



# NATO TRAINING MISSION - AFGHANISTAN

# SHOHNA BA SHOHNA



**NTM-A**  
NATO Training Mission  
AFGHANISTAN





# The Long Run

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

Americans have a reputation for impatience. Perhaps it is a function of our country's relatively short stint on the world stage, as the young have notoriously short attention spans. Maybe it reflects our strong interest in speed, from horses to locomotives, then on to cars, jets, and now rockets. It could even be a by-product of commercial advertising, in which a hard-driving, quick-cut, pulsating 30 second montage can peddle everything from a laptop computer to a roaring pick-up truck to an ice cold soda. In any event, Americans want to get in, get going, and get out quickly. It's an idea best summarized by Groucho Marx in the 1930 film comedy *Animal Crackers*: "Hello, I must be going."

Our partner countries here in theater, most notably the Afghans themselves, tend to take a longer view. The enemy certainly does. Until recently, both friends and foes figured our coalition would be gone soon, probably undone by that U.S. tendency to lose interest and move on. Many had grown pessimistic. A few even remembered General George C. Marshall's warning from World War II: "A democracy cannot fight a seven years' war." Our coalition of democracies has been involved in this hard conflict for over a decade. Like Groucho Marx, a good number assumed "we must be going."

Recently, that all changed. Signed strategic agreements with the United States and other key partners, added to a ringing endorsement of an enduring commitment at the May 2012 Chicago Conference, allow Afghans

to see a future featuring close ties to the wider world. This proposed continuation of international help includes a robust security component.

True, Afghan forces will be in the lead nationwide by the middle of 2013. The International Security Assistance Force will be supporting Afghan combat operations until the end of the current arrangements on December 31, 2014. But that's not the end. A follow-on security assistance effort has been promised. Our command's core tasks of advice, assistance, and training look to be a big part of that enduring mission.

Both today and tomorrow, we have much to contribute. Working with our Afghan team mates, we have generated a force of almost 352,000 Soldiers, Airmen, and Police. We'll complete their training and outfitting by next year, and keep working during the next few campaign seasons to strengthen Afghan sustainment of these new units. Throughout the 2014-24 "Decade of Transformation," Afghan leader development will add depth and resilience to this effort. Throughout, we'll broaden and reinforce our advice, coaching, and education in the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior. In this kind of war, perseverance matters.

The Taliban assumed we would leave. Our Afghan comrades worried about it, too. But as we have learned, victory in a counterinsurgency is all about staying power. The defenders of Afghanistan aren't going anywhere. Neither are we. We'll be with them—shoulder-to-shoulder—both now and for the long run.

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Photo - Front Cover: Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Afghan National Army Chief of Army Staff salutes the Afghan National Army Special Operation Command (ANASOC) division guidon held by Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim, ANASOC Commander during the stand-up ceremony at Camp Commando.. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Rose)

Photo - Top: Afghan National Army Special Operation Command (ANASOC) Kandaks (battalions) pose for a photo during the stand-up ceremony for the first division-sized special operations force unit in Afghan history. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Rose)

Photo - Back Cover: Afghan Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Student Sgt. Zahidullah Khairkwa adjusts an MMP30 EOD robot while wearing a bomb suit during a training exercise at the Kabul Military Training Center. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Fahey)



## ANASOC Special Mission Wing starts its mission

Story and photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Lockwood  
NTM-A Public Affairs

The Afghan National Army commissioned its Special Mission Wing during a ceremony July 18, in Kabul, with the help, cooperation and assistance of mentors, trainers and advisers from NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan’s Embedded Training Team.

“It is a great pleasure to see the standup of the SMW,” said Bismillah Mohammadi, Afghanistan’s Minister of Interior through an interpreter. “It shows the increasing capability of the Afghan National Security Forces to provide security for the Afghan people.”

The SMW, however, isn’t exactly new. It developed from the Air Interdiction Unit, which conducted counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism missions for the Afghan National Security Forces.

With the growing need for Afghan-led aviation support to special operations, said a Coalition adviser for NTM-A, the SMW was established to create a single elite special operations aviation unit to support Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defense elite ground forces and ensure the security of Afghanistan.

The Special Mission Wing now works for the ANA Spe-

cial Operations Command Division, which was recently stood-up at a ceremony July 16. This air wing conducts multi-functional aviation operations in support of ANASOC priorities.

The new SMW missions are usually focused on special operations to include day and night air assault operations and other missions in support of ANSF special operating forces.

“Coordinating support for both the ANA and ANP will be the key to the SMW’s success,” said Gen. Sher Karimi, chief of Afghan National Army staff through an interpreter. “And as time passes, the ANSF is becoming, and will continue to become, more and more able to fight the enemies of Afghanistan.”

In addition to its fleet of MI-17 helicopters, the SMW will eventually include light fixed-wing aircraft to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

The SMW is planning to have operating bases throughout Afghanistan, and the ETT will continue to support the SMW throughout its development.



Afghan National Army Chief of Army Staff Gen. Sher Karimi speaks during a ceremony commissioning the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command’s Special Mission Wing, in Kabul.



# Afghan districts get officially defined borders

Story and photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Lockwood  
NTM-A Public Affairs

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance and the General Directorate of the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office, in support of the mission at NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan, formally defined the internal borders of each district in Afghanistan, June 25, in Kabul.

The declaration ended jurisdictional confusion among government institutions as well as coalition forces, like the Army and Police, by making the 2009 map the only recognized composition of the country.

In the 2007 version there were some mistakes and gaps in information, said Abdul Gheyas Wardak, provincial director of IDLG. By switching to the 2009 map we filled those gaps, we corrected those mistakes and can now meet the requirements of the people who need these maps.

The 2007 map was hastily drafted in preparation for an upcoming election, and the boundaries were drawn based on available information. After the election, though, the IDLG and AGCHO analysts found that a lot of villages weren't accounted for. So they went back and did a more thorough job of canvassing the districts and provinces. "So now this is an official statement saying stop using the 2007 map," said Roger Greenland, senior mentor for AGCHO. "2009 is the only official map of the districts of Afghanistan."

This decree can now assist officials and different ministries in their economic development projects, and national

priority programs, such as rebuilding existing, and building new, rural roads in the various provinces of Afghanistan, and defining property ownership.

"[With this decree the local official] will be able to say 'I need 60 kilometers of roads in this district', and can then work on getting it," Greenland explained.

"There's also the land use throughout the country," he said. "What's government land, what's private land, and what districts they're in and who's responsible for them."

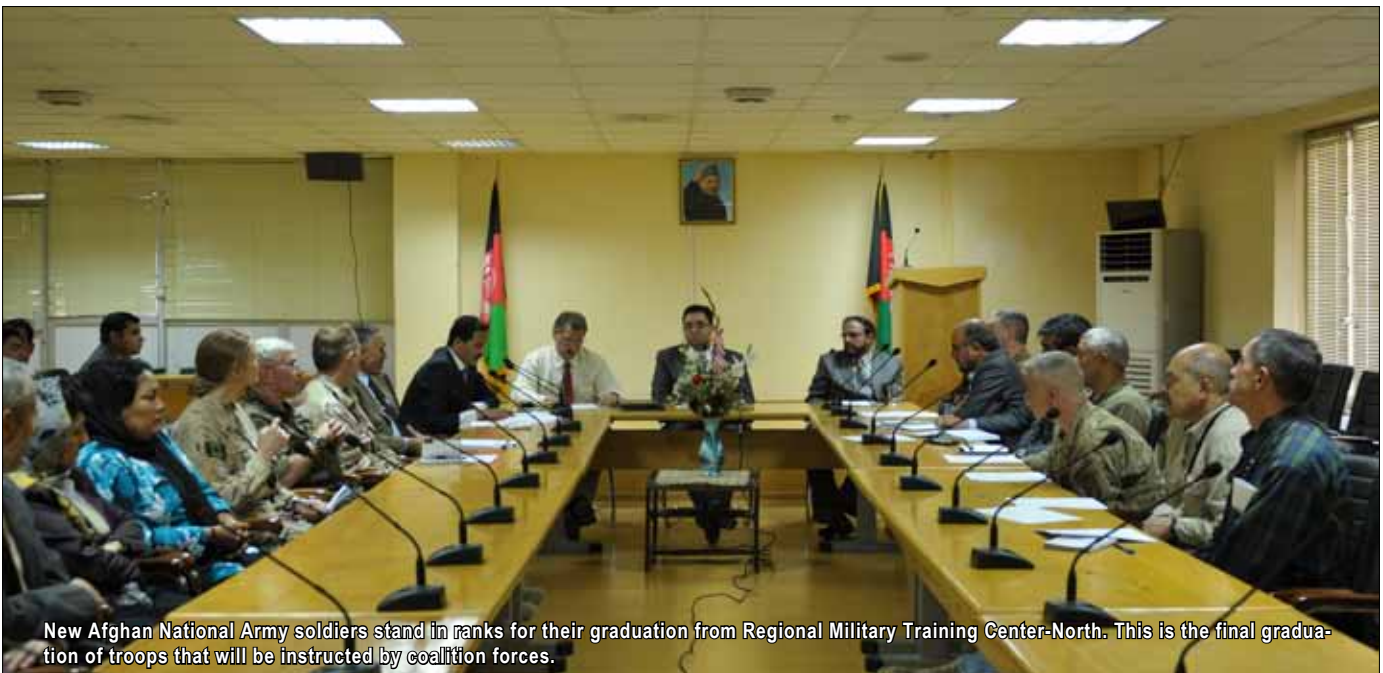
This decree also lets all Afghans know where to vote and/or what local government area to go to get government services. It makes it easier for the Afghan people to know who their political representatives are.

This decree only affects Afghanistan's internal borders, though. Afghanistan's internationally recognized borders are not affected.

It's like saying that America has so many states but its borders with Mexico and Canada don't change, but some of the state county boundaries lines will change, Greenland said.

IDLG will send out the notice to all provinces saying the map has been officially redrawn, and that they now have 60 days to start using it and stop using the 2007 version; Coalition forces have the same amount of time. The map will be advertised in local media as well.

This boundary data set will be distributed in hard copy, and upon request a scanned copy.



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.



## ANASOC stands up first division in Afghan history

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

The Afghan National Army Special Operation Command (ANASOC) hosted an official stand-up ceremony at Camp Commando, Kabul, Afghanistan July 16.

With the growth of the Commandos and Special Forces within the ANA, and with the addition of a special aviation and elite mobile strike force units, ANASOC grew from a brigade-sized element to the first division-sized special operations force unit in Afghan military history.

"Now that we have the ANASOC division, we will work together to scare the enemy so that the enemy will run away from us," said Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim, ANASOC commander.

The newly-formed division provides Afghan and Coalition forces with a distinctive unit that serves both as a command and staff for a unique, enduring and elite military organization.

"The best way to beat the enemy, defeat the enemy is to play with him the way that he plays," said Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Afghan National Army chief of staff,

through an interpreter. "You need small units, teams, to go after him where he hides."

After 10 years of Coalition forces partnering and mentoring ANASOC soldiers, there are now approximately 10,000 ANA soldiers serving within the division.

"Now that we have entered the third transition phase, where Coalition forces are handing over control to the Afghans, we will not let the enemy come to our areas," said Karimi. "You [ANASOC forces] are the most elite and you have the training to defeat the enemy in the direst conditions. This is the reason that we have this division covering the whole country, there will be no time and opportunity given to the enemy to move freely."

The mission of ANASOC is to organize, man, train, lead, and equip ANA special operations forces and to provide responsive and decisive action in support of Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan security objectives.

The ceremony concluded with Karimi hosting the first commanders conference since the stand-up of the division.



Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Afghan National Army Chief of Staff, was the guest speaker during the ANASOC stand-up ceremony at Camp Commando.



Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Afghan National Army Chief of Army Staff salutes the Afghan National Army Special Operation Command (ANASOC) division guidon held by Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim, ANASOC Commander during the stand-up ceremony at Camp Commando.



Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Afghan National Army Chief of Army Staff and Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim, Afghan National Army Special Operation Command (ANASOC) Commander perform a pass and review of the ANASOC soldiers before the start of the stand-up ceremony at Camp Commando.



Afghan National Army Special Operation Forces (ANASOC) soldiers stand in ranks during the stand-up ceremony at Camp Commando.



## ANP, AUP instructors brush up on counter-IED

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Bill Putnam  
Regional Support Command-Southwest/NTM-A Public Affairs

Lashkar Gah Training Center, Afghanistan – Afghan Uniformed and National Police instructors received a one-day refresher in detecting and dealing with improvised explosive devices June 14.

“Today was the counter-IED class, just giving them the basic information: the components of an IED, what are the indicators of an IED, how they can find them, and also some (tactics) to use around them,” said Benny Solis, a counter-IED instructor.

IEDs – as they’re commonly known - are the insurgency’s most prolific weapon.

The classroom was a large open area, covered in gravel. Solis and another instructor laid out several displays on the ground to teach the AUP and ANP officers – who are also instructors at LTC - how IEDs are built, how to spot IEDs, and what to do when they are discovered.

“Your third option and probably your best option... is to come back around... you still go back over and take care of the wounded... and you can send your dismounts up to

take care of the Taliban... any questions?” Solis explained through a translator as he moved pieces of wood and blue bottle caps representing an AUP patrol. “Somebody want to show me how the AUP do it?”

An AUP instructor ran through a couple of complex ambush scenarios. He used the training aids to show an AUP patrol. Next to the wood and bottle caps was a small pile of rocks with toy soldiers on it to represent insurgents.

“Yeah it’s good,” Benny said. “It’s your unit.”

The biggest lesson they picked on was indicators and spotting where insurgents will place IEDs, Solis said.

“Basically I think they really got the IED indicators and also the IED location where the enemy places the mines, and IEDs.”

After the class finished, Solis said, the police officers will teach the lessons to police recruits at LTC.

“Most of them already have some knowledge so we’re just rehashing some of the things they already know,” Solis explained.



Afghan National Police officer instructors watch Benny Solis, right, an instructor with Regional Support Command Southwest, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan, explain a counter improvised explosive device tactics during a train-the-trainer class at Lashkar Gah Training Center, Helmand province, Afghanistan.





An Afghan National Police officer instructors talks about counter improvised techniques during a C-IED train-the-trainer course at Lashkar Gah Training Center, Helmand province, Afghanistan.



## The first milestone of many at KMTTC

Story by Mr. Gary Hengstler

Images by Master Cpl. France Morin

Kabul Military Training Center Public Affairs

**F**or the past year, when it comes to Afghanistan, the emphasis in the news has largely been on the gradual withdrawal of foreign forces as the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) assume control of the nation's protection. At the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC), that reduction has already begun.

In a special ceremony in the marbled KMTTC auditorium, 80 Coalition advisors from four nations were individually thanked by Brigadier-General Aminullah Patyani, the KMTTC Commander, for their efforts in helping to build the Afghan National Army (ANA).

"This is the first stage of the transition at KMTTC," Col. Peter J. Williams, commander of the KMTTC Training Assistance Group, noted in opening the convocation. "I thank General Patyani whose idea it was to mark this occasion."

Patyani, who was the first KMTTC commander to have graduated from the training facility, stressed that KMTTC "was not like this 10 years ago, and I want to thank everyone for your support and what together we have built here." Recalling the lack of facilities in the beginning, he praised the expansion and variety of courses now available at KMTTC, particularly the non-commissioned officer training that "has helped make our army more professional."

Singling out the Greek contingent in particular, he

thanked them for their service and the mutual respect the ANA and Greek soldiers held for each other. Expanding on that theme, he thanked all the Coalition advisers not only for their sensitivity to Afghanistan's religious and cultural heritage, but also for "respecting the policies and regulations of the ANA and KMTTC."

Patyani assured his audience of nearly 200, "Afghanistan's people will remember your service. Our country has a history of hospitality and we will return to resolving issues peacefully in the future. I have visited other nations, and I realized that the enemy is not just the enemy of Afghanistan, but of all nations. So we were glad to join the fight. But the goal remains the same—to establish and keep the peace."

Afterwards, in separate flag-lowering ceremony at Camp Alamo, the Coalition establishment co-located with KMTTC, the Greek Commander, Lt. Col. Stravopodis Charalampos thanked the Coalition colleagues for their support and friendship.

Williams also paid tribute to the contribution of the Greek contingent. "All of us have studied history, and we are well aware that Greece is known as the birthplace of democracy," he said, thanking them for helping to bring democratic principles to Afghanistan and for the ANSF.

Col. Peter Williams, commander of the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC) Training Advisory Group (TAG), Lt. Col. Stravopodis Charalampos, commander of the Greek contingent, Maj. Nikolaos Krokos, senior Greek adviser with the Special Skills Battalion, and Lt. Col. Paul Payne, KMTTC TAG Chief of Staff salute as the Greek flag is lowered during the Capability Milestone ceremony held in Camp Alamo, co-located at KMTTC near Kabul, Afghanistan.





# ANA Holds Off Enemy While Observing the Holy Month of Ramazan

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

**A**fghan National Army (ANA) soldiers retain their fighting capabilities through training and missions while observing the Islamic holiday Ramazan.

We have changed the training schedule to earlier in the morning in order for soldiers to observe Ramazan," said Afghan National Army Brig. Gen Dawlat Waziri, Department of Social Relations, Parliamentary and Public Affairs.

Ramazan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Throughout Ramazan, Muslims abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs during the daylight hours.

"It is a time for Muslims to purify their souls, refocus attention on God, and practice self-sacrifice," according to Islam-guide.com

Muslims learn to restrain their bodies from all temptations. By cutting oneself off from worldly comforts, a fasting person gains true sympathy with those who go hungry, as well as growth in his or her spiritual life according to Islam-guide.com

"As a Muslim there are five pillars that you believe in," said Waziri, "the first one is the holy wars, the second is praying, the third one is Ramazan, the fourth one is giving charity, and the fifth one is that you take the pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca and pray to God to wash them clean of all sins, in order to become a Hajji."

At the Kabul Military Training Center, the training itself has not changed all that much. Soldiers are still going out in the field conducting maneuvers, attending classes and carry out drill practice and parades. The time spent training has been reduced to accommodate the soldiers' observation of Ramazan. Due to Ramazan, the soldiers are up early in the morning to eat and pray, and then stay up to start their training day as normal. Depending on the specific training for that day, they may train into the early afternoon. There is more praying and general duty-type work until the evening when they eat and pray again.

"Combat operations have been launched by different ANA units around the country and there have been no negative effects on the soldiers as a result of Ramazan," said Waziri. "The lack of food and drink during Ramazan can help train the body of an ANA soldier that is in a combat zone and not able to eat or drink as much as the normal soldier."

During Ramazan, the ANA has stood-up the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command (ANASOC), which is the first division size command in Afghanistan's history. The Special Mission Wing (SMW), aviation branch of ANA special operations, had their first Afghan planned, lead, and flown night operation.

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.



Afghan Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Student Sgt. Zahidullah Khairkwa adjusts an MMP30 EOD robot while wearing a bomb suit during a training exercise at the Kabul Military Training Center. photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Chris Fahey, NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan.

