

# Setting Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Conditions for Afghanistan

Ben Ennis

Afghanistan is characterized by mountainous and rugged terrain, and the Army must take into account these challenges when fielding and sustaining weapon systems and equipment. Here, U.S. Army Soldiers descend a ridge line during a dismount patrol near FOB Lane in Afghanistan's Zabul Province, Feb. 26, 2009. (U.S. Army photo by SSG Adam Mancini.)



In Afghanistan, the climate variation is immense. Soldiers must deal with an extreme range of temperatures, ranging from 12 to 17 F in winter and 110 to 120 F in summer. Here, U.S. Personnel Security Detail Soldiers from Alpha Co., 1st Platoon, 101st Airborne (Ab) Division (Div.), provide security in the extreme cold climate in Bagram, Afghanistan, Feb. 15, 2009. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Prentice C. Martin-Bowen.)

Mr. Dean G. Popp, the Army Acquisition Executive/Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASAALT), and GEN Ann E. Dunwoody, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), recently traveled to Afghanistan to set conditions for the successful influx of troops in theater, including weapons systems and equipment needed to accomplish the mission.

“We are committed to providing our Soldiers with the right weapons systems and equipment for success on the battlefield. These are very harsh conditions and our military is continuing to adapt,” said Mr. Popp.

While in Afghanistan, Mr. Popp and GEN Dunwoody visited numerous acquisition and logistics organizations and support personnel, to include the Bagram Regional Contracting and Business Office. Mr. Popp cited the contracting office personnel efforts at the Bagram office as a good example of the enterprise approach at work, setting the conditions for success. The contracting office is in the process of adding contractors and focusing on developing onsite contracting officer’s representative (COR) training and also transitioning from Logistics Civil Augmentation Program III (LOGCAP III) to LOGCAP IV.

During their visit to one of the Army Field Support Brigades (AFSBs), Mr. Popp and GEN Dunwoody talked with the embedded acquisition support personnel about their duties. Currently, there are 4,000 acquisition professionals (military, Department of the Army civilians, and contractors) in theater supporting the warfighter mission. These professionals are coordinating with program managers (PMs) to get the right equipment and systems to units and help with science and technology (S&T) priorities. Mr. Popp echoed how proud he is of the great things that the AFSBs and Program Executive Office (PEO) community are doing to support our Soldiers as they fight and simultaneously nation-build. Below are some examples of PEO contributions to overseas contingency operations.

### **Program Executive Office, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, and Sensors (PEO IEW&S)**

Throughout Afghanistan, systems and equipment fielded by PEO IEW&S are protecting U.S. and coalition forces and assisting in tracking down enemy fighters by thickening the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance coverage of the area of operations. Daily monitoring for insurgents is made possible with detection equipment, and communications with Afghan locals will be easier with various translation systems.

### **Program Executive Office, Command, Control, and Communications Tactical (PEO C3T)**

The Army’s PEO C3T is providing a vast range of support for operations in Afghanistan in every aspect, from equipping and training units in preparation for deployment to around-the-clock reachback field support and reset of units upon redeployment. PEO C3T embeds digital systems engineers in direct support of their assigned brigade combat team, which ultimately deploys with the unit into Afghanistan. Mr. Popp highlighted the example of COL David Moore, the Liaison Officer for PEOs C3T and IEW&S in Afghanistan, where he works directly with units and U.S. Forces Afghanistan as a team to support operations. Moore is coordinating efforts with the 401st AFSB and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Life Cycle Management Command Electronic Systems Sustainment Centers to dovetail PEO C3T support into their framework.

### **Program Executive Office, Soldier (PEO Soldier)**

PEO Soldier will establish additional fielding sites in Bagram and Kandahar to field the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Stations, which provide



The Bagram Regional Contracting and Business Office assists Soldiers by providing acquisition and logistics support. Here, a U.S. Soldier pulls security duty in Bagram, Feb. 15, 2009. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Prentice C. Martin-Bowen.)

Soldiers with the ability to acquire and engage targets while inside a vehicle, protected by its armor. Additionally, PEO Soldier is focused on the equipment of the troops. For instance, each Soldier deploying to Afghanistan will be issued mountain boots, which provide improved ankle support and stability for use in the rugged terrain of Afghanistan's countryside. The Winter Army Combat Shirt with Integrated Patch Kit program addresses the capability gap identified by organizations and Soldiers operating in this cold weather terrain. PEO Soldier has also fielded more than 300 sets of the Enhanced Night Vision Goggles to 10th Mountain Div. Soldiers bound for Afghanistan.

### Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS)

Several hundred PEO EIS staff personnel work in Iraq and Afghanistan to install, operate, and maintain communications, logistics, personnel, and intelligence systems for the Army and defense forces. In one of these projects, PEO EIS Product Manager Joint-Automatic Identification Technology (PdM J-AIT) is assisting redeploying

units to equip containers with identification (ID) tags to minimize pilferage of containers and enhance force protection. PdM J-AIT provides procurement and technical services that support focused logistics, total asset visibility, and the integration of global supply chains. PdM J-AIT is

also equipping all current and future forward operating bases (FOBs) with radio frequency ID equipment.

### Program Executive Office, Missiles and Space (PEO MS)

PEO MS provides support to Soldiers in Afghanistan through Warrior-A Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) HELLFIRE Missile weaponization. The Joint Attack Munition Systems and UAS project offices are currently weaponizing the Warrior-A UASs in the Afghanistan theater.

Another example of PEO MS support is the Video from UAS for Interoperability Teaming-Level 2 (VUIT-2) for Apache technology. VUIT-2 provides Apache aircrews with real-time streaming battlefield video and metadata from UAS on cockpit multipurpose displays. "VUIT-2 has proven its worth in combat operations," said COL Eric Peterson, Brigade Commander, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade.

### Program Executive Office, Ground Combat Systems (PEO GCS)

PEO GCS has deployed towed howitzers to the Afghanistan theater. The M777A2 Towed Howitzer provides great firepower, is helicopter-transportable, and is programmed to fire the Excalibur precision-guided munition. The M119A2 Towed Howitzer also provides critical fire support to infantry units.

PEO GCS also provides a variety of robots for maneuver forces. Examples include the xBot, a small reconnaissance robot with a manipulator arm for maneuver forces, and the Do-King MV-4, a route-clearance mini-flail. The PEO GCS Joint Robotic Repair and Fielding (JRRF) Activity, currently



Mr. Popp and GEN Dunwoody are determined to be key enablers to our Soldiers by identifying their needs. Here, U.S. Personnel Security Detail Soldiers from Alpha Co., 1st Platoon, 101st Ab Div., conduct a security patrol near Bagram, March 10, 2009. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Prentice C. Martin-Bowen.)



Mr. Pops and GEN Dunwoody receive a briefing about the capabilities of the UAS shown in the photo. (Photo by COL Jonathan A. Maddux, ASAALT Chief of Staff.)

manned by U.S. Army Reservists, repairs all robots within Afghanistan. The JRRF was stood up under a Memorandum of Agreement with AMC for direct repair of ground robots within theater.

### **Program Executive Office, Ammunition (PEO Ammo)**

To execute equipment fielding to Afghanistan, PEO Ammo enables its PMs to directly coordinate the development of the operational needs statement, fielding and sustainment strategy, the technology deployment plan, end user safety statements, urgent materiel releases, Soldier safety confirmations, and theater clearances. Coordination at the area of responsibility level commences with Combined Joint Task Force-101 and Task Force Paladin, with detailed coordination with the AFSBs and the Coalition Engineer Cell elements. The ASAALT Liaison Officer and the AMC S&T Advisor are also included, as well as sister PdMs, such as PdM Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

Defeat/Protect Force and PdM Assured Mobility Systems.

The role of the S&T Advisor within the AFSB has been instrumental in facilitating PM efforts within Afghanistan. The AFSBs further assist PMs as they extend their efforts to outlying FOBs. All life-support functions required at these FOBs, such as the use of facilities for systems fielding and maintenance, are coordinated through the S&T Advisor for implementation into the AFSB. The S&T Advisor further assists the PMs by providing initial points of contact to begin coordination with receiving units.

PEO Ammo's PMs have provided both route-clearance and area-clearance equipment to the warfighter. PEO Ammo has also provided the XM982 Excalibur 155mm precision-fired cannon artillery round in response to an Urgent Need Statement for 155mm precision fires.

### **Program Executive Office, Combat Support and Combat Service Support (PEO CS&CSS)**

PEO CS&CSS is responsible for more than 300 systems that provide support to Soldiers. Within the Afghanistan theater, the PEO has four different PMs. During their travels in Afghanistan, Mr. Pops and GEN Dunwoody visited with the PEO CS&CSS PM Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) team. The MRAP team in Afghanistan is composed of military, government civilians, and contractor personnel united in a common purpose — to put survivable vehicles in the hands of our warfighters. Multiple missions will be supported by the MRAP fleet to include reconnaissance, convoy operations, troop transport, ambulance, combat engineer, and explosive ordnance disposal missions for maneuver units.

Mr. Pops asserted that success requires an enterprise-focused culture and full commitment by the ASAALT and AMC leadership. He emphasized that the enterprise approach will acknowledge the acquisition function as defined by law, but will also seek to establish a common framework and clarify working relationships.

The following pages highlight the visit to Afghanistan by Mr. Pops and GEN Dunwoody.

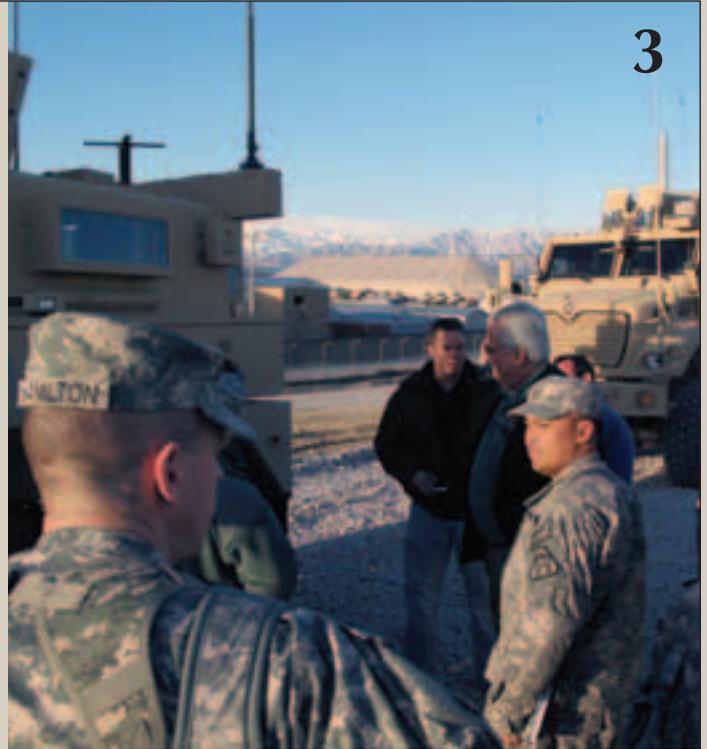
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- 1-3. Mr. Popp and GEN Dunwoody receive briefings about the MRAP vehicles being deployed in defense against IED threats. PEO CS&CSS is responsible for developing, acquiring, and fielding ground combat vehicles such as MRAPs. (Photo by COL Jonathan A. Maddux, ASAALT Chief of Staff.)
- 4. PEO CS&CSS is working to field MRAPs to Soldiers in Afghanistan to ensure they are protected from IED threats. Here, a U.S. Army security force convoy travels in MRAPs to Gardez City, Afghanistan, for meetings with local officials. (Photo by Fred Baker, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).)

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1. Mr. Papps and GEN Dunwoody pose with Army senior leaders in front of the Bagram Regional Contracting and Business Office. The office is setting the AI&T conditions for success. Among other actions, it will add contractors and develop onsite COR training. (Photo by AFSB MAJ George Steffens.)

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2-3. GEN Dunwoody and Mr. Popps take turns preparing to launch a UAS. The person not physically launching the UAS holds its control to navigate after launch. (Photo by COL Jonathan A. Maddux, ASAAIT Chief of Staff.)

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1. Mr. Popps and GEN Dunwoody pose with a Soldier in front of an MRAP during their recent visit to Afghanistan. PEO CS&CSS is fielding the MRAP to provide Soldiers with defense against IEDs. (Photo by COL Jonathan A. Maddux, ASAALT Chief of Staff.)
2. Mr. Popps speaks with a Soldier stationed in Afghanistan in front of an MRAP vehicle. (Photo by COL Jonathan A. Maddux, ASAALT Chief of Staff.)
3. During his recent trip to Afghanistan, Mr. Popps discusses issues with Army senior leaders. Containers used by Soldiers for various purposes are pictured in the background. PEO EIS' PdM J-AIT is assisting redeploying units to equip containers with ID tags to minimize pilferage of containers and enhance force protection. (Photo by COL Jonathan A. Maddux, ASAALT Chief of Staff.)



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1. ASAALT Chief of Staff COL Jonathan A. Maddux traveled with Mr. Poppo to Afghanistan. Here, COL Maddux boards a Black Hawk helicopter to travel to another Afghan province. (U.S. Army photo.)
2. A doorunner pulls security in a Black Hawk helicopter that transported the ASAALT/AMC team to FOB Shark. Fielding of the Black Hawk is the responsibility of PEO Aviation. (Photo by COL Jonathan A. Maddux, ASAALT Chief of Staff.)
3. Semi-trucks hauling goods to eastern Afghanistan travel along the narrow and dangerous "K-G Pass." This aerial view of the pass illustrates the type of harsh terrain Soldiers face in Afghanistan. (Photo by Fred Baker, OSD.)

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