



**A Danish military police officer (second from left) observes Afghan civilian police officers taking part in a situational training scenario involving the arrest of a “criminal” (played by a Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army Europe) (second from right) during POMLT training.**

## JMRC Hosts Training Event for Afghan Police and the NATO Forces Slated to Train Them

*By Sergeant Joel Salgado*

The U.S. Army Europe Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) has begun helping to improve the skills of, and foster partnerships between, U.S., Danish, and Afghan security forces by hosting the first Police Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (POMLT) training event.

The objective of the POMLT is to train Afghan civilian police officers in the skills needed to perform their law enforcement duties, while simultaneously training and mentoring the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces who will deploy to Afghanistan to teach them those skills. And while Danish military police soldiers help Afghan police officers improve their skills, the Afghans educate the Danes about the challenges that NATO troops will face while they are deployed.

The two-week training event, which began 9 November 2010, consisted of two portions. During the first portion, POMLT students received classroom instruction on the fundamentals of police skills and the Afghan rule of law. The second portion consisted of field exercises that required students to put their classroom skills to practical use. One of the field exercises was focused on survival training, which helped build the combat skills necessary to operate in a counterinsurgency environment.

The training culminated in a series of situational training exercise lanes that provided the Danes with an opportunity to mentor the Afghan police officers through realistic scenarios similar to events that might actually be encountered in Afghanistan. “The most important thing today is that [the Afghan police officers] actually do what we’ve spent the last couple of days learning, with us standing right by their side,” said a Danish participant. “They need to show us that they can do it without us telling them what to do,” he added.

The Afghan police officers put their classroom and survival skills to use during the situational training exercise lanes, completing a joint cordon-and-search mission that briefly encompassed another JMRC training event. Romanian troops who were taking part in separate Operational Mentor and Liaison Team training and Czechoslovakian forces who were playing the role of a foreign military force in that training supported the POMLT situational training exercise lanes by establishing a cordon around a mock village. The POMLT training participants then searched the village for two suspected insurgents and collected evidence that helped uncover a nearby weapons cache. The POMLT students passed

information about the cache to the Romanian and Czechoslovakian troops who blocked the suspects' escape and secured the cache following a short engagement with insurgent forces.

An observer/controller trainer with JMRC's "Raptor" Team indicated that training Afghan police officers is a key component of building that country's security and that it helps move Afghanistan closer to the day that it can take full responsibility for its own defense. "Without a legitimate, strong police force, Afghanistan or Iraq—or any other country we go to—aren't going to be able to accomplish the mission," he said.

**Note.** Headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, the U.S. Army Europe—along with NATO and other coalition partners from throughout the 51-country area of responsibility—trains for, supports, and conducts contingency operations. There are U.S. Army Europe forces located throughout Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Romania, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

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