



# ANA soldiers return from joint training in Germany

*Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan Public Affairs*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — A platoon of Afghan National Army soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 201<sup>st</sup> Corps, returned Sept. 26 from Hohenfels, Germany, where, along with soldiers from nine other countries, they were involved in training at the U.S. Army's Joint Multi-National Readiness Center.

To welcome back the platoon members, who before this training had never been outside of Afghanistan, a ceremony was held October 3 at the 201<sup>st</sup> Corps Garrison in Polecharki.

While at JMRC, the platoon members were integrated with the international soldiers forming teams who were challenged with successfully completing missions that tested combat patrol, urban operations, base defense and platoon attack skills.

At the closing ceremony of the training, it was clear how impressed the leadership at JMRC was with the performance of the soldiers involved. One of their traditions is to award one person from the entire group with a "Hero of the Rotation" certificate, but instead of highlighting the usual one person, they decided to award several people, one from each country. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mohammed Amin Hussini distinguished himself, and was recognized as the Afghan "Hero of the Rotation."

The experience was undoubtedly enriching for the ANA members.

"This was a very good chance for us," said Sgt. Said Alim. "Here we do not have a chance to train, we are in combat. There we were able to train in a secure environment."

These words were echoed by the corps commander in his address at the welcome ceremony.

"Training is the basic factor in building the army" said Lt. Gen. Munir Ahmad Mangal, 201<sup>st</sup> Corps commander. "When we get training on the training field it reduces fatalities on the combat field. I hope this training is used against the current threat and that it improves capability."

This hope should indeed become reality based on the feelings expressed by the platoon members.

"We went as a team and we came back as a team and plan on sharing with our colleagues all of our



Photo by SrA Ashley DiFalco  
Sgt. Mohammad Ibrahim, a squad leader assigned to the platoon that deployed, proudly displays the certificate he received from his commander on his return from training in Germany.

experiences and what we have learned," said Mohammad Arif Arifi.

"The ANA is progressing and better organized," said Mangal. "Right now most of our soldiers, officers and NCOs are prepared for any mission."

The ANA platoon has received top-notch training, learned about several other cultures and, most importantly, were able to share theirs with the soldiers who will in the near future be working side-by-side with them to defend their country. 