PRESS RELEASE

UNDP’S EU-BOMNAF PROJECT TRAINS AFGHAN BORDER POLICE ON ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

20 Officers of the Afghan Border Police are receiving advanced instruction in All-terrain vehicle maintenance and operation techniques in Dushanbe. Organised by EU-BOMNAF the training is being delivered by Peter Southern and David Evans, two Specialists from Britain, supported by Jurajjon, a trained mechanic from Tajikistan.

UNDP’s William Lawrence, EU-BOMNAF Project Manager said, “Since 2007 this Project has delivered 49 Polaris All-terrain Vehicles to locations along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border. They provide an excellent means of moving equipment, supplies and personnel around the kind of rugged terrain in which the Afghan Border Police work. However, they require regular maintenance to remain useful and can be dangerous if ridden by unskilled drivers. Peter and David are here to ensure that our ABP colleagues receive the best training possible”.

Lawrence continued, “Such trainings can only take place through the good cooperation and joint determination of the national governments of Afghanistan and Tajikistan: the BOMNAF Project continues to be prepared to support activities which improve the management of our joint border.”

Mike Holman, EU-BOMNAF’s new Chief Training Officer, added, “The students on this course are really enthusiastic. They realize the importance of the training and have plenty of questions for the Instructors. Just as importantly they are providing valuable feedback to us on the problems they have encountered keeping their vehicles in good condition. Peter and David are using this information to adapt the training and to advise EU-BOMNAF on ways to overcome these difficulties.”

Since 2007, EU Border Management Afghanistan projects are part of the European Union’s regional capacity building and training programme of activities. The specific objective of the EU-BOMNAF project is to support Cross-border Security and Cooperation, by improving Integrated Border Management in northern Afghanistan. This will contribute to supporting the Government of Afghanistan in fostering economic and political relations with Tajikistan and other countries in the region, through the promotion of economic development and stability.

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