

# A \$43 MILLION GAS STATION

## QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of Defense
- **FUMBLE:** \$42,718,739 gas station in Afghanistan
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Require DOD to submit reports on all completed facility construction at the one-, three- and five-year marks to certify the facility's use compared to the original construction justification



*Photo: Central Asia Development Group*

In 2009 DOD moved its Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) from Iraq to Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup> TFBSO's mission was to help build up the economy of war-torn Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup> From 2011-2014 TFBSO spent nearly \$43 million in order to construct a CNG automobile filling station in the city of Sheberghan, Afghanistan.<sup>3</sup> The belief was that a CNG station would take advantage of the natural gas reserves within Afghanistan and alleviate the need for importing fuel. Unfortunately TFBSO never vetted the feasibility of such a plan. Had TFBSO vetted the feasibility, it would have determined there was no natural gas distribution capability in the country and that the cost of converting a vehicle to CNG exceeded the annual income in Afghanistan.<sup>4</sup> Would Americans convert their vehicles to run on CNG if it costs more than their annual income? Probably not.

If the outrageous waste of taxpayers' dollars is not enough, DOD was unable to explain the high cost of the project or any other questions regarding its planning. The reason for DOD's inability to provide an explanation is DOD closed TFBSO in March of 2015.<sup>5</sup> During its lifetime TFBSO spent \$766 million in taxpayer money, but DOD claims there are no records or expertise on TFBSO's activities.<sup>6</sup>

## **RECOVERY**

DOD should not have wasted this much money on a project that a simple feasibility study would have shown was unnecessary. Congress also should have discovered this wasteful project through simple oversight and brought it to an end. Congress should work with DOD to ensure future investments in other countries advance American interests and actually make a difference. A \$43 million natural gas station does neither.

***For more information, please visit:***

[SIGAR: DOD's Compressed Natural Gas Filling Station in Afghanistan: An Ill-Conceived \\$43 Million Project](#)  
[Defense News: SIGAR: DoD Spent \\$43M on 'Ill-Conceived' Afghan Gas Station](#)