

July 2007

# *The* Combined Security Transition Command **ENDURING** *Ledger*



Vol. 1 Issue 1

## Leader's Look Forward



Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians of the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, I am grateful for your service to your country and for your commitment in assisting the Afghan National Security Forces reach primacy.

Our goal is to build a "stand-alone" army and police force that can take on and defeat the Taliban, al Qaeda and other enemies of Afghanistan. I give you my

pledge to provide the best leadership, direction and most of all, uncompromising dedication to accomplishing this very important mission.

Our charter – to equip, train and mentor the professional men and women of the Afghanistan National Army and National Police – will have an impact, not only today, but on the future of this great nation.

The "way ahead" will be both challenging and rewarding, and there undoubtedly will be some difficult days, but together and in partnership with our Afghan brethren we will succeed in building a secure and prosperous Afghanistan for the future.

Once again, I am honored to serve with you and look forward to a great ride!

*Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone  
Commanding General*

## CSTC-A Mission Statement

**The mission of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the international community, is to plan, program and implement structural, organizational, institutional and management reforms of the Afghanistan National Security Forces in order to develop a stable Afghanistan, strengthen the rule of law and deter and defeat terrorism within its borders.**

*The Enduring Ledger is a monthly publication of CSTC-A. CSTC-A Commander Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone  
Public Affairs Officer Lt. Col. David G. Johnson*

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## Warrior of the Month



Staff Sgt. Shervonne Haskins is the Human Resource Sergeant in CSTC-A's CJ-1 office and is our inaugural Warrior of the Month. Haskins came here from Bamberg, Germany, in June 2006. She's been serving in the Army for six years and has previously deployed to Kosovo.

During off-duty time, she improves her professional skills by working on an Associates degree in Management Studies from the University of Maryland. Eventually Haskins would like to complete a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management, and use it to help her community.

"That's what I like to do is take care of people and get them where they need to be," she said.

Originally from Ohio and Virginia, Haskins has two sisters and four brothers. Having grown up going to church, she practices her faith here by singing and leading the choir.

"I want to make people happy," Haskins said. She enjoys making people happy because "God is the source of everything."

of U.S. Central Command, presided over the ceremony and awarded Durbin with the Defense Superior Service Medal prior to the ceremony.

*Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone  
Commanding General*

## The Enduring Ledger Staff

Director - Lt. Col. David G. Johnson  
Deputy director - Lt. Clint Larson  
NCOIC - Petty Officer 1st Class Dave Votroubek  
Editor - Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch  
Journalist - Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Cohen  
DVIDS NCO - Sgt. William Signorelli

**Visit the CSTC-A Web site at  
<http://oneteam.centcom.mil>**

# CSTC-A's new road ahead

## First change of command demonstrates partnership

*Story and photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Cohen*

KABUL – Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan received a new commanding general at a change of command ceremony here July 16.

Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone took the reigns of command from Maj. Gen. Robert E. Durbin, becoming CSTC-A's second commanding general.

Adm. William J. Fallon, commander

of U.S. Central Command, presided over the ceremony and awarded Durbin with the Defense Superior Service Medal prior to the ceremony.

Cone stated his resolve to make the Afghan National Security Forces self sufficient, helping to build capacity and capability.

The ceremony was held in partnership with the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police at the Afghan Command and General Staff College.

Also at the ceremony were the Afghan Minister of Defense and Minister of the Interior.



**Left - The Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan's color guard presents the colors during the change of command ceremony held July 16. Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone relieved Maj. Gen Robert E. Durbin.**

**More photos on Pages 8 & 9**

## Camp Eggers' MWR

**Hip Hop Fitness - Come sweat to the beats of the latest hip hop music every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 6 p.m.**

**Boxing Lessons - Learn how to box at the Clam Shell every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6 p.m.**

**BINGO - Come and play BINGO every Wednesday on the patio at 7 p.m. for a chance to win prizes.**

**Spinning Class - Spinning is a low-impact exercise and is set to music. Classes are held every day at 4:30 p.m., except Thursday, which starts at 4 p.m.**

**Bench Press Competition - Test your strength against others on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Clam Shell.**

## Religious Services

**Christian  
Sunday: 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.**

**Roman Catholic Mass  
Saturday: 4 p.m.**

**Latter Day Saints  
Friday: 12:30 p.m.**

**Jewish  
Friday: 7 p.m. Camp Phoenix Chapel**

**Muslim  
Saturday - Thursday: 1 p.m.**

**Call the Camp Eggers' Chapel for more information at DSN 237-3606/3540**

# The only petunia in Afghanistan

## Chaplain's Thoughts

By Capt. James Fisher, Command Chaplain

CAMPEGGERS -- As the cold snows of an Afghanistan winter subsided and the warm breezes of spring caressed the cheeks of the military personnel residing at Camp Eggers, I knew that it was time to plant some Illinois seeds in a foreign soil.

So I asked my wife to send the seeds and I determined to till the ground, as effectively as a distant son of Adam could do. As I started to break the ground, the Lonestar groundskeeper rushed forward with concern.

As it turned out, our groundskeeper, Mohammad, also a distant son of Adam, was likewise a transplant to Kabul coming from the north where his first occupation was farming.

After tilling the ground things got competitive. The seeds had arrived, we divided them and Mohammad planted half of the garden "the Afghan way" and I planted half of the garden "the American way."

Swing by the cabana at Lonestar and you be the judge regarding the best way. Mohammad's corn, sunflowers and pumpkins came up tallest, but my zucchini, squash and beans have produced first fruits which are already being eaten.

But, here's the thing in the mix of seeds, and tall corn, and short zucchini and spreading pumpkin vines, somehow, somewhere, a petunia seed got mixed in.

And there along the edge of the garden where the watermelons should be is a purple flower the only petunia in Afghanistan out of place, obvious in its distinctive color, a singular oddity in a foreign soil. God only knows how it

ended up here among the vegetables.

And, yet, it is beautiful in its uniqueness and simplicity.

As I look upon the faces of my CSTC-A brothers and sisters, I realize that the illustration of the petunia can be applied across the spectrum of our common experience.

The mother who was watching over her children in South Carolina suddenly finds herself in battle-rattle and casting her watchful eyes over a convoy. A Sailor from Norfolk finds himself amongst Army green and far from the festivities that are a part of every sea-port town.

Our Air Force comrades wonder when they will again play a round of golf...singular oddities in a foreign soil, separated from our nation, our families, our lifestyles.

Be assured, however, that unlike the only petunia in Af-

ghanistan, you really are not out of place. For each of us, Afghanistan is our individual point of divine encounter. We are not here by accident.

Our military comrades are now our families, we contribute to the development of individual Afghans and the whole of Afghanistan, and we are a distinctive part of God's creative plan, right now, and where we are. Like the petunia in the garden, you may be out of place....but there is a sense of beauty in your presence.

So, like the "only" petunia In Afghanistan, don't fight the experience. You've been planted here, take the opportunity to blossom. And, let your personal beauty be an inspiration to all who cast their sights upon you.

"But, here's the thing...in the mix of seeds, and tall corn, and short zucchini and spreading pumpkin vines, somehow, somewhere, a petunia seed got mixed in." Capt. James Fisher

## CSTC-A public affairs stringer program

What is a stringer? A stringer is a person who is not part of the Public Affairs staff, but contributes articles and photographs to a newspaper or in our case, Camp Eggers' "The Enduring Ledger" magazine.

Projects are often hard for us in the CSTC-A Public Affairs Office to reach. Because stringers are well-situated and informed, they can become our eyes and ears. This saves us time and improves our accuracy.

CSTC-A PAO manages a stringer

program and provides training. Trained stringers will then gather pertinent information; even if it's only the bare facts and a photograph, an article can be made from it. Video or sound recordings are useful too. Interviews can even be done by telephone or e-mail.

PAO will prepare the story for the target audience and distribute it to the media. The stories will become articles for the magazine and our website.

Anyone can be a stringer. All you need is an interest in CSTC-A's orga-

nization and mission, along with some basic writing skills. As a stringer, you can contribute as often or seldom as you like. Any submissions are welcome.

This is an opportunity to use your expertise; help tell our story and get published. If interested, please contact:

Petty Officer 1st Class David Votroubek  
CSTC-A PAO NCOIC  
DSN: 237-3514  
Cell: 070068613

# Police Reform, Top to Bottom



Afghan National Auxiliary Police recruits learn squad movement tactics at the Regional Training Center in Jalalabad.

Story and photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Coben  
Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan  
Public Affairs

KUNAR – Since the U.S. led invasion of Afghanistan to topple the Taliban in October 2001, the focus has been on rebuilding a nation. One of the keys to creating a stable Afghanistan is the development of a professional police force.

The responsibility for standing up the Afghan National Police fell to the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, working closely with the Afghan Ministry of the Interior to train, mentor and equip the fledgling force.

Nearly seven years later, the process is still ongoing. The partnership to bring reform to the ANP starts at the highest levels and is working its way down to the street.

Brig. Gen. Abdul Jalal Jalal, Kunar police chief, talked about what he was doing to bolster his forces in the region.

"In order to tackle reform, you need to correct yourself first," Jalal said. "We are currently focusing on our own organization. We have brought more than an 80 percent reduction in corruption in the Kunar Police Department."

He said this was done by looking inward, using internal measures to track down corruption and root it out.

"We used our criminal investigation department to fight corruption at all levels," he said. "We had to get a gauge on the amount of corruption there was and then we made plans

for countering administrative corruption in other government organizations in the province."

The efforts are paying off for Jalal and his police officers.

"I think I have one of the finest departments in Afghanistan," Jalal said. "We have a good relationship with the people of our community and they help us track down leads on criminals and Taliban insurgents. Having the people of Kunar on our side shows we are doing our job well."

U.S. Army Col. Kim Hooper, commander of the Regional Police Advisory Team – Central, is leading the charge for reform and progress on the coalition side in this area of Afghanistan.

Hooper, who was originally slated for a one-year tour in Afghanistan, recently extended to complete an additional year, stating there was still work to be done.

Hooper talked about the relationships and bonds he has formed over the past year and wanted to help Afghanistan continue on its current path toward stability.

"The year I have been here I have seen some tremendous progress in the police departments across my region of responsibility," Hooper said.

Continuing in his efforts to move along reform, Hooper commands teams of mentors who travel out to all the central area provinces.

**Right - U.S. Army Col. Kim Hooper, commander, Regional Police Advisory Team - Central, helps pull security when his convoy gets stuck between Jalalabad and Kabul when a tractor trailer overturned on the narrow pass.**



“Our job is to work with the regional, provincial and district headquarters of the Afghan National Police, Afghan Border Police and the new Afghan Civil Order Police in order to develop them into effective leadership organizations,” Hooper said. “The key is to help them modernize and reform the ANP so they are an effective, competent arm of the government.”

Hooper and his team of mentors are working on five specific areas to help with the ongoing reform.

“We have our mentors ideally working daily with the staffs in: logistics, operations, training, pay and administration,” he said. “These are the core organizational functions. The end result will be the police officer on some checkpoint or dealing with the community is paid, fed, clothed, armed and trained so he can perform his functions and serve the Afghan people.”

There are challenges faced on both sides of the aisle, both coalition forces and their Afghan counterparts struggle to bring about changes and make improvements.

Jalal knows there is still a long ways to go, but he points to the many successes his men have had in the past year since he has taken command in Kunar.

“Our counter narcotic efforts continue and have been very successful,” Jalal said “We have eradicated more than 3 1/2 hectares of poppy fields in Kunar, despite having very limited resources with us, but we make due with what we have on hand.”

Hooper hopes to affect change on a broader scale.

“We have to effect changes of organizational culture, on how the Afghans think about their job and how they go about

doing their job,” he said. “What we would call professionalism is a different concept here. We are trying to change these attitudes so people will follow the rules so the organization as a whole will run efficiently, versus doing something for personal gain.”

Police advisors are working from the top to bring about these reforms. It is an enormous undertaking to build a professional police organization from scratch and the first task is to find effective leaders willing to take the lead, said Hooper.

“If you have good leaders who are willing to change and see the benefits to the people and country of Afghanistan, we work with them,”

**Left - An Afghan National Police officer calls out instructions to police officers standing at the gate to the Asadabad police station.**



Hooper said. “They set the tone and character for their organizations. There are rules and regulations out there as you would expect for organizations like the Afghan National Police and the Ministry of the Interior, but that is not how most things usually work.

“Things actually work in a more traditional manner, personal connections and so forth. We have mentors working at all levels to affect change; the cultural change has to be across the entire spectrum from the very top to the boots on the ground to the police on some checkpoint. We have to build a relationship with them through frequent contact, daily contact to help them make the systems the police have

in place work.”

Jalal has worked closely with Hooper throughout the past year and he sees the benefits of rooting out corruption and making sure his administrative processes are working smoothly. The transformation to a professional police force can be seen anywhere throughout Kunar, said Jalal.

“Police personnel in Kunar are well trained and educated. If you go to any remote district of the province you will find disciplined and uniformed police,” he said. “Therefore I am very happy with my police officers and they are making great strides.”



**Above - An Afghan National Auxiliary Police recruit practices squad movements with others in his class. They are learning how to move in a tactical situation under enemy fire.**

**Left - Afghan National Auxiliary Police recruits stand in formation learning how to set up roadblocks and checkpoints.**

**Far left - The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's flag flies over the Kunar police headquarters building in the provincial capital of Asadabad.**



# Combined Security Transition Command Change of Command



Top – Afghan Defense Minister Abdul Wardak receives honors from the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police honor guards as he makes his entrance into the Afghan Command and General Staff College for the CSTC-A change of command compound.

Top Right – Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command, salutes the national colors during the presentation.

Right – Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command, salutes the formation to his front.



Below – Afghan National Army soldiers stand at the position of attention during the change of command ceremony.

Right – The joint color guard presents the colors to the commander of troops at the beginning of the ceremony.

Bottom – Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone, commanding general of CSTC-A, addresses the formation during the ceremony.



Photos by:  
 Petty Officer 1st Class Dave Votroubek  
 and  
 Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Cohen



# AFGHAN SWAT

Training the best

Afghan National Police go through SWAT training, learning how to operate in small tactical units.

Story and photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Cohen  
Combined Security Transition Command, Afghanistan  
Public Affairs

KABUL – The battle against the Taliban is an ongoing fight throughout Afghanistan. One of the groups leading the charge against terrorists and insurgents is the Afghan National Police.

Recently a new capability is being added to make the ANP an even stronger force to be able to battle and defeat the enemies of Afghanistan. The Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP), will be an elite group of police officers filling a variety of roles.

Superintendent James Rainville, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is currently assigned as a mentor with Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan and is in a lead role helping to develop the Afghan’s police capabilities.

“These police officers have already finished basic training, some have been on the police force for a couple of years or more,” Rainville said. “They recently completed a 60-day course in advanced police training

and tactics focused on team building, unit cohesiveness and upgrading skills and abilities before becoming a fully operational unit.”

The police officers undergoing ANCOP training learn to work in small tactical teams, requiring dedicated professionals, said Rainville.

“These (police officers) are the cream of the crop,” he said. “The police officers coming through this program are about 90 percent literate, which is very high for Afghanistan. They are eager to learn and they are catching on very fast.”

The 300 officers going through training here are being instructed by coalition military and civilian mentors.

Sgt. 1st Class Warren Bockhol, an embedded trainer from Task Force Phoenix VI, assigned to the 201st Corps, is working with students to hone their skills.

“These guys are motivated and want to learn,” Bockhol said. “They want to be here and it shows.”

The skills they learn will help keep them in the fight and establish dominance over their enemy.



ANCOP recruits clear the closet in the back of a room making sure there is nothing dangerous hiding in the corners.

“We are teaching them SWAT techniques, some of these are very similar to infantry skills we use in the field,” Bockhol said. “Cordon and search are things we do in an urban environment; these are things they will need to do as well.”

Cordon and search refers to clearing buildings and making sure each room is methodically secured and safe.

“We’re teaching them how to go room-by-room, making sure it is safe to proceed,” Bockhol said. “We are still in the ‘walking’ phase of instruction. They are learning theory and application. By the time they finish this training they will be effective operators.”

Not every police officer will be in the SWAT unit.

“This is as much a selection process as it is training,” Rainville said.

Those who do not make the cut for SWAT will still be part of ANCOP, but used in the other roles such as crowd and riot control.

“We are looking for people who can shoot accurately, think on their feet, take and follow orders,” said Scott Hill, a DynCorp ANCOP training mentor. “We need them to be responsive and take in the situation and understand how it is developing.”

Hill, a 13-year veteran of a sheriff’s department, says it is not about shooting or hurting people.

“When a SWAT team enters a building they are going in there to rescue people,” Hill said. “The last thing they want to do is go in there, start shooting and kill the wrong person. Discipline is a key part to working in a SWAT unit, as is teamwork and communication.”

Sgt. Abdul Shokoor is an ANP officer and has worn the uniform for the past three years. He is motivated and is a standout among his peers, according to Bockhol. Talking to him reveals a dedicated officer who wants to serve with the best Afghanistan has to offer.

“I want to serve my country and make Afghanistan safe for the people,” said Shokoor. “Being part of ANCOP has given me the chance to learn new skills and serve with the best. The instructors are excellent and are willing to share their experience with us. They really make this training worthwhile.”

Rainville is glad to see the progress in the overall training program.

“When these units go into the field they will be on par with any police unit in the West,” he said. “They will have the best training and the best equipment in Afghanistan and will be capable to carry out the tough missions with success.”

These police officers will be assigned to Kabul with future classes planned in other provinces throughout Afghanistan.



Top - Coalition forces, acting as mentors to the ANP, show ANCOP students the proper way to enter and clear a building. About 300 ANP officers are going through the class.

Above - Superintendent James Rainville, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, talks with his Afghan counterpart about issues and challenges the training site encounters.

# Air Corps mentor ends tour

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class David Votroubek  
Combined Security Transition Command-  
Afghanistan Public Affairs

KABUL - When Col. John Hansen began his work with the Afghan National Army Air Corps in October of 2005, he found only a remnant of the former Afghan air force. A force that once had 500 aircraft was reduced to only a few flyable craft. However, he was also amazed to find a small but dedicated group of pilots and maintenance people who'd managed to keep a few of those aircraft flying. He decided to build on that human capital.

"I'll never forget my first trip to the airport," he said. "I was driving around the ruins of the airport; thinking about how daunting the task was."

Starting in a single small office with only three people, the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan's air corps mission has grown to include more than 60 personnel. Forty-four former Afghan air force officers have also been hired recently as contractors to mentor the renewed air corps.

The Afghans have been so eager to learn that the program has had to expand to catch up with them. For the last 18 months they've worked to upgrade their computer skills, logistics, maintenance and safety practices in order to modernize their force. Slowly, the minimum standards have risen.

"It hasn't always been pretty. Imagine a twenty-five year evolution compressed into two years," said Hansen.

Not only did the Afghans learn by instruction, they also learned by watching their mentors. In fact, Hansen gives most of the mentoring credit to his non-commissioned officers. The payoff came on May 16, 2007, when the ANA Air Corps finally met their goal of fly-



Brig. Gen. Frank Padilla, Combined Air Power Transition Force commanding general, presents the Bronze Star to Col. John Hansen for his work as mentor to the ANA Air Corps. Photo provided by Maj. Jeffrey Wilmoth. BELOW: ANA soldiers return from the 2007 Victory Day parade while Air Corps L-39 aircraft pass overhead.

ing President Hamid Karzai in Afghanistan aircraft with an Afghan crew. Previously he'd always flown in coalition aircraft. Another goal was to be able to support ANA ground combat operations

remembers the astonished looks when the ANA troops realized that they'd be flown into combat aboard their own helicopters, and the look of pride on the faces of the Afghan aircrews.



Hansen is convinced that Afghan citizens have greater confidence in their government when they see their aircraft in flight. This was demonstrated recently with the fly-bys during the Victory Day parade in May. Aircraft simply didn't fly during the Taliban era, explained CSTC-A Air Corps executive officer, Maj. Jeffrey Wilmoth.

Col. Hansen is so dedicated to the rebirth of the air corps he extended his tour in Afghanistan. He is now finishing up two years of service here. Wilmoth summarized Hansen's importance to the renewed air corps by saying simply, "Everyone knows him. He is Afghan when he leaves, it will be the end of an era."

in support of Task Force Falcon. Hansen

# Bala Hissar stands guard again



The old fort of Bala Hissar houses the fledgling Afghan intelligence services, overlooking Kabul.

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class David Votroubek  
Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan  
Public Affairs Office

Kabul - The historic Bala Hissar Castle is again the First Fort in the defense of Afghanistan. However it isn't the "castle" that's important for the future of Afghanistan, it is what is happening within those crumbling walls. Students are coming from all over Afghanistan to participate in the training offered there. On July 5, 2007, students graduated and celebrated the school's first anniversary.

"This is a national course," said Afghan senior instructor, Col. Rahimullah.

Civilian contractors, Bob Halsell and Ike Merrill, began developing the training program in March 2006, with the first class beginning on July 1, 2006. At first, the school was a single room in the dining facility below the fortress with no

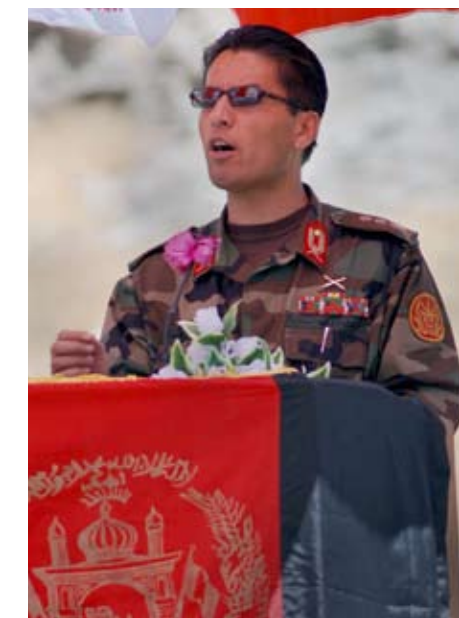
ventilation, very limited electricity, and furnished with plywood desks and benches built by the students. Last March the school was able to move to a bigger and newer building within the castle walls on top of the hill with multiple classrooms, real chairs, tables, and a backup generator for electricity. Even that isn't enough to keep up with the demand.

The students overflow every class in their eagerness to learn, even though they go to school on their own time. After class most go to work at their regular jobs. The school is expanding to include more advanced classes and additional trainers to fulfill the demand for training. Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan provides the logistical support and operating costs.

Right - Col. Christopher Ballard, the director of Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan's CJ-2, salutes a graduate of the Basic Intelligence Course taught at the Bala Hissar castle in Kabul.



Far Right - Maj. Gen. Payenda of Afghan National Army Intelligence speaks to the graduates during the graduation ceremony for The Basic Intelligence Course.



To date, over 500 students have completed the 22-day course.

The plan is to have the school taught and run by Afghans, with only minimal assistance being required from U.S. trainers and mentors by the end of next year.

Understanding the Afghan culture and using it to help the students learn is the prime method of instruction used at the training center. Teachers are highly respected in Afghan culture and the Afghan instructor training course used at the training center ensures that they are well prepared and live up to the expectations of their culture. In every graduation speech Halsell encourages all of the students to share what they've learned when they get back to their units, thus making every student a teacher.

The school also stresses cooperation. Halsell tells a story about watching students driving to class stopping to pick up their classmates who were walking to the school. It was notable because they represented multiple government agencies and were helping each other. In Afghanistan you have to go slow to go fast.

As Halsell reminded them in his graduation speech, "You are all brothers in this fight; you are Bala Hissar - the First Fort Defending Afghanistan."



Above - The school building for teaching the Basic Intelligence Course is located within the Bala Hissar (First Fort) in Kabul.

Right - Faculty, staff and graduates render honors during the Afghan national anthem. The staff of the Basic Intelligence Course makes it a point to emphasize Afghan culture.



Above - Bob Halsell, a civilian instructor and administrator of the Basic Intelligence Course, watches students graduate at the Bala Hissar castle in Kabul. The Basic Intelligence Course is designed to help graduates to understand and prepare their operating environment better.



Two light tactical vehicles, painted red for the Afghan National Police's Fire Department, are part of a large donation of gear to help bolster the department's aging equipment, some of which is more than 30 years old.

## U.S. blazes in, to outfit Afghan firefighters

*Story and photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Cohen  
Combined Security Transition Command, Afghanistan  
Public Affairs*

KABUL – The U.S. government donated firefighting equipment to the Afghan National Police recently, in a first step to build the infrastructure and capability of the firefighters throughout the country.

Light tactical vehicles and personal protective equipment known as bunker gear were transferred to the general in charge of the Afghan National Firefighters. The LTVs are light pick-up trucks; the same type used by the ANP and will be the primary command and control vehicles for the fire departments.

"This is a monumental event," said Capt. Adam Minnich, police reform directorate, Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan. "We are turning over 10 red utility vehicles and \$500,000 of protective equipment. They are getting the latest and greatest in fire fighting equipment. All of it is top of the line.

"The current state of equipment issue for the fire departments across Afghanistan is unacceptable. This came to light a few months ago, after a major fire ripped through the city of Jalalabad."

Currently the fire department in Kabul has about 10 Russian fire trucks, all are about 30-50 years old.

"The U.S. Embassy asked us what are we going to do about equipping the fire department," Minnich said. "We are preparing to provide protective gear, pumpers, tenders and crash fire rescue vehicles, starting here in Kabul and over the next couple of years have enough for all the provinces in Afghanistan."

Brig. Gen. Alhaj Amanullah, Afghan National fire chief, was eager to accept the equipment.



An Afghan National Police officer test drives a new light tactical emergency response vehicle.

"We needed this equipment desperately," Amanullah said. "The equipment we have is old and outdated and is not enough for the exploding population growth Afghanistan has seen in the past 30 years. We just do not have enough equipment to keep our people safe right now if a fire breaks out."

The upcoming months will see more equipment flow into the hands of firefighters throughout Afghanistan. Currently more than \$59 million of equipment is on order to be delivered to the department.

"The trucks and gear will help the people of Afghanistan be safer in the event of a fire," Amanullah said. "We have a long way to go to improve the overall infrastructure of the department, but this is a great start."





**Combined Security Transition Command  
Afghanistan**

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