



## Afghanistan Update August 2007

*U.S. DOS/INL's JSSP program seeks to increase the capacity of the Afghan Government and Afghan legal practitioners to deliver fair and transparent criminal justice and rule of law services to the people of Afghanistan. To that end, JSSP advisors work with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice on a wide range of initiatives. In addition, JSSP conducts police/prosecutor training in four provinces and works to promote Afghans' access to justice services by implementing provincial justice conferences, training and mentoring of defense lawyers, and working on a range of other projects.*

### ***JSSP-R Training Graduates First Class of Police/Prosecutor Students***

In Herat, 21 provincial police officers and 10 provincial prosecutors who successfully completed the JSSP training Year 1 were honored in a graduation ceremony. In Balkh, all thirty students graduated in a ceremony attended by guest speakers Provincial Police Chief Sultani, Northern Region Criminal Investigation Division Commander Sahar and Balkh Province Deputy Saranwal Osman Farouk. In Nangarhar, the Chief Saranwal and Chief of Police of Nangarhar Province were keynote speakers.



Chief Prosecutor Abdul Mallim Kayum (right, foreground) and Commander Khan of the Afghan National Police (second from right) observe the festivities at the JSSP graduation in Balkh province.

### ***JSSP-R Program Expands to Kunduz Province***

In mid-August, JSSP established its fourth regional team in Kunduz. Team members met with representatives of DynCorps and the U.S. Dept. of State in addition to German civilian and military leaders of the Provincial Reconstruction Center (PRT) to engage in dialogue on current activities as part of an initial assessment on the criminal justice sector.

### ***JSSP Completes Renovations on the Attorney General's Office Annex***

On July 31, renovations were completed on a new AGO Headquarters (HQ) Annex compound. The new facility will house offices for the Attorney General and for key staff dedicated to anti-corruption efforts. The building has been specially equipped with technology to support these important missions. In addition, the basement area will include space for AGO Education and Training Division classrooms, a library, and conference rooms. AGO staff began moving into the building this month.

### ***JSSP Works with the Ministry of Justice to Establish a Policy and Strategy Unit***

JSSP finalized arrangements for the Policy and Strategy Advisory Unit (PSU) in the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), formally establishing the Unit in the Office of the Minister on August 30. The Unit will help the Ministry take the lead in seeking substantive solutions to justice sector challenges, and in promoting more effective and efficient cooperation among justice sector stakeholders. Comprised of 4 local attorneys and an administrative assistant, the Unit will also assist the Ministry in developing the policies and plans needed to effectively implement the Ministry's longer-term justice strategy.

### ***JSSP Advisors Research Provincial Defense Capacity***

The provincial defense assessment team traveled to Kunduz Province to complete the fourth and final set of interviews to assess provincial defense capabilities. Over the past month, the team has completed assessments of Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat. These assessments will inform the design of a focused training plan to further strengthen defense capacity in these provinces.