

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BLOGGERS ROUNDTABLE WITH COLONEL CHADWICK CLARK,
DIRECTOR, COIN TRAINING CENTER AFGHANISTAN; NATO TRAINING MISSION-
AFGHANISTAN/ COMBINED SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND-AFGHANISTAN, VIA
TELECONFERENCE FROM AFGHANISTAN SUBJECT: THE COUNTERINSURGENCY TRAINING
CENTER-AFGHANISTAN, AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCE, AND OTHER AFGHAN
AGENCIES' CAPABILITIES TO REDUCE INSURGENT INFLUENCE TIME: 10:30 A.M. EDT
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PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM SELBY (Office of the Secretary of Defense
Public Affairs): Hello. I'd like to welcome you all to the Department
of Defense's Bloggers Roundtable for Thursday, October 26th, 2010. My
name is Petty Officer William Selby with the Office of the Secretary of
Defense-Public Affairs, and I'll be moderating our call today. A note to
our bloggers on the line, please remember to clearly state your name and
blog or organization in advance of your question. Respect our guest's
time, keeping questions succinct and to the point. Today, our guest is
Colonel Chadwick W. Clark, director, COIN Training Center-Afghanistan,
NATO Training Mission- Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition-Command-
Afghanistan. Colonel Clark will discuss the Counterinsurgency Training
Center-Afghanistan, and how it enhances coalition forces, the Afghan
National Security Force, and other government of the Islamic Republic of
Afghanistan agencies' capabilities to reduce insurgent influence.

Sir, with that, if you have an opening statement, you can go
ahead with that now.

COL. CLARK: No, I think you pretty much summed it up. I just
want to make sure that I set the context for Anand that what we do here
is training. And so our task is to work with the ANSF to increase
capability and capacity through training, doctrine, working through, by
and with the Afghan National Security Forces. That's our primary
mission.

We also have a secondary mission of making sure that all the
coalition forces are trained on counterinsurgency. And so we do that in
a couple of different ways. We have a resident course here at Camp
Julien in Kabul. We also run a train-the-trainer course, so we can train

trainers from other contributing nations and ANSF instructors. And we also have Mobile Training Teams that deploy out of Camp Julien into the regional commands to deliver COIN training to units that are actually in the field. And with that, I'm ready for questions.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Thank you, sir.

And Anand, you can go ahead and fire away until we hear some other bloggers join.

Q Just a moment.

Can you hear me? Hello? (Yes, they can hear ?).

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Yes, we can hear you.

Q Okay.

Thank you for being on the call today, Lieutenant Colonel Nichols (sic). ADU has reported that the long-term plan is for your school to train more than 250 ANA at any given time when you hit full capacity. I was wondering if you can confirm that that's what you see at end state in terms of the size of your school, and approximately how long on average each ANA officer -- I presume it's only officers who go to your school -- and so basically from that I could figure out how many would go through a course in a different year by, you know, dividing the two numbers.

Thank you. COL. CLARK: Yeah. What you're talking about, the Afghan Defense University -- right now, we're not actually part of the Afghan Defense University. That's a plan for, I believe, summer of 2012 that they're going to consolidate the Counterinsurgency Center with the other education institutions. We do have the capacity to train up to 200 and -- well, we can house 240 people. If I probably consolidated some more barracks, we could probably fit 250 people here, no problem.

For the most part up to this point, the majority of the folks that have come through the residency training have been coalition. And so in the last 10 months, we've trained over 20,000 coalition -- this is not just in the resident courses; this is on mobile training teams also -- 14,000 ANSF, 500 civilians. And -- but in the resident course, we have the capacity of 240 per iteration.

Now, we've been training one iteration per month. Starting next month, we're going to start doing two iterations, one focused on coalition and then one focused on ANSF. So General Petraeus gave us some guidance about a month-and-a-half ago, and he said he wants the focus to change from coalition training to ANSF training. I don't know if you know the history of the counterinsurgency center here in Afghanistan, but in May of 2007, it was -- it was stood up to address a shortfall in counterinsurgency understanding among the coalition forces that were coming over here. So in response to that, they started the academy to get all the coalition forces on kind of the same sheet of music.

Some of the coalition forces had doctrine and pre-deployment training; some didn't. So in order to get everybody on a level playing field, they had folks come through the counter -- the training center here at Julien. Now, we -- we're beginning to export a lot of that training back to home station in a course over -- that meets the ISAF commander's intent for pre-deployment training, and we're going to change our focus to ANSF while training the army, the police, and then other agencies that participate or are on the battlefield for counterinsurgency operations.

So right now, from that guidance, we're going to -- like I said, we're going to start running an ANS -- ANSF-focused COIN leaders course beginning the end of November and then every month thereafter. When I talked to General Karim -- Major General Karim, the commander for the Afghan National Army Training Command, and Major General Petang (sp), the commander of the Afghan National Police Training General Command, both of them expressed interest in sending people to the academy, but really what they would prefer is that we look at the professional police and army education system and make sure that counterinsurgency training starts from the time that somebody comes into the police force and the army and continues all the way through their career. So we kind of had a -- have a dual focus when we're looking at ANSF, both for training here and then making sure that in the police and army institutions that counterinsurgency training and education is addressed.

So I don't know if that answers your question. I know you were looking for a hard number on how many people we were going to train, but quite frankly, you can get training in many different way -- not just by going through Camp Julien, but you can get counterinsurgency training by going through police basic training or army basic training here, and we can also provide training to units that are deployed. For example, we taught a COIN leaders course down at Kandahar, to ANCOP, to AUP, and in the next couple of months we're going to teach it to ABP as well. So I would -- I would not want to guess a number. I'll just -- I would rather say that we are going to try and make sure that counterinsurgency is addressed at all levels of ANSF training and education.

Q Thank you.

COL. CLARK: Yeah.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: And Anand, you can continue if you want.
(Inaudible.)

Q Well, so -- I'm doing some numbers here. So 240 times 12 is 2880, as in the total number you can train from the center in -- near Kabul. And presumably some of those are rotations as part of the NMAA or part of the Army Staff College or some other -- or some other kind of training -- or the -- some other kind of training system. In addition to that, you have Mobile Training Teams that are training across the country. And then you are influencing other instructors who teach your coursework as part of their own normal coursework, such as the officer selection candidate courses. Am I hearing this correct?

COL. CLARK: Think of -- think of COIN training as part of every level of education for both officers and enlisted, from the time that they come in, both the army and police. So if you look at the numbers of folks that are getting trained right now, there's, what, probably in between 12 (hundred) and 1,300 training seats in the police and over 20,000 in the army. And, let me see, in the place we're graduating, about 4,000 graduates a month, probably at least that many or maybe double that many in the Army.

So that's about how many folks we're touching with counterinsurgency training.

But at the center itself for the resident -- the COIN leaders course, yeah, you're right. We've got a capacity of 240 times 12. But starting next month, it will be times 12 times two.

Q Okay. Thank you very much.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Did you have any more questions, Anand?

Q I mean, I could ask you, but I'm (not ?) sure, they might be slightly out of your lane.

Do you have -- I kind of -- I sort of have questions in terms of -- you are also training ANP, is that correct?

COL. CLARK: Yes.

Q ANP.

So do you have, like, metrics on -- in terms of, like, how many are being trained at any given time, in terms of ANA and ANP?

COL. CLARK: I don't have the exact numbers right offhand, but I was the deputy commander for ANP training. So I can talk anecdotally about how many are trained. If there's 1,200 seats, which is about what they have right now, training seats, that means that's capacity at all the training centers, 38 training centers across Afghanistan. This is for police only.

There is a week-to-10-day reset after the graduation of a course. So out of those 12,000 seats, you'll probably have anywhere in between nine (thousand) and 10,000 of them occupied. So then of those seats, we're running -- let me see -- basic training, mid-level NCO training, officer training. And then we have courses at the staff college, provincial commander seminar, senior NCO training. So, you know, there is multiple courses that are going on at the same time with respect to police.

Q Right.

COL. CLARK: Out of all of the police training seats, we graduate about 4,000 a month out of that system. Q Yeah. So if I may interject a little bit, I've actually been e-mailing questions on

this because I want to actually write an article about this. So the way I figure it is NCOs are about 1,350 a month. And if you adjust for 14 weeks and one week furlough between courses, I'm getting about 5,000 training seats are in the NCO portion of the ANP.

And then I'm getting in terms of officers -- well, I presume that's like -- that's end state. I'm basically going up to the -- you know, the 23,000, when they hit the 23,000 end state, what the planned capacity will be by component.

And then for the officers, I'm getting about 6,000. And I broke this -- I've broken this number down by details. And the rest presumably are just basic candidates. So I just haven't gotten a response to that.

COL. CLARK: (Inaudible.)

Q Go ahead.

COL. CLARK: (Audio break) -- I don't know if those are good (swags ?). But I'll tell you what. Why don't you -- if you can send your question in --

Q Sure.

COL. CLARK: -- I will -- I can get it to the folks that are responsible for police training, because I know that they have all of those numbers broken down by recruits, NCOs, senior NCOs, junior officers, mid-grade officers.

Q Right. And I don't mean right now, because I kind of have the numbers right now. I mean like at end state, like what the plan is, because that would be useful in terms of kind of projecting the ANSF, or the ANP going forward in particular.

COL. CLARK: Yeah. Okay, let's say we're going from -- since you're the only one on the line, I'll go ahead and address your question in a little bit more detail. If there are 12,000 seats and we're going up to 20,000, and the basic course right now is six weeks long, when we get to a sustainable level of the force -- let's say we're going to -- pick a number somewhere -- 134 (thousand), which I think is our goal right now. Once we get to 134,000, then we just need to sustain the force. So we don't technically need as many seats.

However, if you choose to extend the length of the development courses, like the basic course from six to eight weeks, or six to 10 weeks or 12 weeks, then you're going to need more capacity. Same thing with officer basic or the mid-level NCO courses. So a lot of those things, it's all -- it all depends on what you want the courses to look like at end state. And that will determine how many seats you need. I don't know if that's making any sense to you.

Q No, I've gone over these numbers -- (inaudible) --

COL. CLARK: (Inaudible) -- goes from what we're doing right now, which would be, you know working on addition and subtraction to when we get to the end state, trying to figure that out, two years out, we've got to do some differential equations.

Q Yeah. So that's exactly what I'm doing, actually.

And I know that -- what's his name -- Karimi, as in the ANA chief of staff, as well as --

COL. CLARK: Yeah.

Q -- the MOI minister, they both want a much larger ANA and ANP. The -- Karimi's request is right now 240 K. And the MOI's request is 170 (thousand), not authorized. But -- so basically they want these courses to continue at a very rapid rate. And they're pushing within their government circles. And, again, it's not been approved.

So, anyway, I was -- it would be very useful to, you know, get some numbers like this, because it would give you -- you can then project them going forward what the size will be.

COL. CLARK: Yeah. Yeah, well, if you can -- if you can send in your questions, then we'll get it to the folks that do police training, and then we'll be able to give you a little bit better data --

Q Sure. Now, I --

COL. CLARK: -- to help you out with that.

Q -- must say that you're -- the police training folks have been very helpful at NTMA. But the army training folks have not been responsive. So they've not --

COL. CLARK: You want to know why?

Q Why?

COL. CLARK: Because I was in police training before, and now I'm in army training. So now it's going to get a lot more helpful. How's that?

Q Oh, good! Good! Well, that's helpful. So could I send you questions on the army ones, because those are -- I need more of because I don't have as much as I have on the police side.

COL. CLARK: Yeah, go ahead and send me the army questions, too. We can do the police questions and army questions. Q That sounds good. That sounds good.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: And Anand, did you have any other questions you'd like to ask?

Q Sure. Another question would be on Mobile Training Teams that you have around the country. I actually know some people who are part of those Mobile Training Teams. And apparently you guys do a lot of good.

I was wondering how many do you have, or how many you project having.

COL. CLARK: We have teams that are oriented to each one of the regional commands. So right now there are six regional commands. And if you're familiar with the area --

MR. : (Off mike.)

COL. CLARK: Yeah.

Q Correct.

COL. CLARK: Then, you know that each one of the areas is different than the other. So those teams have to be purposively built. For example, the Mazar-e-Sharif, you know, where they're probably concentrating a little bit more on community policing, where in some places down in the south, they may be concentrating more on holding or clearing. So there is different phases depending on where they're at. And so the training requirements are a little bit different.

In addition to that, we have one more team that does what we call "District Stability Framework." And this was put together. It was a collaborative effort between the COIN Center and USAID that was focused on a framework that encourages a unity effort to understand the operational environment, helps understand local perceptions and influence overall stability, identify and address root causes of instability, and then design activities that address those things at the local level. So we actually have one another team that does that. And that's really for -- it's mandatory for all USAID field operations folks, and we encourage it for all of the G-9 folks that are out in the field.

Q Well, thank you for that.

COL. CLARK: Yep.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Anything else, Anand?

Q Not that I can think of. I appreciate your information.

I was wondering, can you give me an e-mail address for yourself?
COL. CLARK: Chadwick --

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Actually --

COL. CLARK: -- W -- what's that?

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Sir, we probably shouldn't do that on -- because it -- because --

Q Oh, okay.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: -- on here. However, I can forward that to you, Anand --

Q Sure.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: -- if that's okay with you guys.

COL. CLARK: (Inaudible.)

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Okay. And with that, sir, then both -- I'd like to thank you, sir, for your time.

And I'd also like to thank you, Anand, for being on the call.

I apologize that more weren't also on the call, sir. If you have any closing comments, sir, you can go ahead with those now.

COL. CLARK: No, I appreciate the opportunity to do this. And thank you for the questions. And if you have any more, just go ahead and send them in, and then we'll try to get them answered for you. Thanks for your time.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Thank you, sir. And with that, today's program will be available online at the bloggers link on DODLive.mil, where you can access a story based on today's call, along with source documents such as the audio file and print transcript.

Again, thank you, Colonel Clark, and thank you to Anand. This concludes today's event. Feel free to disconnect at this time.

Q Thank you.

COL. CLARK: Thank you.

END.