



Story by U.S. Army
Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis
OMC-A Public Affairs Office

KABUL, Afghanistan—The reconstruction of Afghanistan's security and defense sectors is critical to its establishment as a stable nation able to deter and defeat terrorism within its borders. Essential to this reconstruction effort is the development of a supporting infrastructure, designed to sustain the Afghan National Army as it accomplishes its mission.

A significant part of this infrastructure development is the construction of several 3,500-man brigade base complexes throughout the country's four regional commands.

A total of 14 brigade complexes are being developed, but long before these bases are put in place, a team of engineers from the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan puts in many hours of planning and research.

One of the latest projects being developed by the team is a new brigade base at Jalalabad in Afghanistan's Nangarhar

Engineers plan next ANA brigade site



U.S. Army Photo

This aerial view shows a nearly-completed Afghan National Army brigade complex. Each complex supports 3,500 soldiers, costs approximately \$75 million and takes about 12 months to complete. Of the ANA's requirement for 14 brigade bases, eight are either already completed or are currently under contract to be built.

Province where Maj. Andrew Kirkner, an engineer with the Defense Resource Sector directorate at OMC-A, recently led a site reconnaissance for the new base.

"The recon allows us to look at the terrain, to see whether it is suitable for construction," said Kirkner. "We prefer relatively flat terrain because it is easiest to build on and keeps the cost of the project down."

Prior to putting the engineer team on the ground, an enormous amount of planning must

be done. First, OMC-A's Strategic Reform Team works with the Afghan Ministry of Defense to select strategic locations for the ANA's force structure. The MOD then identifies general sites for each brigade using military maps.

According to U.S. Navy engineer Chief Petty Officer Mark Boice, "When we get the maps from the MOD, there is a four-kilometer box or two marked on the map in the location they want to establish a brigade site. Most of the sites are owned by the MOD already, which

greatly reduces potential conflicts with land owners."

The initial site visit, however, involves much more than just looking at a piece of land. During the trip to Jalalabad, members of the MOD joined the OMC-A engineer team to conduct the site survey. The engineers and their Afghan counterparts first had to determine if the site could be supported logistically. If the site supports the area of operation, they then look for access to water, electricity and other facilities necessary for

the support of a 3,500-man, brigade element.

“Once the MOD approves the site location, our next step is to get a formal Land Use Agreement. Simultaneously, we work with the Afghan Engineer District to prepare the Statement of Work and other documents necessary to release a contract,” said Kirkner.

The project is then released to contractors for open bidding. Proposals are received and evaluated, and the contract is awarded to the best bidder, considering numerous factors such as cost, quality of work and time required to complete the project.

Kirkner said, “Once the contract is awarded, we work with contractor on design and build

issues and any unforeseen construction problems. It is a continual process and often requires us to travel to the location to deal with issues on the ground.”


A brigade complex like the one to be built in Jalalabad consists of a brigade headquarters, a garrison headquarters, three Infantry kandak (battalion) complexes, a combat support complex, a combat service support complex, and also includes an administrative building, maintenance facility and a dining facility.

Additionally, the complex will support a water distribution system, an electrical power plant and a waste-water treatment plant.

Each brigade project costs approximately \$75 million and takes

about 12 months to complete. Of the ANA’s requirement for 14 brigade bases, eight are either already completed or are currently under contract. Two more will be under contract by the end of May.

The placement of Afghan National Army brigades throughout every region of the country ensures that soldiers are positioned in the areas needed to provide peace and security for the people of Afghanistan.

In the meantime, while the MOD selects one of the three sites available for the Jalalabad brigade complex, Kirkner will take another crew to the Paktika Province to help get another brigade location underway. 



Left: Navy engineer Chief Petty Officer Mark Boice, right, from the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan, conducts a map reconnaissance of potential Afghan National Army brigade complex sites with engineers from the Afghan Ministry of Defense during a recent survey mission to Jalalabad in Afghanistan’s Nangarhar Province. **Below:** One of three locations selected for a reconnaissance survey for the future site of a brigade complex in Jalalabad.



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis