

# SIGAR

**Special Inspector General for  
Afghanistan Reconstruction**

**SIGAR Inspection 13-3**

## **GAMBERI AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY GARRISON: SITE GRADING AND INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS PUT FACILITIES AT RISK**



**OCTOBER  
2012**

# SIGAR

Special Inspector General for  
Afghanistan Reconstruction

## WHAT SIGAR REVIEWED

The Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, through the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, provided \$129.8 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Afghanistan Engineer District-North (TAN) to construct an Afghan National Army (ANA) garrison in Gamberi, located in Nangarhar province on Afghanistan's eastern border. As part of its inspections program, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) conducted an inspection to follow up on actions USACE-TAN took in response to an open recommendation in SIGAR Audit-10-10, "ANA Garrison at Gamberi Appears Well Built Overall but Some Construction Issues Need to Be Addressed," dated April 30, 2010. During that audit, SIGAR found several problems with flood control measures, site grading, and a deteriorating bridge. For example, SIGAR reported that the poor grading at the construction site could result in the accumulation of water around buildings and, if not addressed, could lead to flooding after a significant rainfall. Accordingly, this inspection assessed the actions taken by USACE-TAN to correct or mitigate site grading and infrastructure maintenance problems at the ANA garrison at Gamberi. SIGAR also inspected a new culvert under construction that was being built to replace the deteriorating bridge near the entrance to the garrison.

October 2012

**Gamberi Afghan National Army Garrison: Site Grading and Infrastructure Maintenance Problems Put Facilities at Risk**

## SIGAR INSPECTION-13-3

### WHAT SIGAR FOUND

Failure to mitigate site grading issues and inadequate storm drainage maintenance continue to threaten facilities at the Gamberi ANA garrison. Poor site grading resulted in areas of low elevation where storm water collected, causing flooding within the garrison and allowing sediment to collect and storm water ditches to erode. SIGAR observed an eroded channel and standing water by the wastewater treatment plant. Due to the amount of erosion, debris, and signs of flooding, SIGAR observed that USACE had done little to prevent or repair these problems, and its site grading efforts had been ineffective. Should flooding continue, it could eventually damage roads and affect wastewater treatment plant operation by preventing access to the facility, overflowing into the treatment plant, and weakening building foundations, which could cause the buildings to become unsafe or unusable.

Although it was too early to evaluate the construction quality of the replacement culvert, SIGAR determined that its hydraulic design had flaws that could lead to a future structural failure, making the culvert unsafe or unusable. USACE-TAN officials stated that the contractor had determined that no design changes were necessary based on its review and calculations. Despite the contractor's determination, SIGAR remains concerned that the hydraulic design may eventually lead to structural failure of the culvert.

### WHAT SIGAR RECOMMENDS

SIGAR recommends that the Commanding General, USACE, to (1) repair damaged storm water facilities, (2) implement mitigating flood control measures, (3) maintain the storm water drainage system, and (4) review the culvert's design and correct any deficiencies identified. USACE-TAN concurred with the first three recommendations and noted actions it is taking to address them. USACE disagreed with the fourth recommendation but plans to inspect the culvert during the warranty period and correct any deficiencies identified.



Storm  
Drain  
Erosion



**SIGAR** | Office of the Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

October 30, 2012

General James N. Mattis  
Commander, U.S. Central Command

General John R. Allen  
Commander, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, and  
Commander, International Security Assistance Force

Lieutenant General Daniel P. Bolger  
Commanding General, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/  
Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This report discusses the results of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) follow-up inspection of the Gamberi Afghan National Army Garrison, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. We determined that site grading measures and maintenance to mitigate flooding continue to be ineffective, and we are concerned about the risk of structural failure of the newly constructed culvert. Accordingly, we are recommending several actions to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to improve the structural integrity of the facilities at the Gamberi garrison.

SIGAR conducted this inspection under the authority of Public Law No. 110-181, as amended; the Inspector General Act of 1978; and the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008.

John F. Sopko

Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background.....	2
Failure to Mitigate Site Grading Issues Continues to Threaten Facilities at the ANA Garrison at Gamberi .....	2
Design of Replacement Culvert Could Lead to Structural Failure .....	3
Conclusions.....	4
Recommendations .....	4
Agency Comments .....	5
Appendix I - Scope and Methodology .....	6
Appendix II - Gamberi Garrison Site Plan .....	7
Appendix III - Summary of Original Gamberi Contracts and Amendments.....	8
Appendix IV - Comments from the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan .....	10
Appendix V - Comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.....	11
Appendix VI - Acknowledgments .....	14

## TABLES

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Table I - Summary of Phases I to III and Range Complex Original and Amended Contract Amounts (millions).....	9
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## FIGURES

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Figure 1 - Eroded Channel.....	3
Figure 2 - Perimeter Road .....	3
Figure I - Site Plan Showing Approximate Inspection Locations and Other Information .....	7

## ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

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ANA	Afghan National Army
SIGAR	Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
USACE-TAN	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District-North

An objective of coalition efforts in Afghanistan is to build the country's capacity to provide for its own security by training and equipping the Afghan National Security Forces, which includes the Afghan National Army (ANA).<sup>1</sup> The Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, through the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, provided \$129.8 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)/Afghanistan Engineer District-North (TAN)<sup>2</sup> to construct an ANA garrison at Gamberi in Nangarhar province on Afghanistan's eastern border.<sup>3</sup>

In April 2010, we reported that, although the ANA garrison at Gamberi generally appeared to be well built, several issues needed to be addressed, including poor flood control measures, inadequate grading, a deteriorating bridge, and security at the weapons training range.<sup>4</sup> For example, we noted that the poor grading at the construction site could result in the accumulation of water around buildings and, if not addressed, could lead to flooding after a significant rainfall. We also reported that the deck of the deteriorating bridge could collapse under the weight of armored vehicles and construction traffic. We recommended that USACE take action to (1) mitigate silt accumulation in the anti-vehicle and flood control trench,<sup>5</sup> (2) ensure that the site was properly graded, (3) repair the bridge near the main entrance of the garrison,<sup>6</sup> and (4) secure the weapons training range.<sup>7</sup> Although our 2012 inspection primarily focused on actions taken to address our open recommendation on site grading, we also inspected the new culvert being constructed to replace the deteriorating bridge. Appendix I contains more detail on our scope and methodology, and appendix II contains a site plan showing approximate inspection locations and other information.

We conducted this inspection at Kabul, Afghanistan, the USACE Jalalabad Resident Office, and the ANA garrison in Gamberi from January to October 2012, in accordance with the *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, published by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The engineering assessment was conducted by professional engineers in accordance with the *NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers*.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the *Report on Progress toward National Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, dated April 2012, the Afghan National Security Forces are ahead of schedule to achieve the end-strength of 352,000 by October 2012.

<sup>2</sup> In 2009, the Afghanistan Engineer District was divided into two districts—North and South. The North District is referred to as USACE-TAN.

<sup>3</sup> The Gamberi garrison is located in the Gamberi Desert along Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan. The garrison site is 13 kilometers east of the city of Jalalabad, in Nangarhar province.

<sup>4</sup> SIGAR Audit-10-10, *ANA Garrison at Gamberi Appears Well Built Overall but Some Construction Issues Need to Be Addressed*, dated April 30, 2010.

<sup>5</sup> SIGAR closed this recommendation when USACE agreed to use the recommendations from a proposed CSTC-A-funded watershed study and to ensure that trench maintenance for sediment removal would be performed periodically. Since the completion of our prior audit, the boundaries of the garrison expanded, and a new anti-vehicle and flood control trench was being constructed during our 2012 site visit. However, we did not observe any survey markers for this construction.

<sup>6</sup> SIGAR closed this recommendation when USACE agreed to negotiate with the construction contractor to repair the bridge before final acceptance of the project from the contractor.

<sup>7</sup> During our site visit in 2010, we noted that the weapons training range was unsecured, which allowed the entry of local residents, including nomads who grazed animals in the area. SIGAR closed this recommendation when USACE reported that perimeter fencing was being installed in accordance with the construction contract. In reviewing documents after our February 2012 site visit, we noted that a fence had been constructed, but the construction did not match the as-built drawings. We brought this to the attention of USACE-TAN officials.

## BACKGROUND

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The Gamberi project initially consisted of four firm-fixed-price contracts to accommodate an ANA garrison of three infantry battalions consisting of about 4,000 personnel in a 1 kilometer by 1 kilometer compound. The contracts also provided for an embedded training team compound to accommodate 250 U.S. soldiers working with ANA battalions. The contracts totaled more than \$126.5 million and, through a series of amendments and a subsequent delivery order, the cost was increased to almost \$129.8 million. At the time of the 2010 audit, the U.S. government had paid more than \$87 million of the \$129.8 million that had been obligated for the contracts. Appendix III provides more information for each of these contracts.

Subsequent to our 2010 audit, USACE-TAN awarded a firm-fixed-price contract for additional construction projects.<sup>8</sup> The purpose of the contract was to design and construct approximately 26,000 square meters of new road; 3,540 linear meters of anti-vehicle trench; and 1,000 square meters of riprap,<sup>9</sup> and to design and replace the main access bridge to the garrison with a new culvert. The Gamberi ANA garrison is currently maintained under the USACE operation and maintenance contract.

## FAILURE TO MITIGATE SITE GRADING ISSUES CONTINUES TO THREATEN FACILITIES AT THE ANA GARRISON AT GAMBERI

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During our inspection at Gamberi on February 18 and 19, 2012, we found that site grading and infrastructure maintenance continue to be ineffective in mitigating flooding and erosion within the garrison. Specifically, while most of the site had an efficient storm water drainage system in place, problems related to poor site grading continued to exist. The poor site grading resulted in areas of low elevation where storm water collected, causing flooding within the garrison and allowing sediment to collect and storm water ditches to erode.<sup>10</sup>

During this inspection, we also observed a channel with erosion of 2,000 mm to 3,000 mm deep (see figure 1) and standing water by the wastewater treatment plant (see figure 2). Due to the amount of erosion, debris, and signs of flooding that we observed, we concluded that USACE had done little to prevent or repair these problems, and its site grading efforts had been ineffective. Poor infrastructure maintenance may have also contributed to garrison flooding, erosion around the storm water channels, and debris blocking water outlets at the perimeter wall and storm drain culverts.

In the southeastern area of the garrison, we noted that the storm water trenches were eroding, which could cause storm water to eventually reach and erode one of the major roads on the garrison. We also observed deep ruts and standing water on other roads. Adding gravel to low lying roads where flooding regularly occurs or applying similar mitigating procedures, would help to drain these areas more quickly.

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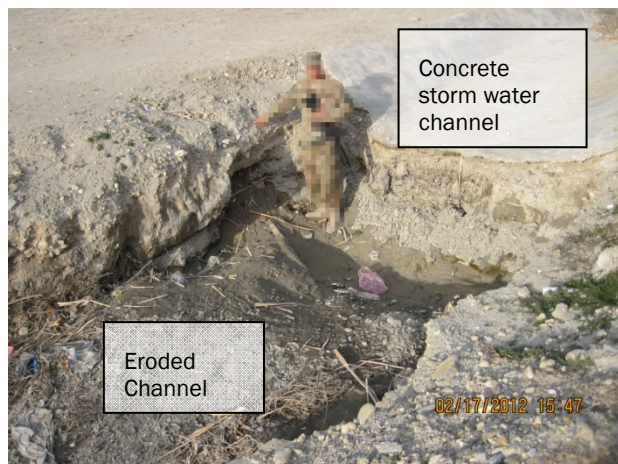
<sup>8</sup> Contract (W5J9JE-10-D-0004-0005), awarded on January 21, 2011, to Lakeshore Engineering Services for \$5,796,988.

<sup>9</sup> Riprap is an engineered layer of graded broken rock pieces placed on an embankment slope to prevent erosion.

<sup>10</sup> In our 2010 report, we stated that sound construction practices dictate that soil grading should begin on the low end of a construction site and progress to higher elevations to allow interim storm water runoff to drain completely off the project. We also observed that the finished grade of the streets in the project were significantly higher than adjacent building slabs at several locations throughout the site. We concluded that the poor grading design would likely result in accumulation of water around structures and that a significant rainfall could cause flooding if site grading problems were not addressed.



**Figure 1 - Eroded Channel**



Source - SIGAR Gamberi Site Visit February 18, 2012.

**Figure 2 - Perimeter Road**



Source - SIGAR Gamberi Site Visit February 18, 2012.

We also noted that the wastewater treatment plant, located in the south corner of the garrison (downhill from the rest of the base), was prone to flooding because of improper site grading. As a result, travel in the area was difficult or impossible during flooding conditions. We found no evidence that grading or appropriate structures had been put in place to divert the storm water off site. Further, we noticed severe erosion occurring in the storm water channels in this area, as well as water collecting in the low-lying areas, when it should have drained into channels leading outside the base, especially near the wastewater treatment plant. There was no evidence that any work had been conducted to repair this issue.<sup>11</sup> Should flooding continue, it could eventually affect wastewater treatment plant operation by preventing access to the facility, overflowing into the treatment plant, and weakening building foundations, eventually causing structural failures.

In commenting on our draft report, USACE-TAN noted that completed construction projects at the garrison are turned over to NTM-A/CSTC-A for use by Afghan National Security Forces and that maintenance on the grounds and facilities is performed under the USACE operation and maintenance contract. However, if site grading and infrastructure maintenance had been performed under the original construction contract—as we noted in our April 2010 report—the contractor would have been required to perform this work under warranty, rather than USACE incurring additional costs under the operation and maintenance contract.

## **DESIGN OF REPLACEMENT CULVERT COULD LEAD TO STRUCTURAL FAILURE**

During our 2012 site visit and inspection, we found problems related to the design of the new culvert being built to replace the deteriorating bridge discussed in our 2010 audit report.<sup>12</sup> Our 2010 report noted that the

<sup>11</sup> In responding to a draft of this report, USACE-TAN stated that on June 19, 2012, a storm water outlet construction project was completed; however, they provided no photograph or other document to validate the repair.

<sup>12</sup> A culvert is an opening through an embankment for the conveyance of water by pipe or an enclosed channel. A culvert can serve a purpose similar to that of a bridge but can differ in size and construction.

deck of the bridge could collapse under the weight of heavily armored vehicles and construction traffic.<sup>13</sup> At the time of our 2012 site visit, the contractor had just begun to excavate the area as part of site preparation. Although it was too early to assess construction quality, we reviewed the technical specifications and design drawings that USACE-TAN provided at the site. After the site visit, we reviewed the culvert hydraulic design analysis and found that (1) the size of the drainage basin was too small, and (2) the proposed culvert had flaws in its hydraulic design,<sup>14</sup> which we determined could lead to a future structural failure and make the culvert unsafe or unusable.

We briefed USACE-TAN officials on April 4, 2012, to discuss our concerns. In a follow-up teleconference on April 30, 2012, USACE-TAN informed us that, in response to the concerns we raised, the contractor increased the size of the drainage basin. Concerning the risk that the current hydraulic design could lead to a future structural failure, USACE-TAN told us that the contractor had determined that no design changes were necessary based on its review and calculations. Despite the contractor's determination, we still have concerns that the hydraulic design may eventually lead to structural failure of the culvert. In response to a draft of this report, USACE-TAN stated that it performed formal reviews of the contractor's design throughout the various submittal phases. USACE-TAN further noted that it scheduled an inspection of the culvert in October 2012, and will identify any new issues for correction at that time.

## CONCLUSIONS

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Site grading at the Gamberi ANA garrison continues to be ineffective in mitigating flooding and erosion. As a result, garrison facilities are at risk, including the wastewater treatment plant and a major road network. In addition, based on the amount of debris and sediment in the channels, the depth and quantity of road ruts, and the amount of storm water channel erosion, it was evident that these facilities had not been properly maintained for an extended period of time. Failure to address these issues could result in road damage and failure of the wastewater treatment facility and storm drainage channels, eventually affecting base operations. We also remain concerned about the risk of structural failure of the new culvert due to design flaws. The U.S. government will need to spend additional funds to address the deficiencies we identified and protect its investment in the Gamberi garrison.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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To ensure the structural integrity of the Gamberi garrison in Nangarhar province, SIGAR recommends that the Commanding General, USACE, direct USACE-TAN to take the necessary actions to remediate the deficiencies identified during SIGAR's inspection and determine a resolution that is in the best interest of the U.S. government. Specifically, we recommend the following actions:

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<sup>13</sup> As noted in SIGAR Audit-10-10, although the stone masonry walls appeared to be in good condition, the deck of the bridge was poorly constructed. Due to improper concrete placement, the reinforcement bars on the underside of the concrete deck had inadequate contact with the concrete for proper strength and were exposed to the elements. The reinforcement bars showed signs of corrosion, severely degrading the strength of the deck. As a result, the deck could collapse under heavy traffic.

<sup>14</sup> This destructive force is known as a "hydraulic jump." Hydraulic jump, once it passes through a structure, erodes the riverbed on the downstream side. Although we noted that the design analysis addressed this issue, the structure should not be causing this. It was also not clear how the erosion potential was evaluated or calculated.



1. Repair damaged storm water facilities by repairing eroding ditches and removing sediment and debris on roads, in ditches, and in perimeter wall outlets throughout the garrison.
2. Implement mitigating flood control measures, such as adding gravel to low lying roads where flooding regularly occurs to drain these areas more quickly.
3. Establish and follow a program to maintain the storm water drainage system and ensure that timely repairs are made to correct the deficiencies that we identified.
4. Conduct a detailed structural analysis and design review of the culvert design package and take appropriate actions to correct any deficiencies identified.

## AGENCY COMMENTS

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We provided a draft of this report to NTM-A/CSTC-A and USACE-TAN for comment. NTM-A/CSTC-A concurred with all four recommendations, but it noted that some of the issues addressed in the report are construction-related and should be handled by the agency that managed the construction projects. It also stated that it would engage with the Regional Support Command to identify avenues to address the concerns we identified with storm water facilities and flood control measures. NTM-A/CSTC-A's comments are reproduced in appendix IV of this report.

USACE-TAN concurred with our first three recommendations and noted that it had requested the contracting officer's representative for the operation and maintenance contract to verify the current condition of drainage areas and structures to help ensure that repairs are made as needed. However, USACE-TAN did not concur with our fourth recommendation, stating that it had accepted the contractor's design and that no additional structural analysis or design review was necessary. Moreover, USACE-TAN noted that its contractor had increased the size of the drainage basin in response to concerns we raised during a site visit during early construction. Nevertheless, USACE-TAN described several actions to address issues related to the culvert's design that are generally responsive to our recommendation. For example, USACE-TAN stated that it has scheduled a 4-month inspection of the culvert bridge in October 2012 and will identify any new issues at that time. USACE-TAN also noted that it has reminded the contracting officer's representative to ensure that the operation and maintenance contractor routinely checks, among other things, all drainage structures, ditches, and debris removal as part of its routine monthly preventative maintenance inspection. Furthermore, as storm events occur, USACE-TAN stated that the contractor will conduct frequent reviews and surveys of the site as storms occur for deteriorating conditions and that the responsible contracting officer's representative will verify any remedial actions taken. In our view, these actions are generally responsive to our recommendation. Although we continue to have concerns that the hydraulic design could lead to structural failure of the culvert, we are encouraged by USACE-TAN's commitment to periodic inspections and urge it to take the necessary actions to promptly remediate any deficiencies found. We will follow-up with USACE-TAN on the results of its inspections.

USACE-TAN also provided technical comments, which we incorporated into this report, as appropriate. USACE-TAN's comments are reproduced in appendix V.

## APPENDIX I - SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

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This report provides the results of a follow-up assessment of actions taken by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District-North (USACE-TAN) on an open recommendation in SIGAR Audit-10-10 by the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

To determine if proper site grading and infrastructure maintenance was being performed under the operation and maintenance contract, we

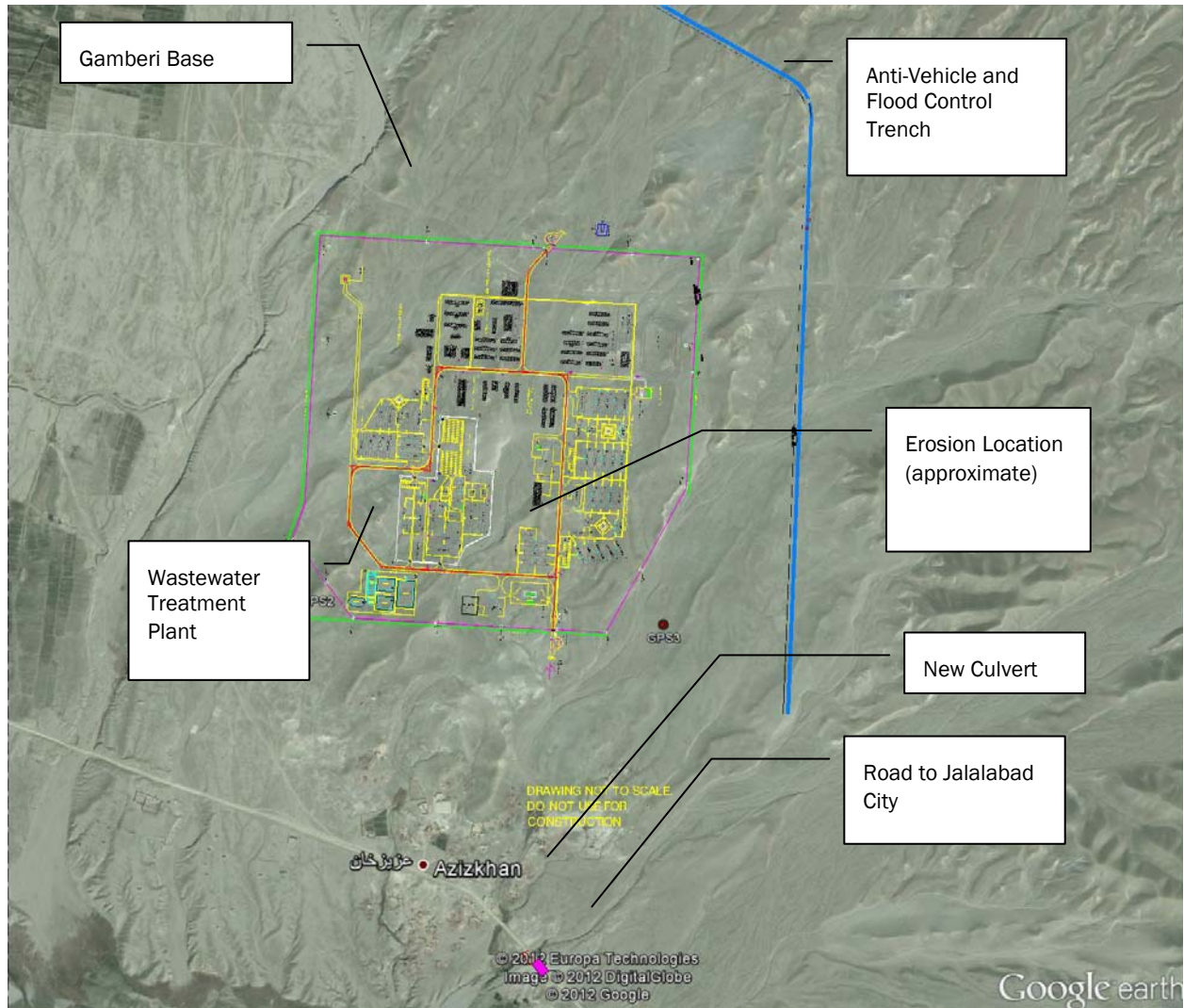
- reviewed SIGAR Audit-10-10 for background;
- examined contract documents, design submittals, and quality assurance and quality control documents to understand project requirements and administration;
- interviewed U.S. government officials responsible for overseeing operation and maintenance issues for the project; and
- visited the project site to observe the current status.

In order to determine what mitigation procedures were being performed to counter the problems associated with improper site grading and infrastructure maintenance, we reviewed relevant documentation and met with officials at the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and USACE-TAN offices in Kabul, Afghanistan, and USACE-TAN's Jalalabad Resident Office. We also conducted a site inspection of the Gamberi ANA garrison on February 18 and 19, 2012. We reviewed construction quality control and quality assurance reports as necessary to determine where site grading issues were occurring, so that we could direct our attention to those areas during our time onsite. We considered the impact of compliance with laws and fraud risk. We did not rely on computer-processed data in conducting this inspection.

SIGAR conducted its inspection work from January to October 2012 in accordance with *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* published by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. These standards were established to guide all inspection work performed by the Offices of Inspector General. The engineering assessments were conducted by Professional Engineers in accordance with the *NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers*. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our inspection objectives. This inspection was conducted by the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction under the authority of Public Law 110-181, as amended, the Inspector General Act of 1978, and the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008.

## APPENDIX II - GAMBERI GARRISON SITE PLAN

Figure I - Site Plan Showing Approximate Inspection Locations and Other Information



Source: SIGAR developed this graphic using Google, site visit, and contract information.

## APPENDIX III - SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL GAMBERI CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS

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The contracts for three construction phases and the range complex were in effect during our 2010 review. The following sections describe the contracts and the costs for the original contracts and amendments totaling \$129.8 million.

- **Phase I:** USACE awarded a firm-fixed-price contract (W917PM-08-C-0009) to DynCorp International, Limited Liability Corporation, on November 24, 2007, for nearly \$49.2 million, and through a series of amendments the cost was increased to nearly \$50.5 million. The purpose of the contract was to design, make site-adaptations, and construct a new campus facility for the Afghan National Army (ANA) garrison's use in Gamberi, Nangarhar province, in Afghanistan. Facilities included barracks, storage facilities, a dining facility, and an embedded training team compound.
- **Phase II:** USACE awarded a firm-fixed-price contract (W917PM-08-C-0076) to DynCorp International, Limited Liability Corporation, on August 7, 2008, for almost \$40.0 million and through a series of amendments the cost was increased to almost \$41.1 million. The purpose of the contract was to design, make partial site-adaptations, and construct new campus facilities for the ANA garrison's use in Gamberi. Facilities included barracks, a battalion headquarters building, and communication and electrical distribution systems.
- **Phase III:** USACE awarded a firm-fixed-price contract (W917PM-09-C-0052) to BYA, Incorporated, on June 16, 2009, for almost \$26.8 million. The purpose of the contract was to design and construct a new ANA Corps Support Battalion and related support facilities at Gamberi garrison. Facilities included three bachelor officers barracks, six enlisted open-bay barracks, battalion headquarters, arms storage, general warehouse storage, and a motor pool for the Corps Support Battalion.
- **Range Complex:** USACE awarded a firm-fixed-price contract (W917PM-08-C-0047) to Lakeshore Engineering Services, Incorporated, on June 10, 2009, for over \$10.5 million, and through a series of amendments the cost was increased to over \$11.4 million. The purpose of the contract was to design and construct one range complex consisting of eight new ranges and related roads and support facilities.

Table I shows the original and amended contract amounts for phases I-III and the range complex.

**Table I - Summary of Phases I to III and Range Complex Original and Amended Contract Amounts (millions)**

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Contract Number</b>	<b>Award Date</b>	<b>Original Amount</b>	<b>Amended Amount</b>
DynCorp International LLC (phase I)	W917PM-08-C-0009	Nov 27, 2007	\$49.2	\$50.5
DynCorp International LLC (phase II)	W917PM-08-C-0076	Aug 8, 2008	\$40.0	\$41.1
BYA, Inc. (phase III)	W917PM-09-C-0052	Jun 9, 2009	\$26.8	\$26.8
Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc. (range complex)	W917PM-08-C-0047	Jun 10, 2009	\$10.5	\$11.4
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$126.5</b>	<b>\$129.8</b>

Source: SIGAR analysis of contracts and amendments.

# APPENDIX IV - COMMENTS FROM THE NATO TRAINING MISSION- AFGHANISTAN/COMBINED SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND-AFGHANISTAN

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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF  
NTM-A/CSTC-A

HEADQUARTERS  
NATO TRAINING MISSION - AFGHANISTAN  
COMBINED SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND - AFGHANISTAN  
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN  
APO AE 09356

03 OCT 2012

MEMORANDUM THRU United States Forces - Afghanistan (CJIG), APO AE 09356  
United States Central Command (CCIG), MacDill AFB, FL 33621

FOR: Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction  
2530 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: NTM-A/CSTC-A Response to the Draft Report "Gamberi Afghan National Army Garrison:  
Site Grading and Infrastructure Maintenance Problems Put Facilities at Risk" (Report No.  
SIGAR-Inspection-12-03)

REFERENCE: Draft Report, Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction  
(SIGAR).

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide responses to SIGAR's draft report.
2. NTM-A/CSTC-A reviewed the draft report and has the following comments:
  - a. NTM-A concurs with all recommendations and believe they are construction issues that should be handled by the construction agent, USACE. We will engage with the Regional Support Command to identify avenues to address issues 1 and 2.
3. Point of contact for this action is CDR Michael S. Richman at DSN 318-237-0944, or via e-mail at michael.s.richman@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Andrew W. Backus  
COL NTM-A, ENG  
Director



# APPENDIX V - COMMENTS FROM THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION  
255 FORT COLLIER ROAD  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22603-5776

18 OCT 2012

CETAD-IR


MEMORANDUM FOR Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)  
ATTN: Benjamin J. Piccolo, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, 2530 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA 22202-3940

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Response to SIGAR Draft Report 12-03,  
Gamberi Afghan National Army Garrison: Site Grading and Infrastructure Maintenance  
Problems Put Facilities at Risk

1. Enclosed is USACE Transatlantic Division response to the SIGAR Draft Report, SIGAR 12-03, "Gamberi Afghan National Army Garrison: Site Grading and Infrastructure Maintenance Problems Put Facilities at Risk."
2. My point of contact for these comments is Mr. George Sullivan, Chief, Internal Review at 540-665-2117, [George.a.Sullivan@usace.army.mil](mailto:George.a.Sullivan@usace.army.mil).

SIGAR Inspection  
Report 12-03 is now  
SIGAR Inspection  
Report 13-3.

Encl

  
JOHN S HURLEY  
Colonel, USA  
Deputy Commander

USACE Comments to SIGAR 12-03 Draft Report, Gamberi Afghan National Army Garrison:  
Site Grading and Infrastructure Maintenance Problems Put Facilities at Risk, 28 Sep 12

USACE comments are provided for the draft report results per the paragraphs identified and for the recommendations as shown.

**FAILURE TO MITIGATE SITE GRADING ISSUES CONTINUES TO THREATEN  
FACILITIES AT THE ANA GARRISON AT GAMBERI**

Completed construction projects at the Gamberi Afghan National Army Garrison are turned over to NTM-A/CSTC-A for use by ANSF. Maintenance on the grounds and facilities is performed under an O&M contract administered by USACE. The USACE COR for the O&M contract can approve job orders under a certain dollar threshold based upon maintenance needs identified by the O&M contractor.

**Recommendations**

**To ensure the structural integrity of the Gamberi garrison in Nangarhar province, SIGAR recommends that the Commanding General, USACE, direct USACE-TAN to take the necessary actions to remediate the deficiencies identified during SIGAR's inspection and determine a resolution that is in the best interest of the U.S. government. Specifically, we recommend the following actions:**

**1. Repair damaged storm water facilities to include the repair of eroding ditches and removal of sediment and debris on roads, in ditches, and in perimeter wall outlets throughout the garrison.**

Concur. USACE-TAN has requested that the COR for the O&M contract verify the current condition of drainage areas and structures to assist the customer in ensuring that repairs are made as needed.

Additional Comments. Project completion was 19 Jun 12 and storm water outlet construction was completed in accordance with contract requirements and applicable construction standards.

**2. Implement mitigating flood control measures, such as adding gravel to low lying roads where flooding regularly occurs to drain these areas more quickly.**

Concur. USACE-TAN has requested that the COR for the O&M contract verify the current condition of drainage areas and structures to assist the customer. However, USACE has observed that the ANSF have established their own roads in addition to the surfaced roads constructed by USACE contractors. If the roads in question were established by the ANSF, NTM-A/CSTC-A will need to determine the appropriate course of action.

**3. Establish and follow a program to maintain the storm water drainage system and ensure that timely repairs are made to correct the deficiencies that we identified.**

Concur. In support of NTM-A/CSTC-A, USACE-TAN has requested that the COR for the O&M contract verify the current condition of drainage areas and structures to assist the customer in

ensuring that repairs are made as needed.

Additional Comments: The contractor completed storm water outlet construction in accordance with contract requirements and applicable construction standards.

**4. Conduct a detailed structural analysis and design review of the culvert design package and take appropriate actions to correct any deficiencies identified.**

Non-concur. Project completion was 19 Jun 12 and construction was completed in accordance with the design. No additional structural analysis and design review is necessary. USACE-TAN performed formal reviews of the contractor's design throughout the various submittal phases. The Engineering Branch followed appropriate discipline to verify that the contractor's design was adequate, approved the final 100 percent design submittal, and coded the submission as acceptable. As also noted in the report, USACE-TAN increased the size of the drainage basin in response to SIGAR concerns during their site visit in the early construction phase. USACE-TAN provided SIGAR with the Lakeshore Group Construction Warranty Management Plan, ANA Wadi Mitigation & Outer Perimeter Road, Box Culvert Bridge, and the warranty letter dated 30 Jun 12. USACE-TAN has scheduled a four-month inspection in Oct 12 and will identify any new issues at that time. To further ensure prompt identification of any problems, USACE-TAN O&M Branch personnel have reminded the COR to ensure the O&M contractor routinely checks all drainage structures, ditches, debris removal, and appurtenances as part of their routine monthly preventative maintenance inspection. As storm events occur and conditions on the site continually change, the contractor will conduct frequent review/survey of the site for deteriorating conditions, and the responsible contract COR will verify any remedial actions taken.

## APPENDIX VI - ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This inspection was conducted under project  
code SIGAR-I-002.

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