

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



ANBP Passes Major Disarmament Milestone, More than Half of AMF Soldiers Disarmed

Nov 29, 2004- More than 25 thousand members of the Afghan Military Forces (AMF) have now been disarmed by Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme. This puts ANBP more than halfway toward its goal of disarming all remaining members of the AMF by the end of June 2005.

"The fact that we have passed the halfway point with more than 25,000 in just over a year of operations shows that Afghanistan's DDR process works." says Peter Babbington, Acting Director of ANBP.

He adds, "With the continued cooperation of the Ministry of Defence we are confident of reaching our goals, thereby strengthening Afghanistan's peace and stability."

ANBP's estimate of fewer than 25 thousand remaining to be disarmed is based on 13 months of field work in all parts of Afghanistan.

Following disarmament, soldiers are presented with medals and certificates to honour their contribution to Afghanistan. They are then given food, clothing and support while they are trained for productive lives as ordinary civilians.

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The ANBP is a programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It works with the Afghan Transitional Authority to disarm and demobilize former members of the AMF forces then reintegrate them to Afghan society.



AFGHANISTAN



آغاز نو - نوی پیل
Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme



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