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Brig. Gen. Herman Oude Lohhuis of the Netherlands, left, Brig. Gen. Juergen A. Beyer of Germany, Rear Adm. Patrick Martin of France, Brig. Gen. Rosario Sivestro Moschella of Italy, and Afghan National Army Captain Partaw Ahmad Mureed take questions from an audience Tuesday in Bonita Springs.

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THE NEWS-PRESS

GENERALS

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Capt. Partaw Ahmad Mureed from the Afghan National Army, senior representative and liaison officer to the U.S. Central Command, thanked American and European troops for their help.

“In the long term no other foreign or international troops can bring security to another nation,” Mureed said. “It’s the people and the citizens of that country that can bring security to themselves.”

The Netherlands recently completed a four-year,

\$848 million mission in the southern province of Uruzgan with 1,224 troops. Eighty percent of the money was used on more than 800 medical, education and security projects.

For example, when Dutch troops arrived in 2006, 14,000 boys attended elementary school. When they left this year, 54,000 did. The number of girls attending elementary school increased from 385 to 4,300.

The conflict in Afghanistan began in 2001 as response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. A recent CNN poll showed six in 10 Americans continue to oppose the war there.

MILITARY LEADERS

• **Brig. Gen. Juergen A. Beyer** of Germany, 58, serves as commander of the German forces’ verification center. His career began in 1971 as a temporary career volunteer.

• **Brig. Gen. Rosario Sivestro Moschella** of Italy, 49, was promoted to brigadier general Jan. 1 by the Italian army. Italy has 3,800 troops in western Afghanistan, and the number will increase to 4,000 by end of the year. In 2010, Italy committed \$8 million to the fight.

• **Rear Adm. Patrick Martin** of France, 55, serves as chief of the French liaison detachment in

Afghanistan at the U.S. Central Command in Tampa. During 18 years at sea, he sailed in the Mediterranean and Atlantic and Indian oceans. France has 3,750 troops in Afghanistan, spends \$20.7 million a year on its task force and contributes \$967.8 million a year.

• **Brig. Gen. Herman Oude Lohhuis** of The Netherlands, 55, is the senior national representative of the Netherlands at the U.S. Central Command in Tampa. In 2002, he was deployed to Afghanistan as deputy brigade commander of the Kabul Multi-national Brigade.