



**SIGAR**

Office of the Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

June 26, 2014

General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.  
Commander, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, and  
Commander, International Security Assistance Force

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

General Dunford and Lieutenant General Bostick:

The United States and other donor countries have reportedly invested \$4 billion in the reconstruction of Afghan roads. As you know, the United States provided a significant proportion of those funds. The U.S. Agency for International Development has invested over a billion dollars in road projects, and the Department of Defense (DOD) has provided hundreds of millions of dollars more. Following conversations that I had during my trip to Afghanistan last fall, I'm concerned that the U.S. government may be supporting road projects in Afghanistan that will be unsustainable due to not being properly maintained.

For example, in Kabul, a senior U.S. government official expressed his misgivings to me regarding the efficacy of U.S. and Afghan road maintenance efforts and stated his belief that maintenance problems pose a major challenge to the sustainability of Afghanistan's transportation network. A recent report in the *Washington Post* confirmed this when it pointed out that Highway 1, a critical piece of Afghanistan's transport infrastructure, is nearly impassible at certain points due to damage caused by insurgent activity, coupled with a lack of road maintenance by the Afghan government.<sup>1</sup> It's reported that this road was built by U.S. and coalition partners at a cost of approximately \$3 billion. The *Washington Post* article claimed that USAID ceased funding Afghan government road maintenance programs in 2012, when the agency determined that the Afghan government's road maintenance efforts were inadequate. The article did not mention whether DOD or other agencies provide or have provided funding for the Afghan government to conduct road maintenance.

I am concerned that roads built at great risk and expense by the U.S. and other donors are not and will not be properly maintained. I'm also troubled by reports that roads may continue to be built in Afghanistan despite an apparent shortage of effective maintenance plans or capacity.

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin Sieff, "After Billions in U.S. Investment, Afghan Roads Are Falling Apart," *Washington Post*, January 30, 2014

To provide SIGAR with a better understanding of the status of DOD-funded road projects in Afghanistan and the plans to sustain them, please provide a response to the attached questions, no later than July 10, 2014.

I am submitting this request pursuant to my authority under Public Law No. 110-181, as amended, and the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Jack Mitchell, Director, Office of Special Projects, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



John F. Sopko  
Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

Enclosure I: Questions Regarding Maintenance of U.S.-funded Road Projects

## ENCLOSURE I: QUESTIONS REGARDING MAINTENANCE OF U.S.-FUNDED ROAD PROJECTS

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1. How much money has DOD spent on road construction in Afghanistan?
2. Is DOD currently constructing or planning to construct roads in Afghanistan? If so, please list all such projects, their locations, and the estimated cost of each project.
3. Who is responsible for maintaining the roads constructed by DOD in Afghanistan?
4. Has DOD provided funding for maintenance of roads in Afghanistan? If so, please list the funding by year, and include planned expenditures for future years.
5. What is the current capacity of the Afghan government to maintain these roads?
6. What will be the funding source for the maintenance of these roads in the future?



HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES FORCES-AFGHANISTAN  
BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN  
APO AE 09354

USFOR-A DCDR-S

12 July 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33621

SUBJECT: United States Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) Response to SIGAR-14-72-SP Inquiry Letter "Maintenance of Department of Defense Funded Roads"

1. References:

a. SIGAR-14-72-SP Inquiry Letter, 26 June 2014 (Encl 1)

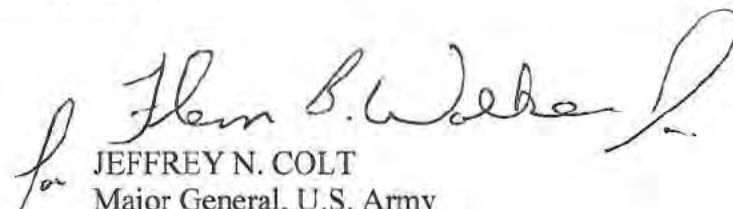
b. USFOR-A Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer (JENG) Response Memo, 6 July 2014 (Encl 2)

2. I have reviewed the SIGAR Special Inquiry Letter 1.a. (Encl 1) and subsequent JENG response memo 1.b. (Encl 2). The reply is included as feedback to this SIGAR inquiry.

3. Point of Contact for this action is Lieutenant Colonel Michael Hill at DSN [REDACTED] or via e-mail at [REDACTED].

2 Encls:

1. SIGAR Inquiry Letter, 26 June 14
2. JENG Response Memo, 6 July 14

  
JEFFREY N. COLT  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Deputy Commander, Support  
United States Forces-Afghanistan

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**HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES FORCES-AFGHANISTAN  
BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN  
APO AE 09354**

USFOR-A JENG

9 July 2014

MEMORANDUM THRU: Inspector General, U.S. Forces Afghanistan

FOR: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 2530 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3940

SUBJECT: SIGAR 14-72-SP Inquiry Letter: Maintenance of DOD-Funded Roads

1. In response to your letter, subject as above dated 26 June 2014, we are providing the following answers to your questions:

**1. How much money has DOD spent on road construction in Afghanistan?**

Commander's Emergency Response Fund (CERP) has provided funding for approximately 252 transportation construction projects valued over \$159M. The Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has provided \$67.6M for road construction.

**2. Is DOD currently constructing or planning to construct roads in Afghanistan?  
If so, please list all such projects, their locations, and the estimated cost of each project.**

- a. There are currently three AIF road projects under construction:
  - RC-E Corridor - \$24.6M in two locations: Saracha Bridge east of Jalalabad, and Ghulam Khan Corridor from Khost to Afghanistan/Pakistan border (31km).
  - Parwan to Bamyan Section 6 - \$10M
- b. CERP road projects nearing completion are as follows:
  - Andar to Giro Road – Repair and pave 25km of road from Miri Center in Andar District to Panah in Giro District - \$4.9M.
  - There are no future CERP or AIF roads planned at this time.

SUBJECT: SIGAR 14-72-SP Inquiry Letter: Maintenance of DOD-Funded Roads

**3. Who is responsible for maintaining the roads constructed by DOD in Afghanistan?**

Regulations and policy governing the use of CERP and AIF funds require that the USFOR-A Commander ensure that an appropriate GIRoA authority is prepared to maintain a project after it has been transferred. When developing a CERP or AIF road construction project, depending on the location and ownership of the particular land, the local provincial government or the Ministry of Public Works/GIRoA is required to sign a sustainment agreement for the project before work commences.

**4. Has DOD provided funding for maintenance of roads in Afghanistan? If so, please list the funding by year, and include planned expenditures for future years.**

No, neither CERP nor AIF has provided funds for maintenance or sustainment type projects.

**5. What is the current capacity of the Afghan government to maintain these roads?**

As USFOR-A has previously stated: we have built and met the sustainment requirement of the regulations by expecting the GIRoA to be able to fulfill its share of the bargain by maintaining the projects they said they would when transferred to them.

**6. What will be the funding source for the maintenance of these roads in the future?**

The Afghanistan Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) is responsible for the execution of project designing, survey, reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads, road maintenance, contracting for road construction with private sector/road companies, monitoring planning of railways, road and bridge restoration. MoPW has an annual budget.

2. Point of Contact for this memorandum is Mr. John Drake, Chief, Infrastructure, Joint Programs Integration Office, USFOR-A, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

JOHN DRAKE  
Chief, Infrastructure Division  
Joint Programs Integration Office,  
United States Forces-Afghanistan