



**HEADQUARTERS**  
**International Security Assistance Force Joint Command**  
**Kabul, Afghanistan**  
**APO AE 09320**

**15 July 2011**

**HQ IJC**

It is a privilege to join your ranks once again, and serve with you in this strategic endeavor to develop the Afghan's capacity to secure and govern their country and to ensure Afghanistan will never again be a sanctuary to extremists who desire to attack our homelands.

This is a very tough fight in a complex environment. However, the progress that you and our Afghan partners have made is clear; your efforts are recognized, courageous and noble.

We must maintain the momentum that has been achieved and retain and expand the security gains of the past year while looking for opportunities to accelerate our progress. Together with our Afghan partners, we will stay on the offensive and pursue our enemy relentlessly. Be disciplined, lethal and precise.

Focus your efforts every day on building the competence and capacity of the ANSF and Afghan civil leaders. Their forces are building rapidly and they are gaining experience through partnership with coalition forces. Assist their leaders in building strong units and provide increasing opportunities to demonstrate their capability to operate independently and take responsibility for the security and the future of their Nation. It is vital that Afghans lead as soon as possible.

We are here to protect the Afghan people; this is the foundation of our strategy. Plan and conduct your operations accordingly. We will make every effort to reduce the loss of innocent lives and to show compassion to an Afghan people who have endured thirty years of conflict.

This is a coalition of 49 Nations. We must work as a team - unified in our effort, committed to our mission and confident in our success.

I appreciate and salute your service and sacrifice, and the sacrifice of your families, to provide security for Afghanistan and for your Nation. In fact, I'm humbled and inspired by your example and deeply committed to you and your mission.

*Courage!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Curtis M. Scaparrotti".

CURTIS M. SCAPARROTTI  
Lieutenant General, United States Army  
Commander