be transitioned into the hands of ANA leaders and instructors.

“They are ready,” said Canadian Sgt. Brian McIntyre. “The Afghan instructors are very professional and teaching them everything that they need to know.”

The basic warrior training is a nine- week course to teach joining ANA soldiers their basic skills for serving their country. From this training, new soldiers will be sent to

Army units throughout Afghanistan. Once posted to their new units, the soldiers train to become more proficient in their trade with each one being essential in ensuring prosperity and success of Afghanistan.

“I am very proud to be the Executive Officer of the Team Leaders Course,” said Afghan National Army 1st Lt. Nangeyalie Andar. “I really appreciate the help provided by our coalition counterparts.”

The number of NATO Training Mission Afghanistan advisors will reduce in the upcoming weeks. ANA leaders and instructors will take control and begin teaching the courses.

“This achievement deserves to be celebrated,” said Ferron. “This milestone would not have been possible without the dedication and professionalization demonstrated by the commander, staff and instructors of RMTC-N every day. This training center is a model for success in the ANA, and this would not be possible without a great deal of hard work, perseverance and commitment to improvement.”



New Afghan National Army soldiers stand in ranks for their graduation from Regional Military Training Center-North. This is the final graduation of troops that will be instructed by coalition forces.



Kabul Central Fire Station Officially Open

Story and photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott A. Buchholz
NTM-A Public Affairs

The Kabul Central Fire Station officially opened for business following a ribbon-cutting ceremony and fire-fighting demonstration in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 6.

The station currently functions as a cross-ministry response for both the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI), as well as the city of Kabul due to the MoI's shortage of fire response resources.

"It is a big accomplishment for the Afghans, just seeing them develop, they're moving along," said Thomas Mac, subject matter expert for MoD Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan Air Force (AAF), and Advisor to ANA Col. Qayom, Chief Fire director.

"I'm just happy to be part of the history, not many of us can say that you get to see a ribbon cutting at the Central Fire Station," he added.

The station is the first to receive an air compressor for refilling self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air bottles, said Canadian Lt. Col. Timothy Radley.

"It is going to be big for the ANA-side because it is the first one in Afghanistan. MoI does not have this capability yet. They're willing to share because the fire service is all about sharing and they want to share whatever they have with MoI, they're going to be filling up MoI's bottles," said Mac.

"Eventually every station is going to get one and they're going to be able to fill their own bottles and that's a big issue because for the last few decades they have been going into fires

without breathing apparatus. They are very eager to learn how to operate this machine and sustain it themselves," added Mac.

"Training is the number one priority for Col. Qayom," said Mac. "We're working on a standard where they can be self sustained and Afghan led. Obviously, they can't take a U.S. standard, or a Canadian standard, or a European standard, we have to get one where they can be compliant and compatible with their customs and they can adapt and accept themselves."

MoD utilizes mini-pumpers or "brush trucks" that have a carrying capacity between 250 to 500 gallons of water and larger Oshkosh T-1500 and T-3000 fire engines that have 1,500 and 3,000 gallon capacity respectively. Due to narrow and minimally maintained roads, mini-pumpers are used to gain access to fires where traditional engines cannot gain access.

There are currently 39 ANA/AAF fire stations throughout the country of Afghanistan.



Firefighters present new firefighting equipment to Afghan National Army leadership following a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the Kabul Central Fire Station.



MELTC Transitions to Afghan Lead

Story and photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott A. Buchholz
NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan Public Affairs

The Morehead English Language Training Center (MELTC) on Camp Morehead completed their transition mission, turning over the English Language program in the School of Excellence to the Afghans in a ceremony May 16.

“MELTC has distinguished itself by being the very first intensive English language training center to transition to Afghan-led. Please don’t think that the work is done here, though. Instead, use this milestone to re-energize yourself, recommit yourself, and refocus yourself toward even greater achievement and accomplishment,” said U.S. Army Col. David Komar, guest speaker at the ceremony. Additionally, MELTC is the first section at Camp Morehead to complete their mission, turning over the English Language program in the School of Excellence to the Afghans.

“You have selflessly and successfully completed a very difficult mission, and I am extremely proud of you,” emphasized U.S. Army Col. Billy Shaw, former Commander of Special Operations Advisor Group. “All of us are here to work ourselves out of a job, and you are the first to accomplish that under my command!”

“As the G7 leadership faithfully supplied the technical support, you encouraged the adaptive support. All of you... created

a change in culture by instilling in the Afghan teachers their ability to continue English education amongst their troops independent of direct American supervision,” added Shaw.

Komar presented a “Falcon” sculpture to Afghan National Army (ANA) Col. Milik as a symbolic token of appreciation and confidence in the students, staff and the language program. The falcon was selected as a symbol of patience, endurance, skill, self-reliance, and bravery- all qualities representative of the commandos and their values.

“Three years ago this course was started at Camp Morehead and now we have hundreds of officers and soldiers that can speak English very well,” said ANA Col. Besmilah Waziri through an interpreter.

“Not only do we personally learn English to support our country and our people, but maybe in the future we will go to another country, and we will help the other people like the foreign countries that come to Afghanistan and help the Afghan people,” added Waziri.

As a symbolic gesture of this transition from American



As a symbolic gesture of transition from American control to Afghan administration of the Morehead English Language Training Center (MELTC) within the School of Excellence, the “Book of Operating Procedures” is passed from Canadian Lt. Col. Jean-Guy Levesque to Mr. Emal Salarzai, from the Awista Knowledge Village Company, the new site lead and supervisor of the English school on Camp Morehead.



control to Afghan administration of MELTC within the School of Excellence, the “Book of Operating Procedures” was passed from Canadian Lt. Col. Jean-Guy Levesque to Mr. Emal Salarzai, from the Awista Knowledge Village Company, the new site lead and supervisor of the English school.

“I am very thankful for the help of the American military over the past three years and appreciate the opportunity for our Commandos to further their study in America. They will come back and build our country. We plan to continue the English training in the image of our American mentors and maintain the quality they expect. I am ready to meet the challenge,” said Salarzai.

“The transition process went a lot smoother than I expected; the contract teachers that are at the school now that are resuming the training are very capable, they’re very motivated, they’re very disciplined, and they like to see their students succeed. So since they enjoy the success of their students, I know they will work hard to help

them achieve that [success],” said Brian McCall, site lead instructor for MELTC.

The person that is taking over my position is well-schooled, well-trained, and has the right personality for this type of position. I think he will do very well, said McCall.

“Watching the commandos graduate, has been the most rewarding experience during my past year here,” he added.

MELTC consists of a seven-month course where students are required to achieve an English comprehension level score of 55 to graduate from the School of Excellence. Students may be placed back in to school to achieve a score of 80 to have the required proficiency for additional English studies in the U.S. at the Defense Language Institute among others.

Camp Morehead is the principal site training ANA Commando Kandaks (battalions). The first commando class graduated from Camp Morehead July 28, 2007.



Afghan National Army Col. Besmillah Waziri addresses students of the Morehead English Language Training Center (MELTC) on Camp Morehead during a ceremony to recognize the completion of the transition mission, turning over the English Language program in the School of Excellence to the Afghans.



Afghan Women Train to ‘Knock Out’ Discrimination

Story and photos by Gary Hengstler
KMTC Public Affairs

The Peering intently over the pair of the boxing gloves, the Afghan soldier suddenly lashes out with a fierce left jab into the pad held by a Canadian advisor teach the basics of self-defense. Ordinarily, such army training would be viewed with a shrug, not meriting a news reporter’s time and effort.

The story takes on significance, however, when one considers that more than a decade ago the soldier in question would not have been wearing a uniform—much less boxing gloves—but, instead, would have hidden from view beneath a burqa.

She is part of a small but growing band of women who have joined the military as a means of helping to change the roles of women in the nation. They are called Malalai, or the Female Training Battalion (FTB) and upon graduation from the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC),

they will become officers in the Afghan National Army (ANA).

“Hand-to-hand combat teaches the women to react in the moment without a weapon and not to back down,” said Captain C.J. Farrell, one of the coalition advisors to the unit. “It can simulate fighting in a small space and helps develop skills they may need to subdue foes rather than kill them. The women of the ANA are especially placed in a vulnerable situation so the ability to defend themselves is a must.”

Physical training has always been included in the 20-week course, but the introduction of defensive skills is a relatively new part of the physical training. A crucial element in the training is simply building the confidence among the women who, throughout most of their young



Officer candidates of the Female Training Battalion learn self-defense techniques at the Kabul Military Training Center located near Kabul, Afghanistan



lives, have carried on submissively within the Afghan society.

Farrell is part of a female advisory contingent that includes Jordanians, a British captain and two U.S. Marine non-commissioned officers. “With the Marines, teaching the self-defense techniques runs the full gamut,” she stressed. “They not only learn the proper stance, but also what it is like to hit and to be hit. And guess what? They like it. Some days it feels like they can’t get enough of the training.”\

Lt. Kubra, one of the candidates at FTB exemplifies the change in attitude and the growing confidence, according to Farrell. “You can see it when she and Holloway, one of the Marines spar in the training. Of course, she hasn’t developed the proficiency, but her determination and enjoyment can’t be denied.”

Farrell also noted that building their confidence is not

only critical to developing leadership skills among the female soldiers they eventually will command, but is a building block to help build respect with their ANA male counterparts – something that also needs to be cultivated.

The confidence building that this kind of training imparts to them is something not only fundamentally necessary for armed forces members, but could be vital to the survival of these female ANA members and the survival of the female gender within the ANA.”



Officer candidates of the Female Training Battalion learn self-defense techniques at the Kabul Military Training Center located near Kabul, Afghanistan



CID Realizes the Need for Female Lawyers

Story and photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Rose
NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan Public Affairs

The verdict is in on the Afghan National Army's (ANA) need for female lawyers to serve within the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

The Ministry of Defense Advisory Group (MAG) for Legal Development, consisting of coalition advisors, produced a video and a brochure May 26 to garner awareness about various jobs and positions within the legal branch of the ANA.

"The videos and the brochures will be used in law schools and actually give presentations as to what work would be like in the ANA," said Canadian Maj. Cory Moore, legal officer with the Canadian Forces Office of the Judge Advocate General.

The importance of female lawyers was realized when females were not defended properly due to the gender discrimination that lies within the Afghan culture.

"Some investigations are sensitive from a female point of view, so if you have female legal officers that are able

to witness statements from female victims," said Moore. "It will encourage more reporting of actual crime or instances of sexual harassment."

"When I joined the Army there were not that many females, but day by day with each ANA graduation the number of females joining the Army has increased," said a female ANA paralegal 1st Lt. with the ANA. "This video and brochure will help progress the Army and will recruit more men and women."

The recruiting video and brochures will be used throughout the country to enhance the ability of the ANA to properly recruit lawyers from the various law schools of Afghanistan.

"We identified a need to put together a package of materials that would enable them to recruit properly," said Moore. "In terms of succession, planning, retirements, and rejuvenating the legal corps they need to tap into the talent pool that exists here locally in their country."



MAJ Cory Moore, legal officer with the Canadian Forces Office of the Judge Advocate General, directs Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers during the classroom scene of the ANA General Staff Legal recruiting video.



NATO Transfers Police Training Site to Afghans

Story and photo by US Air Force Staff Sgt. James Bolinger
RSC-North Public Affairs

Service members and civilians with NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan transferred the largest Afghan National Police training center in Regional Support Command -- North to the Afghan National Civil Order Police as part of the NATO transition to the Afghans.

ANCOP Capt. Abdul Qayom, assumed responsibility for the buildings, equipment and land after reviewing an inventory written by NTM-A forces.

"We will take care of these buildings," said Qayom through an interpreter. "We will choose the right people to come here."

The camp known as Regional Training Center Mazar-e Sharif will no longer be an ANCOP training site, instead it will house the headquarters for the ANCOP 6th Brigade and will provide a base of operations for the ANCOP 6th Brigade, 1st and 2nd Battalions. About 1,300 police according to Qayom.

The site opened in 2004 as a U.S. Department of State police training camp and was used to train Afghan Uniformed Police officer candidates and ANCOP patrolmen. It was run by cadre from the French Gendarmerie, Spanish Guardia Civil, Polish Police and DynCorp Police Mentors.

Comprised of 55 hard structures and some equipment including TVs, computers and air conditioners, RTC MeS will now be maintained and run by the ANCOP without NTM-A support.

The transfer process, which started in mid-January, included the transfer of cadre and other personnel to new locations, the removal of equipment, and a full inventory of buildings and supplies.

The same process has been executed at other camps across RSC-North and several RTCs will be transferred to Afghan control or closed before the end of 2012.



(Far Left) Rafael Villegas, a End User Monitor Logistics Planner attached to NATO Training Mission -Afghanistan North, watches his interpreter describe the Regional Training Center MeS inventory sheet to Afghan National Civil Order Police Capt. Abdul Qayom at RTC MeS. NTM-A signed the RTC over to the ANCOP as part of the NATO draw down in Afghanistan.

