

New Co-Ed School House Opens in Kandahar

**Story and Photos by
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KANDAHAR— Until recently, children from Shah Kalay, a village just north of Kandahar Air Field, were constantly at risk travelling from their village to schools in Kandahar. With the inception of this new school-house, both boys and girls will be able to walk to school without fear of punishment from Taliban forces.

As of September 3, the school-house stands tall against the mountainous backdrop north of Shah Kalay. A fuel tank is situated aside the building ready to support the schoolhouse's and bathroom's lighting, electrical outlets, and new ceiling fans. Desks and chairs are arranged neatly in the quiet classrooms, and books are stacked on teachers' desks ready to be handed out to an anxious group of children standing outside waiting for the doors to open.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) 205th 'Hero' Corps Garrison Brig. Gen. Gulalay and his Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Hadi, are on-site for what is sure to be the beginning of a new era for the children of Shah Kalay.

Besides the schoolhouse itself, this massive project included a 5-stall latrine, a fuel tank for a 15 kilowatt generator, water well complete with adjacent water tank, teacher and student desks, conference table and chairs, ceiling fans, and a graded road to the building from the center of Shah Kalay; completed with Commander's Emergency Response



Soldiers from the ANA 205th Hero Corps Garrison unit provide children of the new Shay Kalay School with supplies.

Program (CERP) funds totaling \$85,000. After visiting both boys' and girls' classrooms, the Commanders walk through the echoing halls filled with kids' laughter and conversations to the front of the building.

A green ribbon decorated with yellow flowers is strung across the doorway as the ceremonious scissors are handed to Gen. Gulalay. After cutting the ribbon, the celebration turns from the clapping of hands turns to handshakes and hugs. For Shah Kalay, this has become nothing short of a miracle, and the village is more than willing to compensate for this triumph.

After the ceremony, the ANA Soldiers quickly grab notebooks, backpacks, candy, stuffed animals, and other humanitarian aid gifts for the children and begin handing them out. The children rush the soldiers for their treasures, ready to take them home to show their parents. They are eager to grab as many things as they can, laughing and comparing their new riches with the other children.

The village of Shah Kalay, with the help of the ANA, has become increasingly trusting of NATO and the Coalition and quickly began providing crucial information. The benefits of counter intelligence in the area is a significant milestone for the Coalition, and this schoolhouse is the largest project donated to the village, as an extended 'thank you' for their support in keeping the ANA and the Coalition safe.



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE: The Good Word

**By Lt. Col. Thomas Behling
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Respect – Treat people as they should be treated. This is the third of the Army values. Sounds almost like the Golden Rule, doesn't it? In Luke 6:31, we find the words of Jesus as he was teaching his disciples. "Do to others as you would have them do to you." The apostle Paul expands on this idea in his letter to the Philippian church. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). The reason for this was so the church would be "like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (2:2). The reason was to achieve a unity of purpose. Though this was written for a church, I believe the fundamental idea is relevant for any organization. The idea that we must put the ideals of the organization and its goals before our own personal agendas is essential to the effective functioning of that organization. This is especially true of the military. If we cannot trust the motives of our peers, superiors and subordinates, our mission capability becomes seriously degraded. One way we can overcome this is by treating each other with respect. We are all human beings who volunteered to serve their country. This alone should motivate us to respect one another. GEN Bruce C. Clarke once said: "Regardless of age or grade, soldiers should be treated as mature individuals. They are engaged in an honorable profession and deserve to be treated as such." Additionally, each one of us brings our own unique gifts and talents to the fight. We would be wise to recognize and embrace this fact. For when we do, we take advantage of what each person has to offer, making our organization the most dynamic that it can be. The Soldier's Guide summarizes the importance of respect well. "Respect is an essential component for the development of disciplined, cohesive, and effective war fighting teams" (FM 7-21.13, pg 1-9).