

continue the amount of rotations you have right now, you will not reach this sustainable rate of rotation." The Army expects to reach a 1-to-2 ratio by 2011 for the Active Army and, by 2015, a 1-to-3 ratio for the Active Army and 1-to-5 for the ARNG and USAR.

Army Force Generation

Bolger noted that the Army also must resume training for full-spectrum combat after 9 years of mainly counterinsurgency operations. "We have platoon sergeants who've never known any other world

than counter-insurgency," he said, urging a return to training exercises in forcible entry and how to conduct mass ground and air fires.

Also on the Army readiness panel, MG Mark A. Graham, DCS G-3/-5/-7, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), spoke of the advantages of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) programs that provide trained and ready forces for the regional combatant commanders. But Graham also said that as the Army gets lengthier dwell

times, units must "get back to basics," learn to operate in situations other than counterinsurgency, and relearn how to support themselves without contractors, on whom they relied in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Other panel members, BG Jon J. Miller, Acting Deputy Commanding General, USAR, and BG Timothy J. Kadavy, Deputy Director, ARNG, explained how the ARFORGEN process and the 9 years of combat have affected their units. They agreed with

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM UPDATE

Robert E. Coultas

During a briefing on the counterinsurgency in Afghanistan, BG John Nicholson Jr., Director of the Joint Pakistan/Afghanistan Coordination Cell, said that if U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Commander GEN David H. Petraeus were giving the briefing, he would say that efforts have been "slow and steady, but we are making progress."

Nicholson, speaking Oct. 25, 2010, at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition, said that for the previous 18 months, the objective of *Operation Enduring Freedom* has been to increase military and civilian personnel, develop the Afghan national security forces and local police, build infrastructure, target Taliban leaders and clear them from safe havens, and reintegrate enemy fighters into society by convincing them to "lay down their arms."

Violence Is Concentrated

Nicholson said that about 63 percent of the violence in Afghanistan is in three provinces. "The main efforts are in Kandahar and Helmand provinces, with secondary efforts up in the east along the border areas with Pakistan," he said. "We're focusing

our counterinsurgency efforts on about a third of the districts in the country, primarily focused on the east and the south because that is where the insurgency has its greatest strengths."

Nicholson emphasized that the coalition's main objective was to secure the major population centers, enable the Afghan government to connect with the people in those areas to the degree that they "buy into the government," and then transition control to the Afghan government.

Operational Tempo

Nicholson also said that as forces seek to secure population centers, a portion of the force must continue to keep up the initiative against the enemy, most of which is maintained by Special Operations Forces that are working at an "unprecedented operational tempo." "Every 24 hours, on average, we are killing or capturing three to five mid-level leaders and 24 enemy fighters," he said.

Nicholson added that he is seeing anecdotal evidence that the operational tempo is affecting the

insurgents' morale and cohesion. "Obviously, this is exactly the kind of pressure we need to maintain on the enemy, which then buys us space and time to secure the population and achieve that connection that we're after between the government and the population," he said.

Nicholson said that the security campaign has entailed a spike in violence, which is inevitable. "The coalition is presently at the peak of that violence," he said, but added that as the government's capability and Afghans' confidence increases, the violence will begin to decrease.



BG John Nicholson Jr., Director of the Joint Pakistan/Afghanistan Coordination Cell, said the increased number of coalition troops in Afghanistan has created a spike in violence that is "inevitable," but will eventually decline as it did in Iraq. (Defense News photo by Sheila Vemmer.)