



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
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25<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
TASK FORCE ARCTIC WOLVES  
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**Afghan National Security Forces Keep the Peace in Southern Kandahar Province**

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Farrukh Daniel, Task Force Arctic Wolves Public Affairs

MOLLA DUST, Afghanistan – The Panjwa'i District in Southern Kandahar Province is a dangerous place. Considered the birthplace and spiritual home of the Taliban, the villagers who live there have long understood the strategic value of the area. The Afghan National Security Forces also fully understand the Taliban's desire to regain control of the district. In order to prevent this from happening, Afghan forces must not only remain vigilant in defending the area, but also must maintain a constant, positive rapport with the local residents.

On April 1, Soldiers from Weapons Company, 6th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th "Hero" Corps dropped out of the sky in helicopters from the Afghan Air Force, Kandahar Air Wing into the village of Molla Dust in southern Panjwa'i during a joint operation with officers from the Afghan National Police, accompanied by advisors from Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment. During the operation, the troops provided security, while the police officers searched and cleared three compounds, and met with residents to discuss security, Taliban presence and poppy eradication, as well as to hear their concerns.

Capt. Mohammed, the Weapons Company commander said, "This is a new policy. The ANA provides security, while the police go inside the compounds."

The U.S. troops, meanwhile, observed from the sidelines. While Afghan Forces were inside the compounds, the American troops waited more than 200 meters away. Although they have been training together all year, since the transition to Afghan-led operations, the American forces are taking a backseat and the progress has been remarkable.

Capt. Chris Zagursky, C. Co. commander, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry said, "This is 100% Afghan led. We are only here in an advisory and assistance role. They might ask us if they need more technical help with clearing an area, but otherwise they're competent."

1st Lt. Matthew Millsaps, also from C. Co, said, "Even from a month ago, they have dramatically improved. Once we went to 100% Afghan operations, they realized that they have to do it all themselves. We won't be here forever. They're doing well."

Capt. Mohammed also believes that his men are rapidly improving. "Day by day, security is getting better," he said. "Now we are working independently and always improving."

This operation demonstrated another improvement. "I was very happy that we had the ANA helicopters today, and we inserted without any problems," said Capt. Mohammed.

The operation went off without a hitch. Everyone did their jobs correctly and everyone came home safely. When asked if his men will be ready to take over once U.S. forces leave, Capt. Mohammed simply smiled and said, "No problem."

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### **6<sup>th</sup> Kandak**

Soldiers from the 6th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th "Hero" Corps stand guard during a joint combined patrol with the Afghan National Police on April 1, in Panjwa'i District in Southern Kandahar Province. (U.S. Army photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Farrukh Daniel, Task Force Arctic Wolves Public Affairs)



### **Soldiers**

Soldiers from the 6th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th "Hero" Corps prepare for a patrol in Panjwa'i District in southern Kandahar Province on April 1. (U.S. Army photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Farrukh Daniel, Task Force Arctic Wolves Public Affairs)



### **Joint Ops**

A combined patrol of Soldiers from the 6th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th "Hero" Corps and Afghan National Police officers patrol in Panjwa'i District in Southern Kandahar Province on April 1. (U.S. Army photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Farrukh Daniel, Task Force Arctic Wolves Public Affairs)



### **Reports**

A Soldier with the 1st Brigade, 205th "Hero" Corps calls in a report using a tactical radio near Molla Dust in the Panjwa'i District of Kandahar Province, April 01, 2012. Afghan security forces conducted ISAF-independent security operations across Southern Kandahar Province. (U.S. Army photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Farrukh Daniel, Task Force Arctic Wolves Public Affairs)

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