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ISAF medal parade highlights unity



KABUL, Afghanistan – A medal ceremony, which involved the senior commanders from both the Afghan National Army and ISAF, took place on Christmas Day at the Regional Command South Headquarters in Kandahar that recognized the contribution troops from different nations have made to the ISAF mission.

“This medal ceremony highlighted the close working relationships ISAF has with the Afghan National Army and is a direct indicator of the progress and unity between the Afghan people and ISAF,” said Regional Command South spokesman Wing Commander Antony McCord.

The NATO-ISAF Medal was presented to 51 recipients from Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, Romania, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Medals were jointly presented by Maj. Gen. Jacko Page, Commander of Regional Command South, and General Bismullah Khan, Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army.

The joint presentation ceremony was an acknowledgement of the increasing integration of Afghan National Army troops with ISAF troops in order to increase their capability, especially as the Afghan National Army has fought alongside ISAF troops.

“Building an effective Afghan National Army is critical to building a self-sustaining Afghanistan,” said McCord. *“ISAF is committed to providing continued direct support to the Afghan National Army through mentoring, training and equipment support.”*

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