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## Pakistani Army Officer Training Visit

### US Army / US Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center



On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, the COIN Center hosted a delegation of the Pakistani Army in support of US Army Central Command and Office of Defense Representative Pakistan (ODRP). The Focus of their US trip, which included visits to Joint Readiness Training Center, National Training Center, 4/10 Mountain Division, 1/1 and 2/1 Infantry Division, was on learning how the US Army prepares soldiers for duty in foreign cultures during home station training and at the Combat Training Centers. Pakistan's Army Director of Military Training, Brigadier Raashid Wali Janjua was the senior representative. Also present were seven field grade officers from the Pakistani Army and Pakistan's Frontier Corps.

Also participating were CGSC faculty members and the CGSC Ike Skelton COIN Chair, Dr. Dan Marston. The COIN Center provided information and the opportunity to discuss topics on fundamentals of counterinsurgency, insurgency, and Security Force Assistance operations. The discussion was clearly a two way street with the officers of the COIN Center learning a great deal about COIN operations from Pakistan experiences. Battle Command Training Program also briefed on COIN training methodology used for preparing US brigades for deployment.

Brigadier Raashid was appreciative of the special challenges associated with COIN, particularly in understanding human terrain at the local level. The Pakistani Army's experience in Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Swat Valley underscored the necessity to understand the operational environment, especially culture and language. The Pakistani officers shared their experiences from the 2009 campaign in Swat Valley as a textbook case for COIN with respect to clear, hold and build – the challenge of which is for Pakistan to resource development actions.





Brigadier Raashid expressed the imperative for soldiers to apply lessons learned to correct mistakes and is a strong supporter of soldier leaders embracing scholarly writings. He cited Winston Churchill's "The Story of Malakand Field Force" as a very useful reference for contemporary application of understanding the Af/Pak border region and its cultural and military challenges.

The delegation participated in a hosted lunch (sponsored by the CGSC Foundation) with US counterparts.

This event marks the seventh COIN Center exchange with the Pakistani Army to include an ARCENT hosted conference last summer and Military Consultative Committee in January 2010. The COIN Center has hosted blogs (links [here](#) and [here](#)) by CGSC student MAJ Iqbal as well as his presentation at the COIN Leader Workshop in October 2009 (see [here](#)) which was focused on COIN in the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The COIN Center will continue to support ODRP and ARCENT initiatives with the Pakistani Army to build upon the positive momentum generated by these professional exchanges.

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