

# **Army engineers ensure safety, quality assurance of Afghan worksites**

By U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Michael Chigbrow  
Task Force Dolch

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Soldiers of the 54th Engineer Battalion partnered with personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to go out and inspect two construction projects in Pul-e Alam, Feb. 13.

The team first inspected a construction project at the Afghan National Army recruiting center in Pul-e Alam. The Afghanistan Engineer District-North is spending nearly \$200,000 to install new guard towers and gates at the facility.

Additionally, all recruiting centers are also required to update and standardize their exterior facade. The estimated finish date for this project is July.

While conducting the inspection, USACE personnel spoke with local onsite quality control personnel, ensuring all of the work is conducted in a safe manner and checking to make sure the quality of the workmanship is up to par with the contract standards.

“The biggest thing we look for is safety violations,” said Philip Kielhurn the project engineer and contracting officers’ representative for the district’s Forward Operating Base Shank office.

“We want to make sure that the local contractors are operating in a safe fashion,” said Kielhurn. “After that, it’s negating any deficiencies.”

Kielhurn had previously worked for USACE in Iraq and said there are several differences between the types of projects he has worked on in the two countries.

“In Iraq, the focus seemed more concentrated on infrastructure, i.e. water projects, hospitals, power and schools,” said Kielhurn. “In Afghanistan, we are currently focused on building Afghan army and Afghan National Police compounds.”

While AED-N personnel were conducting the site inspection, Soldiers from the 54th Engineer Battalion were on hand providing security. They were stationed around the perimeter to ensure no unauthorized entry to the site

occurred. As usually happens in Afghanistan, the locals and children came up, waved and talked with the Soldiers.

U.S Army Spc. Zachary Bradely, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Dolch Soldier from Asheville, N.C., said, "It was good to get my feet on the ground and interact with the local populace."

The second and much larger project the team inspected was the construction of the Afghan National Police provincial headquarters for Logar Province, located just outside of Pul-e Alam. The cost of the project is \$7.2 million, and when complete, the site will provide quarters for 250 to 300 ANP officers. The site will be completely self sufficient with its own medical, lodging, dining and training facilities.

"I think that when you have the headquarters and training facilities located right next to the town, it will help increase the stability of the area," said Kielhurn.

In addition to looking at the safety and quality-control parts of the project, district personnel have to ensure local contractors are meeting their obligations and completing the work in a timely manner.

"We have to verify the percentage complete of the work," said Kielhurn. "The government does not pay for work that is not yet complete."

After several hours of walking up and down snow-covered paths, through buildings and meeting with local quality-control personnel, the district personnel completed the inspections. Because these projects are not scheduled to be finished until July, however, there will be more inspections to ensure the contractors remain on track.

The Soldiers of the 54th Engineer Battalion will continue to partner with USACE to ensure the safety and quality-control requirements are met.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to support the USACE personnel and would like to help them out in the future as well," said U.S Army Staff Sgt. Crispin Quintana, HHC 54th Engr. Bn., TF Dolch Soldier from Miami.



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LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Philip Kielhurn, project engineer and contracting officers' representative with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineering District-North from Stony Brook, N.Y., speaks with a local site supervisor and workers at the Afghan National Army Recruiting Center in Pul-e Alam, Feb. 13. Soldiers from the 54th Engineer Battalion helped provide security for USACE AED-N personnel to conduct site-safety and quality-control inspections. (Photo by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Michael Chigbrow, Task Force Dolch)



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LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S Army Spc. Zachary Bradely with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Dolch, from Asheville, N.C, stands guard in the snow while U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-North personnel conduct quality-control and safety inspections at the Afghan National Police Provincial Headquarters outside of Pul-e Alam, Feb. 13. (Photo by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Michael Chigbrow, Task Force Dolch)



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LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S Army Staff Sgt. Crispin Quintana with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Dolch, from Miami, stands at the top of a stairway after ensuring the building was secure for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-North personnel to conduct quality-control and safety inspections at the Afghan National Police Provincial Headquarters outside of Pul-e Alam, Feb. 13. (Photo by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Michael Chigbrow, Task Force Dolch)



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LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Philip Kielhurn (seated), project engineer and contracting officers' representative with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineering District-North from Stony Brook, N.Y., reviews construction plans with Ahmad Fwad Asad the quality-control manager for HERAI ALPHA construction company at the Afghan National Police Provincial Headquarters outside of Pul-e Alam, Feb. 13. Soldiers from the 54th Engineer Battalion helped provide security for USACE AED-N personnel to conduct site safety and quality-assurance inspections. (Photo by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Michael Chigbrow, Task Force Dolch)