

# Engineering Freedom

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## CONTRACTOR RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD

Story by Joan Kibler



(USACE Photo)

“No matter where the Corps of Engineers has a project, anywhere in the world, safety is the number one priority,” said Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, commander of the Afghanistan Engineer District – South (AES).

To demonstrate the emphasis it places on safety, AES presented its first Contractor of the Year award on Nov. 30 to Technologists Inc. for its work on the Ministry of Interior (MOI) regional administration building.

“This is a big event,” Funkhouser said. “Technologists Inc. has set high stan-

dards to promote a safe work environment. The company had more than 61,000 hours of safe operations on this project.”

The citation read, “The contractor’s team consistently demonstrated outstanding safety performance in every facet of project delivery without any injuries, accidents, or unsafe incidents.”

Sayed Arif Habibi, the contractor’s project manager for the MOI building, accepted the award. “This is the first time we have received an award such

as this,” he said. “Safety is very important to us, and this is very good for our people.”

“The Corps of Engineers has helped us,” Habibi said. “We benefit from your experience as we learn about quality and safety.”

Cedric Pelt, Safety and Occupational Health Officer, said that the District established the safety award “to motivate contractors to have safe work practices. “With this award, we are recognizing contractors who are proactive with their safety programs,” Pelt said. “We look at several criteria, which include an accepted accident prevention plan, a prepared activity hazard analysis, and their new employee orientation. We also review how the contractor conducts their site safety reviews and how he documents and corrects safety deficiencies. Finally, we look at whether workers are using proper personal protection equipment and whether the contractor properly reports exposure hours and safety incidents.”

Additional criteria require the contractor to have a toolbox safety meeting weekly and to provide various types of safety training.

The Safety Office solicited nominations from throughout the district for



Courtesy Photo

the award. The nomination from the Kandahar Vicinity Area Office said that the Technologist team “has consistently demonstrated outstanding safety performance in the everyday facets of their project.”

“The management group overseeing the project is composed solely of local nationals, and they are working very hard to showcase their work,” said David Carte, Kandahar Area Engineer.

“They have received high remarks for their quality control management and their safety practices.

“On October 19-20, the Quality Assurance Branch (QAB) conducted a construction management evaluation, and this contract was one of the contracts reviewed. QAB noted in their report, ‘the quality of the construction, both outside and inside the MOI building, demonstrated that the contractor appears to have a good quality control program.’ They also said that this contractor’s safety program appears to be the best they’ve seen in Afghanistan.”

The quality assurance report also stated that jobsite housekeeping and organization are among the best the team has observed.

The area office gave special credit to Nematullah Khatibi, a native of Herat, who has served as the safety officer for the site. He was instrumental in correcting and eliminating safety hazards.

Technologists Inc. holds the \$2.9 million contract to design and construct the regional administration building located at the Joint Regional Afghanistan National Security Force Compound (JRAC) located near Kandahar Airfield.

This project will permit the Ministry of Interior (MOI) to provide more effective administrative support and resources for Afghan National Police operations, Carte said. Administrative personnel located at the MOI building will serve three divisions of the Afghan National Police: Uniformed Police, Afghan National Civil Order Police, and the Border Police.

Pelt encourages all field office personnel to focus on jobsite safety, motivate their contractors to practice safe work habits, and keep their projects in mind for next year’s award.

## ABOUT TECHNOLOGISTS, INC.

Technologists, Inc. (Ti) is an engineering and management consulting firm focused on design/build and various services in post-conflict, post disaster and remote environments. Our team of specialists—numbering more than a thousand—mobilizes on short notice to accomplish our client’s objectives. Through our construction of police and military compounds, training and medical facilities, roads, industrial parks, and wastewater treatment plants, we have demonstrated our expertise in design, construction, environmental consulting, logistics, procurement, and operations and maintenance. With projects in multiple countries and offices in the U.S., Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Haiti, Ti has the capabilities to support operations around the world.

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