



AFGHANISTAN
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT
January 2012

The UK is engaged in Afghanistan as part of a 50-nation coalition to prevent international terrorists, including Al Qaeda, from again using Afghanistan as a base from which to operate, threatening our security and that of the region.

The Government has committed itself to keeping Parliament informed about developments in Afghanistan on a monthly basis. This fourteenth report covers progress in January 2012. It reflects the combined assessment of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development.

The Rt Hon. William Hague MP
 Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs

Overview

The Prime Minister and President Karzai signed the UK-Afghanistan Enduring Strategic Partnership Document on 28 January. The document signals our shared vision of a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan able to maintain its own security and prevent the country from again being used as a safe haven for international terrorists. This builds on the strong message from the Bonn Conference last year of the international community's commitment to Afghanistan post-2014. The NATO Chicago Summit in May and the Tokyo Development Conference in July will be the point at which the International Community looks to deliver on the commitments made at Bonn. The Chicago and Tokyo conferences will demonstrate to the Afghan people and the insurgency that the International Community will support Afghanistan far beyond 2014 and will not end when combat troops withdraw.

During the last month the UK continued to help the Government of Afghanistan build its capacity to deliver better public services and economic opportunities for its people. UK support to the Civilian Technical Assistance Programme helped the Ministry of Counter Narcotics and the Ministry of Public Health develop policies and programmes for the Afghan people. The UK also helped more than 3,400 people in Helmand access technical and vocational education and training, helping to raise incomes and generate economic growth.

Governor Mangal visited Kajaki for a Shura on 8 January. He was escorted by Afghan Uniformed Police. He travelled by road, which was the first time a Provincial Governor in Helmand had been able to drive along this road for many years. This reflects a significant improvement in confidence.

In Central Helmand the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) successfully planned, commanded and executed *Operation Rozi Roshan* in Nahr-e Saraj. The operation involved 500 soldiers. *Rozi Roshan* was completely Afghan led and represented a significant accomplishment for the ANSF. UK forces, while ready to assist, were present in only a supporting role.

In January the winter weather continued to minimise insurgent activity. The number of security incidents was relatively low. However, we must expect to see these rise as the weather improves. In the spring the insurgency is likely to attempt to regain lost territory and with it, the campaign momentum. The ANSF, supported by ISAF, are prepared for this but we should expect challenges. The ANSF will face most of these challenges as they take the lead on more operations. We continue to make steady progress, illustrated in part this month by *Operation Rozi Roshan* and developments at the Infantry Branch School. We remain on track for the Afghans to assume full security responsibility across Afghanistan at the end of 2014.

Political

UK-Afghanistan Enduring Strategic Partnership

President Karzai visited the UK on 28 January 2012. He and the Prime Minister signed the UK-Afghanistan Enduring Strategic Partnership Document. This Document signals our shared vision of a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan able to maintain its own security and prevent the country from again being used as a safe haven for international terrorists. This builds on the strong message from the Bonn Conference last year of the international community's commitment to Afghanistan post-2014 and demonstrates our long-term relationship with Afghanistan. The Partnership sets out our agreement to cooperate on political dialogue, security, governance and rule of law, economic and social development, and cultural links.

A copy of the Partnership has been placed in the Library of the House.

Reconciliation

In January 2012, the Taliban issued a statement expressing its willingness to participate in a political office in Qatar. President Karzai has also said that he would support the establishment of a Taliban office. These statements come at an early stage in the reconciliation process and we are engaging with the Afghan Government to support them in this effort.

On 25 January, the Provincial Governor of Helmand, Ghulab Mangal, hosted a Reintegration Shura to enable the Minister of Hajj, together with senior Kabul officials, to engage with key officials at the provincial level in support of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme.

Strengthening the Afghan State

Rule of Law

National

Responsibility for the Central Prisons Directorate (CPD) was officially transferred from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to the Ministry of the Interior (MoI), completing a process that began in mid-2011.

The UK-mentored Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) published its performance statistics for the last quarter of 2011. The CJTF Primary Court convicted 210 people for narcotics offences. The Appeal Court convicted 156 defendants and acquitted four people. The Supreme Court finalised 92 convictions. From April 2010 to March 2011, the CJTF convicted 621 people of narcotics offences, of whom 35 were public officials.

The EU Police Mission (EUPOL) training programmes were streamlined into one unit, under the leadership of a team of British police officers. These officers have already had success in leading the development of the Police Staff College in Kabul.

Helmand

In January the Provincial Reconstruction Team's (PRT) Rule of Law team continued to focus on integrating police capabilities with prosecution and judicial functions. The aim was to ensure all Afghan justice sectors and ISAF mentors were aware of the involvement of other agencies and their individual responsibilities. The PRT Rule of Law team has become the de facto central point for this connectivity.

The new Provincial Chief of Police Colonel Elham replaced Brigadier Angar in mid-January. Angar was moved from his post in a Ministry of Interior reshuffle. Our engagement with Col Elham has been very positive and he has made clear moves to seek support from the PRT.

The Kabul-based Head of the Anti-Crime Police, General Junbish, visited Helmand and met senior officials from the Afghan Uniformed Police. He stressed the need to match police resources to community requirements and focus on improving the investigative process. The recognition of the importance of community involvement and targeted application of the Rule of Law by a person of this seniority are important developments in the policing sector.

Three military judges from Kabul visited Lashkar Gah to hear appeals against Military Primary Court rulings. The Military Primary Judge from Kandahar returned to Lashkar Gah to hear a number of recently completed investigations. These are significant events and demonstrate sustainable Afghan Government activity in an important Rule of Law area.

Prosecutions arising from National Directorate of Security (NDS) Counter Terrorist investigations have resulted in longer sentences as the evidential content and understanding of cases by provincial judges improves. There has been a significant increase in ANSF based Counter Terrorism prosecutions. This is a consequence of the number of detainees captured by ANSF under investigation in the Afghan National Directorate of Security detention facility. These now regularly outnumber detainees captured by ISAF.

Governance

UK support to the Afghan Government's Civilian Technical Assistance Programme, which is helping to build the capacity of the Afghan civil service to provide better public services, continued to deliver results. UK assistance has helped the Ministry of Counter Narcotics develop its anti-drug trafficking policy. This will help the Afghan Government further to tackle the opium trade. UK aid has also helped the Ministry of Public Health establish Afghanistan's first Bio-Medical Engineering faculty at Kabul University.

The UK's *Tawanmandi* ("Strengthening") programme for strengthening Afghan civil society, which the Secretary of State for International Development launched last year, received more than 200 proposals from civil society organisations across the country. Successful organisations will soon be receiving grants to carry out activities in peace-building, conflict and improving access to justice for Afghan citizens.

Governor Mangal's outreach visit to Kajaki in Helmand, on 8 January included consideration of land dispute, reintegration and development issues. Escorted by Afghan Uniformed Police, the District Governor of Sangin and a group of district councillors drove to Kajaki for the Shura. Governor Mangal returned to Lashkar Gah by road, which was the first time a Provincial Governor in Helmand had been able to follow this route for many years. The road move reflects a significant improvement in confidence since last year.

Economic and Social Development

With UK support, the Afghanistan Revenue Department continued to make significant progress in raising tax revenues. Figures released in January show that total third quarter revenue generation increased by 12% on the previous year, which is ahead of the IMF's target.

Thanks to UK support, 2,500 Afghans graduated from technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses in Lashkar Gah and Gereshk districts in Helmand Province last month, bringing the total number of Helmandis completing TVET courses to 3,460. By 2015, UK aid will see 12,000 Helmandis complete TVET courses, helping to raise incomes and generate economic growth in the province.

UK aid helped to train 37 local businesses in Helmand province on business accounting, proposal writing, project management and marketing and sales techniques. An Afghan business-to-business event also took place, encouraging long-term local business relationships.

The PRT in Helmand completed construction of two new schools in Lashkar Gah and the refurbishment of one school in Nad-e-Ali. Another school was reopened in Nar e Saraj. 58 children attended the school on the first day, 100 on the second day and more on the third. The UK have been working with their Afghan counterparts to improve security and set the conditions for the school to be reopened. These new and refurbished buildings will help the Provincial Government continue its excellent work in almost doubling the numbers of children in school across Helmand Province since 2007.

Counter Narcotics

The target areas for opium eradication in Helmand were authorised by Minister for Counter Narcotics Osmani in early January. Eradication in Helmand is scheduled to start in mid-February. The PRT has ensured that the 120 tractors are almost all serviceable and ready for deployment throughout Helmand, as well as procuring new tractors. The tractors have also been fitted with GPS trackers so that eradication can be effectively monitored. Eradication continues to be an integral part of the Government of Afghanistan's National Drugs Control Strategy.

Security

ANSF Growth and Capability

In Kabul, after nearly two years of coalition command, operational control of the Afghan Infantry Branch School was handed to the Afghan National Army (ANA). The school graduates in the region of 10,000 students annually and specialises in turning soldiers into heavy weapons specialists as well as developing Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) and Officers. Handing control of the School to the ANA is a major achievement in the overall handover of training institutions to the Afghan forces. It represents an important milestone as it is the first training institution to be turned over to ANA leadership.

In Central Helmand the ANSF successfully planned, commanded and executed *Operation Rozi Roshan* in Nahr-e Saraj. This has been an impressive operation involving 500 soldiers and was planned while the commanders were looking ahead to their next 800 man operation. *Rozi Roshan* was completely Afghan led and represents a significant accomplishment for the ANSF. UK forces, while ready to assist, were present in only a supporting role.

The operation successfully pushed the insurgency from the area north east of Gereshk, effectively forming a security zone and enhancing the protection of this key trading town. The future economic prosperity of Gereshk will be promoted by the creation of a new bridge, transport routes and ANSF manned checkpoints around the urban centre. However, this relies upon an enduring security solution which will also need to be Afghan led and directed. The next few months will be an important test of their capability.

Table One: ANSF Growth to 31 January 2012

	Objective (30 November 2012)	Target Strength (31 January 2012)	Actual Strength (31 January 2012)	January Target Met
ANA:	195,000	174,925	184,437	Yes
ANP:	157,000	145,355	145,577	Yes
ANA Officers:	29,644	27,504	24,489	No
ANA NCOs:	72,123	62,428	51,155	No

Table Two: ANSF Attrition Rates

	Target Monthly Attrition	Actual Monthly Attrition	January Target Met
ANA:	1.4%	1.9%	No
ANP:	1.4%	1.0%	Yes
Uniformed Police	1.4%	0.8%	Yes
Border Police	1.4%	1.1%	Yes
National Civil Order Police	1.4%	1.2%	Yes

Violence Levels

Fighting trends continue to follow seasonal norms and poor weather is having a nationwide impact on the level of insurgent activity. Harsh climatic conditions have had a particular impact in the mountainous east of the country where the terrain more obviously restricts the insurgents' freedom of movement. Despite the region remaining the most contested in Afghanistan, these conditions contributed to a notable drop in security incidents across the east.

Violence levels throughout Afghanistan are likely to remain at relatively low levels until the spring. This is in line with seasonal norms and we can expect to see an increase in insurgent activity when the weather improves.

Despite a seasonal reduction in security incidents over the winter the insurgency continues to demonstrate their sustained intent to conduct a violent campaign in Afghanistan. There have been a number of attacks deliberately targeting the ANSF and government officials. This is an attempt to undermine local confidence in them. In Helmand Province an IED strike on the 18 January resulted in the death of Nad-e Ali National Directorate of Security Chief Wali Mohammed and District Community Council security sub-committee chair Chair Gul Agha. On 26 January a suicide car bomber attacked a PRT convoy near the Provincial Governor's compound in Lashkar Gah. The attack caused four fatalities and left more than thirty injured. Three British workers from the PRT suffered minor injuries. The ANSF response to the suicide attack was professional and efficient. ISAF forces stood ready to support, but the ANSF worked effectively and autonomously displaying an impressive ability to respond to an insurgent event within the District Centre.

Attacks by the ANSF on ISAF soldiers ("Green on Blue" Attacks)

On 20 January an attack by an ANA soldier on his French Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team in Kapisa Province left four French soldiers dead and 14 more wounded. Referred to as a "green" (ANSF) on "blue" (ISAF) attack the motivations behind the killings are unclear. However, there is no evidence to suggest it was the result of insurgent infiltration.

Developing the ANSF is a key part of our strategy. They have an essential role in providing long term security and governance in Afghanistan. The Kapisa attack reminds us that this partnership has some risk but it is essential to success in Afghanistan. Both ISAF and the UK will continue to minimise the risk to our troops.

Type of incident	Definition	Change from November 2011	Comparison with December 2010
Security incidents	Enemy action and explosive hazards, both executed attacks and 'potential' attacks (e.g. an IED found and cleared)	↔ No significant change	↓ Fall in incidents
Enemy initiated attacks	Attacks executed by insurgents (This does not include 'potential' attacks)	↓ Fall in attacks	↓ Fall in attacks
Complex attacks	Attacks conducted by multiple hostile elements employing at least two distinct classes of weapon	↓ Fall in attacks	↓ Fall in attacks

Table Three: International Contributions to ISAF

Country	Contribution	% of Total
US	90,000	69%
UK	9,500	7.3%
Germany	4,818	3.7%
Italy	3,952	3.0%
France	3,916	3.0%
Poland	2,475	1.9%
Romania	1,876	1.4%
Turkey	1,845	1.4%
Australia	1,550	1.2%
Spain	1,488	1.2%
Others (38 nations)	8,966	6.9%
Current Total	130,386	100.00%

*Above numbers are indicative of troop contributions as at 6 January 2012, actual numbers fluctuate daily.
Source: ISAF*

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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