



Romanian Officer, Interpreters Honored for DDR Work

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KABUL, Afghanistan—Chief, Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Weston honored several personnel for their efforts in turning weapons from the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program into serviceable equipment for the Afghan National Army.

Weston presented Coalition Coins of Excellence to Romanian Chief Warrant Officer Gabriel Ana and interpreters Mohammad Faisal Kazimi and Mohammad Hamid Wahidi.

The DDR Program, administered by the Japanese-run Afghan New Beginnings Program, disarms Afghan militia and provides job training to transition them into alternative career fields.

In September 2004, OMC-A began the process of refurbishing weapons received through the DDR program at the ANBP compound at Pol-e-Charkhie. Romanian support of the program



Photo by U.S. Army Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Chief, Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, left, presents Coalition Coins of Excellence to, from left to right, Romanian Chief Warrant Officer Gabriel Ana and interpreters Mohammad Hamid Wahidi and Mohammad Faisal Kazimi.

has enabled ANA soldiers graduating from basic training at the Kabul Military Training Center to receive these weapons from the National Supply Depot.

Ana's technical skills and knowledge of the largely Russian weapons supply were critical to the weapons' transition process. Interpreters Kazimi and Wahidi, in addition to interpreting, assisted with moving, inspecting and inventorying the weapons.

Through their combined efforts, as aided by the United Nations, the International Observers Group and the Afghan Ministry of Defense, the ANA has received 3,250 serviceable small, medium and heavy weapons.

Transfer of the weapons from armed militiamen not only takes weapons off the streets of Afghanistan, it additionally saves the cost of buying new weapons to equip the Afghan National Army.

