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This aide-memoire is designed to give everyone deploying to Afghanistan on OP HERRICK 8 a common understanding of the context of our deployment. Some of you will have been to Afghanistan before but for the majority of 16 Air Assault Brigade it will be their first experience of this extraordinarily beautiful but harsh country and its proud tough people. To begin with, it's probably sensible to rehearse what it is that we, 16 Air Assault Brigade, are seeking to achieve in Helmand. I describe our task as being about setting the conditions for the defeat of the Taliban insurgency. In essence, we are engaged in a contest for the will of the people and whilst our six months in Helmand is a relatively short period it forms part of a much longer-term, sustained international effort to secure Afghanistan, to protect its people, to support the creation of Afghan capabilities and to enable construction and development to improve the lives of the people. It will be a challenging job needing not only tough, fit and robust soldiers but also thinking soldiers who understand their environment and the nature of their task. Respect, tolerance and understanding must be the hallmarks of our relationship with the mass of the population. And our task is to secure the population because security is the catalyst for stability, development and reconciliation.

[REDACTED]

M A P Carleton-Smith  
Commander 16 (Air Assault) Brigade



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OTREBUCK

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This Operational Guide has been prepared to assist you in understanding the complex environment that you are about to deploy into. It will help put the remainder of your Pre Deployment Training into context and serve as a reference document for the duration of the tour.

**UK Mission** It is important to remember that the UK mission in Afghanistan aims to support the democratically elected Afghan Government to improve the lives of ordinary Afghans; we are in Afghanistan at their invitation. This is true for all aspects of the UK Government's mission, be it military operations to defeat insurgency and criminality, or reconstruction projects, counter-narcotics support, governance programmes or training the Afghan Security Forces. The UK military contribution is just one part of the UK Government's support to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). The military mission aims to create the conditions whereby other work can happen, namely reconstruction work and increasing the reach and authority of the elected Government. The military mission is not an end in itself.

Afghanistan is a country at the crossroads between the Arab world to its west and China to its east. Mountainous and largely inaccessible, it has developed its own unique

culture without the influence of a central controlling authority; pride, tradition and religion make for an explosive mix. Whilst the rest of this operational guide will highlight the key facts in more detail, it should be set against the context of why the



The US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya - Attacked by Al Qaeda on August 7th 1998



The USS Cole - Attacked by Al Qaeda whilst docked in Aden, Yemen, October 12th 2000

British Armed Forces has deployed there as part of a NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) lead mission. Events six years ago focused the International Community's attention on Afghanistan.

**9/11** The attack on the World Trade Centre on September 11th 2001 killed 2,823 people from many countries including 67 Britons. The attack by Al Qaeda was the product of several years of planning and on top of other terrorist attacks around the world.

The attacks were planned and



The World Trade Centre - Attacked by Al Qaeda September 11th 2001

co-ordinated from Taliban held areas of Afghanistan where Al-Qaeda had established itself. The United States and its allies were left with little choice but to invade Afghanistan, destroying training camps and the regime that supported terrorism.

The invasion was considered legitimate (casus belli) by the International Community as Al Qaeda had directly attacked the United States.

Operation Enduring Freedom began on October 7 2001 with US and British aerial bombing of Taliban positions and known terrorist training camps; the weakened Taliban were quickly defeated by the Northern Alliance (see Chapter 3). The US Military subsequently took control of much of the country and began the process of establishing a democratically elected government; crucially the Taliban were not completely defeated. The invasion of Iraq in 2003 switched American focus away from Afghanistan before the country had been stabilised and the insurgency defeated.

**NATO** NATO was established after the Second World War to combat the threat of invasion of Western Europe by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 removed this threat and for the next 10 years NATO became embroiled in the Balkans as Yugoslavia fell apart. The new millennium saw the allies seeking to create a new NATO, willing and able to go beyond the European theatre and combat new threats such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. NATO agreed to deploy to Afghanistan and from August 2003



gradually took over responsibility for security from the United States in its first 'out of area' mission. Its role is to lead the United Nations mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), an international force of some 41,000 troops from 38 different nations.

NATO's mission lays out the essential elements of the task of stabilising and rebuilding the country; train the Afghan Army, Police and Judiciary; support the Government in counter narcotics efforts; develop a market infrastructure; and suppress the Taliban. This was to be achieved in a four step process:

**Stage 1 (2003 - 04)** NATO took control of Kabul and the Northern Provinces. French and German troops now patrol these areas.

**Stage 2 (2005 - 06)** NATO moved

into the western provinces where Italian and Spanish forces now form the core of troops.

**Stage 3 (Jul 2006 - Oct 06)** The deployment of 16 (Air Assault) Brigade into Helmand marked the start of Stage 3 and extended NATO's area of operations into southern Afghanistan.

**Stage 4 (Oct 2006 - )** NATO took control of the entire country when the Americans gave control of the eastern provinces to HQ ISAF.

In the long term, the creation of a secure environment (NATO Phase 3: Stabilisation), well trained and reliable Afghan Security Forces (Police and Armed Forces) and sustainable development (NATO Phase 4: Transition) should allow NATO forces to begin to drawdown



(NATO Phase 5: Redeployment). Key personalities, including Britain's current Defence Secretary, expect this to take a number of years and have pledged their commitment to making it happen. Over and above the deployment of NATO troops, there are two key facets of the force that will help Afghanistan get back on its feet as a self sustaining country.

**Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs)** NATO describes PRTs as the leading edge of the allies' effort to stabilise Afghanistan. The purpose of the PRT is to extend the authority of the government into the countryside, provide security and undertake projects to boost the Afghan economy. They are usually composed of soldiers, civil affairs officers, representatives of NATO countries' government agencies focused on reconstruction, and Afghan Government personnel. Helmand's PRT is based in Lashkar Gah and contains not only British Army personnel but members of the British Foreign Office and Department for International Development (DfID). This is the application of the Comprehensive Approach which acknowledges that military force alone will not solve the problems in Afghanistan. Military operations in Helmand allow this PRT to operate effectively.

**Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLTs)** As part of the establishment of credible Afghan Security Forces, NATO embeds OMLTs with the Afghan National Army (ANA). OMLTs roles are numerous but they exist at all levels within the ANA from Kandak (Battalion) to Corps. They provide training and operational support, provide a liaison capability between ANA and ISAF and ensure that ANA receive ISAF assets such as Close Air Support (CAS) and Attack Helicopters (AH). 16 (Air Assault) Brigade will provide several OMLTs for the duration of Op HERRICK 8. A similar system is being established to train and mentor the Afghan National Police (ANP).



The remainder of the guide will cover key topics in more detail.

*"Our problem is our Geographical location and our resources. For this reason, Afghanistan has always been at war."*

Ahmed Shah Massoud, ex-Mujahideen Commander and former defence minister (1956 - 2001)



### Geography

Afghanistan shares borders with Pakistan in the south and east, Iran in the west and the Central Asian States of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan in the north. A narrow strip of land in the extreme northeast,

leads to a short border with China. With an area of 647,500 square kilometres; it is slightly larger than Spain and Portugal combined. Most of Afghanistan is between 600 and 3,050 metres in elevation.



**Terrain** 20% of the country comprises 2 arid plains:

- **Northern Turkestan Plains**

Rolling, of sandy or gravel consistency. To the northeast, the plains merge into the steppe lands of the former Soviet Central Asia.

- **South-western Plains**

Arid, flat or rolling desert. Barren and rocky plains with entrenched river valleys and water courses.

10% of the country is comprised of the Kabul basin, a relatively flat area, fringed by steep mountain ridges.

**Relief** Afghanistan is dominated by the rugged Hindu Kush Mountains that traverse the centre of the country running in a Northeast-Southeast direction.

50% of the total land area lies above 2,000 metres. The Pamir mountain peaks, in the eastern part of the country, reach more than 7,000 metres above sea level.

Two-thirds of Afghanistan comprises rugged, deeply dissected ranges, extending roughly northeast to southwest across the country. Wider valleys and basins occasionally intervene, particularly in the east and southeast, near the Pakistan border, and along the northern and southwest margins of the mountain areas.

**Water Features** The country possesses many rivers, river basins and lakes (248,187 hectares of water).

There are four major river systems:

- The Amu Darya, located in the North of the country bordering Turkmenistan.

- The Helmand, located in the South of the country in the Helmand Province.

- The Harirud, located in the West of the country in the Herat Province.

- The Kabul, the only river system, via the Indus system in Pakistan, that leads to the sea.

Three major dams harness these rivers for irrigation and hydroelectric purposes. One of these, the Kajakai Dam, is located approximately 100 km north east of Gereshk in Helmand. The dams do not function at full capacity, in part, due to lack of maintenance.

Water is generally scarce except near the permanent snowfields and glaciers in the northeast. Rivers are characterised by marked seasonal variations in discharge (fluctuations are marginally limited by the dams). Stream widths range from less than 180m in the mountainous areas to over 300m in the lower courses. The banks are generally high and steep.



Green Zone

**River Helmand** The River Helmand flows north to south before turning west in the Brigade's Area of Responsibility (AOR). It is typically 180 - 220 metres wide, but shallow at only 0.5m to 2m deep and silting is common. The river is very winding with many islands that move with each flood. The river flow varies significantly over the year with peak flow occurring between March and June swelled by rain and melt water coming from the mountains; it is significantly wider, deeper and faster than the rest of the year. Flooding leads to the formation of lakes along the river basin that dry out to leave a salt-clay crust that is impassable to heavy vehicles. Numerous irrigation ditches are dug into the banks to carry water to villages and fields aside the river. This creates the lush 'Green Zone' either side of the river which can extend for several kilometres into the desert. Most of the inhabitants live in the river valley and the desert quickly re-asserts itself away from the irrigation ditches.

**Agriculture** Farming exists almost exclusively in the river valleys and a few places in the lowlands where underground fresh water makes irrigation possible. Only twelve percent of the land is cultivated, some of which is unusable due to the legacy mine threat.

Recently traditional crops such as barley, wheat, and rice have been abandoned for crops that generate higher returns, such as opium. Drug production and trade create enormous environmental and cultural devastation: deforested hillsides, declining soil fertility, soil erosion, and water pollution.

**Helmand Agriculture** Farming is mainly at the subsistence level with farmers using irrigation to grow wheat and other cereals, fruit, vegetables, cotton and potatoes. Small numbers of cattle are also common. However, there has been a rapid growth in the amount of agricultural land being used for poppy cultivation since the departure of the Taliban. Warlords



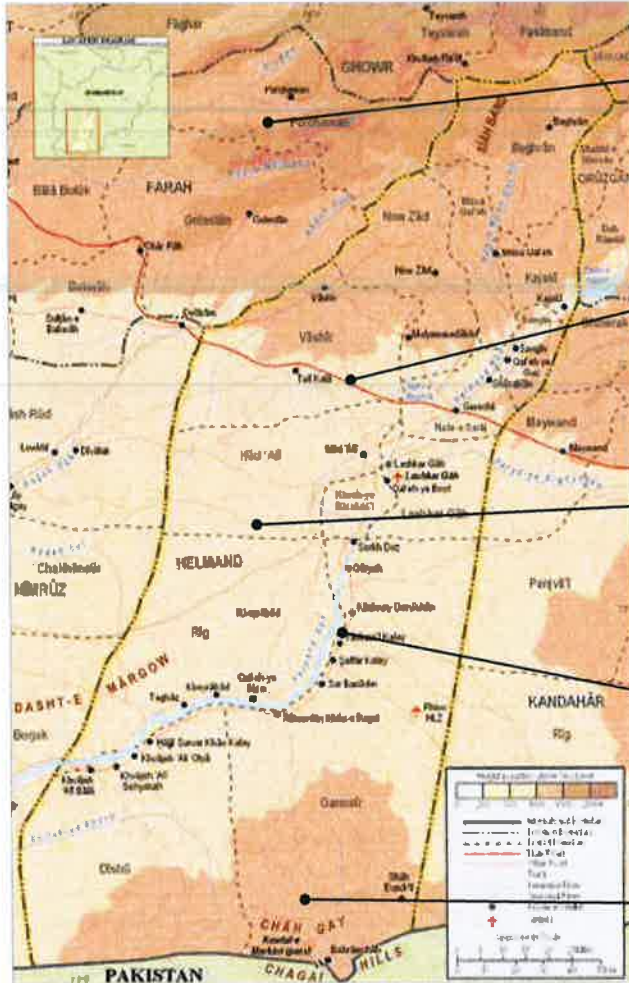
and drug traffickers cream off most of the profit but 2007 has seen the biggest crop of opium (produced from poppies) in history. Opium is used to make heroin which in turn finds its way on to the streets of the US, UK and Europe.

**Helmand Vegetation** Green zones provide concealment for insurgent forces and are almost impassable with vehicles. The green zones in Afghanistan border highways and rivers, and this provides optimum sites for ambush. Antitank (AT), antipersonnel (AP) and command detonated mines are easily concealed in the edges of green zones, where ambush parties can mount attacks on dismounted soldiers. Fields of view and fire are severely restricted which allows EF to initiate ambushes from as close as 5m away. Drainage ditches can be dug out to create complex trench systems which are covered from view and fire. Very little vegetation can be found away from the river with the barren, rocky desert prevalent everywhere else in the region.

**Earthquakes** The northeast portion of Afghanistan is one of the most seismically active areas in the world. In the mountainous areas of Afghanistan, earthquakes can trigger devastating landslides.

**Mines** Over 20 years of war have left Afghanistan as one of the world's most densely mined countries. Thousands have fallen victim to the high concentration of unmarked AP/AT minefields and residual UXO. NGOs such as the Halo Trust continue to assist in the eradication of this threat, but due to the labour intensive methods required in populated areas this will take many years and may never be fully completed.

**Helmand Province**



Hindu Kush Mountains



Route 1



Dasht-e Margo Desert



Helmand River



Chagai Hills

Helmand Province is located in southern Afghanistan and bordered to the west by the provinces of Nimroz and Farah, to the north by Ghowr province and to the east by

the provinces of Daikondi, Uruzgan and Kandahar. Helmand shares a 160km long border to the south with Baluchistan province of Pakistan. Its topography is dominated by irregular

highlands which increase in height in the south and the north. Alongside the southern border of Helmand and Nimroz and west to the Lora River lie the Chagai hills.

## Climate

**General** Afghanistan has a typical continental climate characterized by seasonal and daily extremes of temperature and clearly defined seasons; a hot, dry summer from June to September and cold, relatively wet winters from December to February. Spring and autumn are transitional periods of variable weather. Considerable regional variations of climate occur and there are often great variations from year to year, particularly in the winter and spring months. In general, the climate is conditioned more by altitude than by latitude.

### Helmand

- **December to February**

Weather systems bring cloud and rain from the west 4 or 5 times a month, in-between these weather



systems the weather is generally fine. Rain is only occasional and normally light. Snow is rare on the low ground but more frequent over the mountains in the northeast.

Occasional cold spells do occur and bring night frosts. During the onset of cold spells strong winds develop in the west giving locally severe dust storms.

- **March to May** The climate is changeable with large variations in temperature; it is still very cold at times especially in the north, with snow over the high ground mainly in March. Occasional showers and thunderstorms occur, particularly over the mountains, in March and April. May is mainly fine. Flooding is possible in river plains during April due to snow melt and heavy showers.

- **June until August** This period is very hot, dry and almost cloudless, which often creates large amounts of thick haze. Occasionally strong winds lead to large and dense dust and sand storms across the region. Isolated showers and thunderstorms are possible over high ground but are rare.

- **September to November** This is cooler than the previous period with warm days, but cold nights with frost possible. Increasingly

frequent weather systems bring cloud and showery rain across the area. Isolated snow occurs over higher ground. Occasional gales can lead to dust storms which spread east across the region.

### Temperature Extremes

- **Central Highlands** Winter temperatures may plummet to  $-37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  at higher elevations. In the summer, it is possible to go from freezing temperatures at 3,000 m, to more than  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 1,500 m elevation.
- **Northern Plains** Winter temperatures range from below freezing at night to an average of  $7^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the day. In the summer temperatures range from around  $16^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- **South-western Plains** Winter temperatures range from an average minimum of  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$  to a maximum of  $16^{\circ}\text{C}$ . In the summer, the minimum is around  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , whilst the maximum can rise to  $43^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- **Kabul** The daily temperature averages  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  minimum and  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$  maximum during January; in July, the corresponding figures are  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $31^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

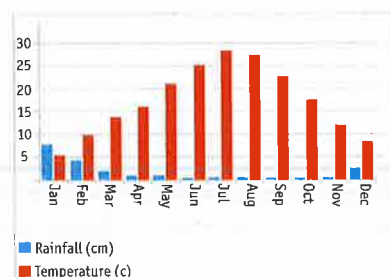


Fig. 1 - Ave. Temp in Helmand

### Assessment - Impact on Military Operations

During spring and summer, climatic conditions generally favour military operations although water intake and dress state must reflect the increase in temperature. Sandstorms and high winds in the southern plateau can restrict reconnaissance, aerial operations, and visibility for artillery target acquisition. During winter, the climate is more settled and the temperature cooler.

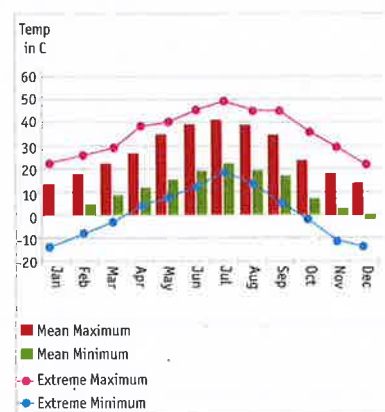
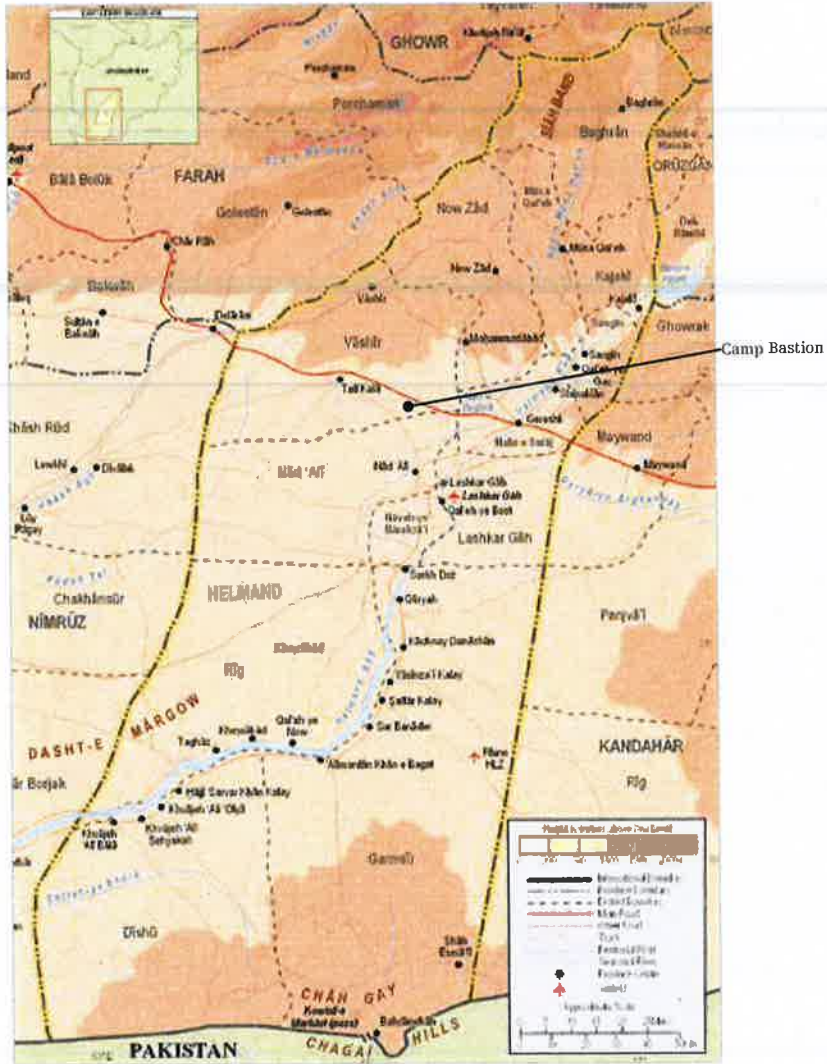


Fig. 2 - Ave. Temp in Kandahar



## Road Distances



Camp Bastion to:

Gereshk	40km	Garmsir	80km
Lashkar Gah	35km	Sangin	65km
Yakhchal	52km	Kajaki	100km
Shahidan	73km	Bagran	178km
Musa Qaleh	115km	Bahramchah	240km
		Kandahar	150km



### Pre-Colonial History

Afghanistan exists at a meeting point where numerous Eurasian civilizations have interacted and often fought. It was an important site of early historical activity. Through the ages, the region today known as Afghanistan has been ruled by Aryans (Indo-Iranians: Indo-Aryans, Persians, Medes, Parthians, etc.). It also has been invaded by a host of peoples, including the Greeks, Mauryans, Kushans, Hephthalites, Arabs, Mongols, Turks, British and Soviets.

Afghanistan, a multi-ethnic state in southwest Asia, is home to diverse social communities that share common experience through interaction with dominant states, empires, invading armies, trade and cultural movements that traversed the land during their thousands of years of history. The different ethnic groups in modern Afghanistan (Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmans, Persian-speaking Hazaras, Balochis, etc.) straddle the boundaries of the state.

However, their national identity is mostly defined by their differences with their ethnic kinsmen across the borders rather than their national commonalities. About 99 percent of

Afghanistan's over 17 million population are Muslim, of which 85 percent are followers of the Sunni sect while the rest are Shia. About 85 percent of Afghans live in rural communities in a land dominated by mountains and deserts. Modern travel is primarily restricted to a highway ring connecting the various cities (Highway 1). There is no railway network. Afghanistan has mostly been a loose collection of tribes and nationalities over which central governments had varying degrees of influence and control at different times. The country has been historically known for its remarkable Islamic and ethnic tolerance. However tribal rivalries and blood feuds, ambitions of local chieftains, and tribal defiance of

pervasive interference by the central government have kept the different parts at war at different times. In such cases the kinship-based identity has been the major means of the community's political and military mobilization. Such identity places far greater importance on kinship and extended family than ideology.

Afghanistan stands at a geographic crossroads that has seen the passage of many warring peoples. Each of these has left their imprint on the ancient land and involved the people of Afghanistan in conflict. Often this conflict got in the way of economic development. What has developed is a country composed of somewhat autonomous 'village states'. Afghans identify themselves by Qawm - the basic subnational identity based on kinship, residence and sometimes occupation. Western people may refer to this as 'tribe', but this instinctive social cohesiveness includes tribal clans, ethnic subgroups, religious sects, locality-based groups and groups united by interests. The Qawm, not Afghanistan, is the basic unit of social community and, outside the family, the most important focus on individual loyalty. Afghanistan has, at times, been characterized as a disunited land riven by blood feuds. The feuds centre on family and Qawm. Yet, the leaders of the various Qawm have resolved feuds and held the land together. Village elders can put feuds on hold for a decade or longer and

then let them resume once the agreed-on time has expired and the matter is still unresolved. Afghanistan's ancient roots and strong ties of kinship provide an anchor against progress, but also the means to cope when central authority has collapsed. Historically, the collapse of the central government of Afghanistan or the destruction of its standing armies has never resulted in the defeat of the nation by an invader. The people, relying on their decentralized political, economic and military potential, have always taken over the resistance against the invaders. This was the case during two wars with Great Britain in the 19th Century (1839-1842, 1878-1880). This happened again in the Soviet - Afghan War (1979-1989).

The tactics of the Mujahideen reflected this lack of central cohesion. Their tactics were not standard, but differed from valley to valley and tribe to tribe. No more than 15 percent of the guerrilla commanders were military professionals. However, Afghanistan had a conscript army and virtually every 22-year-old male served his two year obligation. This provided a basic military education which eased cooperation between the various Mujahideen groups. The Mujahideen were true volunteer-unpaid warriors who fought to protect their faith and community first and their nation next. As true volunteers, fighting for their Qawm and religion,

the Mujahideen looked down on the professional soldier as a simple mercenary who was either the victim of a press gang or too stupid to ply any other trade. This disdain did not attach to the professional officer, who enjoyed a great deal of prestige.

Afghanistan was not a guerrilla war a la Mao Tse Tung or Vo Nguyen Giap. The Mujahideen were not trying to force a new ideology and government on a land. Rather, they fought to defend their Qawm and their religion against a hostile ideology, an atheistic value system, an oppressive central government and a foreign invader. It was a spontaneous defence of community values and a traditional way of life by individual groups initially unconnected to national or international political organizations.

### **The Great Game**

Russian expansionism and empire building in Central Asia began in 1734 and Moscow's interest in

Afghanistan was apparent by the late 1830s. The Great Game described the British and Russian struggle for influence along the unsettled northern frontier of British India and in the entire region between Russia and India. Afghanistan lay directly in this contested area between two empires. Russia described her motives in the Great Game as simply to abolish the slave trade and to establish order and control along her southern border.

The British, however, viewing Russian absorption of the lands of the Caucasus, Georgia, Khirgiz, Turkmens, Khiva and Bukhara, claimed to feel threatened by the presence of a large, expanding empire near India and ascribed different Russian motives. The British stated that Russian motives were to weaken British power and to gain access to a warm-water port. Britain claimed that her own actions were to protect the frontiers of British India.



The last stand of the 44th foot (now the Royal Anglia Regiment) at Gandamak 13th January 1842, surrounded, whilst attempting to retreat from Kabul to Jellalabad.



The Great Game spilled into Afghanistan when British forces invaded during the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842). Britain claimed that the invasion was supposed to counter Russian influence. After hard fighting, the British withdrew with the entire column being destroyed as it retreated east towards Jellalabad. Dr Brydon was the only survivor of a force of 16,500 soldiers and civilians. In 1878, the arrival of a special Russian diplomatic mission to Kabul led to another British invasion and the Second Anglo-Afghan War. The British Army again withdrew. After suffering significant casualties including the Battle of Maiwand on 27th July 1880.



The Durrand Line

In 1893, the British forced the then leader of Afghanistan to come to an agreement to demarcate the border between Afghanistan and what was then British India. The Durrand Line, the 1610 mile border with present day Pakistan, was named after the Foreign Secretary of the British Indian Government, Sir Mortimer Durrand.

In the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1907, the Russians agreed that

Afghanistan lay outside its sphere of interest and agreed to confer with Britain on all matters relating to Russian-Afghan relations. In return, Britain agreed not to occupy or annex any part of Afghanistan nor interfere in the internal affairs of that country. Although the Amir of Afghanistan refused to recognize the treaty, Russia and Britain agreed to its terms and honoured them until 1919 when Afghan troops crossed into British India, seized a village and attempted to raise a popular revolt in the area. The British responded with yet another invasion and the Third Anglo-Afghan War. The political settlement resulted in Afghanistan's full independence from Great Britain. Afghanistan's foreign policy from 1919 until 1978 balanced the demands of her immediate neighbours, and external powers such as the United States, Germany and Great Britain. Normal relations with her northern neighbour, the Soviet Union, led to increased Soviet investment and presence in Afghanistan. In April 1978, a small leftist group of Soviet-trained Afghan officers seized control of the government and founded the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, a client state of the Soviet Union. Civil war broke out in Afghanistan. The putsch installed President Nur M. Taraki, a Marxist who announced sweeping programmes of land distribution, changed status for women and the

destruction of the old Afghanistan social structure. Disregarding the national social structure and more, the new government enjoyed little popular support. The wobbly Taraki government was almost immediately met by increased armed resistance as the Mujahideen ranks grew. In 1978, religious leaders, in response to popular uprisings across Afghanistan, issued statements of jihad (holy war) against the communist regime. This was an appeal to the supranational identity of All Afghans - a fight to defend the faith of Islam. The combat readiness of the Army of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan plunged as government purges swept the officer corps. Soldiers, units and entire regiments deserted to the resistance and by the end of 1979, the actual strength of the Afghan Army was less than half of its authorized 90,000. In March 1979, the city of Herat revolted and most of the Afghan 17th Infantry Division mutinied and joined the rebellion. Forces loyal to Taraki reoccupied the city after the Afghan Air Force bombed the city and the 17th Division. Thousands of people reportedly died in the fighting, including some Soviet citizens.

### **Soviet Intervention**

The Soviet-Afghan War began over the issue of control. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was nominally a socialist state governed by a communist party. However,

the state only controlled some of the cities, while tribal elders and clan chiefs controlled the countryside. Furthermore, the communist party of Afghanistan was split into two hostile factions. In September 1979, Taraki's Prime Minister, Hafizullah Amin, seized power and murdered Taraki. Amin's rule proved no better and the Soviet Union watched this new communist state spin out of control. Meanwhile, units of the army mutinied, civil war broke out, cities and villages rose in revolt and Afghanistan began to slip away from Moscow's control and influence. Leonid Brezhnev, the aged Soviet General Secretary, saw that direct military intervention was the only way to prevent his client state from disintegrating into complete chaos. He decided to intervene. The obvious models for intervention were Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968. The Soviet General Staff planned the Afghanistan invasion based on these models. However, there was a significant difference that the Soviet planners missed. Afghanistan was embroiled in a civil war and a coup de main would only gain control of the central government, not the countryside. Although participating military units were briefed at the last minute, the Soviet Christmas Eve invasion of 1979 was masterfully planned and well executed. The Soviets seized the government, killed the president and put their

own man in his place. According to some Russian sources, they planned to stabilize the situation, strengthen the army and then withdraw the majority of Soviet forces within three years. The Soviet General Staff planned to leave all fighting in the hands of the army of the Democratic Republic. But Afghanistan was in full revolt, the dispirited Afghan Army was unable to cope, and the spectre of defeat following a Soviet withdrawal haunted the Politburo. Invasion and overthrow of the government proved much easier than fighting the hundreds of ubiquitous guerrilla groups. The Soviet Army was trained for large-scale, rapid-tempo operations. They were not trained for the platoon commander's war of finding and closing with small, indigenous forces which would only stand and fight when the terrain and circumstances were to their advantage. Back in the Soviet Union, there was no one in charge and all decisions were committee decisions made by the collective leadership. General Secretary Brezhnev became

incapacitated in 1980 but did not die until November 1982. He was succeeded by the ailing Yuri Andropov, who himself lasted less than two years and was in turn succeeded by the faltering Konstantin Chernenko in February 1984. General Secretary Chernenko died in March 1985. Although the military leadership kept recommending withdrawal, during this 'twilight of the general secretaries' no one was making any major decisions as to the conduct and outcome of the war in Afghanistan. The war bumped on at its own pace. Finally, Mikhail Gorbachev came to power. His first instinct was to order military victory in Afghanistan within a year. Following this bloodiest year of the war, Gorbachev realized that the Soviets could not win in Afghanistan without unacceptable international and internal repercussions and began to cast about for a way to withdraw with dignity. United Nations negotiators provided that avenue and by 15 October 1988, the first half of the Soviet withdrawal was complete. On 15 February 1989, the last Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan. Soviet force commitment, initially assessed as requiring several months, lasted over nine years and required increasing numbers of forces. The Soviet Union reportedly killed 1.3 million people and forced 5.5 million Afghans (a third of the pre-war population) to leave the country



Withdrawing Soviet Troops

as refugees. Another 2 million Afghans were forced to migrate within the country. The country has yet to recover.

Initially the Mujahideen were all local residents who took arms and banded together into large, rather unwieldy, forces to seize the local district capitals and loot their arms rooms. The Afghan Army countered these efforts where it could and Mujahideen began to coalesce into much smaller groups centred around the rural village. These small groups were armed with a variety of weapons from swords and flintlock muskets to British bolt-action rifles and older Soviet and Soviet-bloc weapons provided to Afghanistan over the years. The guerrilla commanders were usually influential villagers who already had a leadership role in the local area. Few had any professional military experience. Rebellion was wide-spread, but uncoordinated since the resistance was formed along tribal and ethnic lines.

The Soviet invasion changed the nature of the Mujahideen resistance. Afghanistan's neighbours, Pakistan and Iran, nervously regarded the advance to the Soviet Army to their borders and began providing training and material support to the Mujahideen. The United States, Peoples Republic of China, Britain, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates began funnelling military, humanitarian

and financial aid to the Mujahideen through Pakistan. Pakistan's assessment was that the Soviet Union had come to Afghanistan to stay and it was in Pakistan's best interests to support those Mujahideen who would never accept the Soviet presence. The Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI) began to funnel aid through various Afghan political factions headquartered in Pakistan. The politics of these factions were determined by their leaders' religious convictions - three of which were Islamic moderates and four of which were Islamic fundamentalists. Pakistan required that the various ethnic and tribal Mujahideen groups join one of the factions in order to receive aid. Over time, this provided the leaders of these factions with political power which they used to dominate the politics of post communist Afghanistan. The Pakistani authorities favoured the most fundamentalist groups and rewarded them accordingly. This aid distribution gave the Afghan religious leaders unprecedented power in the conduct of the war. It also undermined the traditional authority of the tribal and village leaders.

The strategic struggle for Afghanistan was a fight to strangle the other's logistics. The Mujahideen targeted the Soviet lines of communication - the crucial road network over which the Soviet supplies had to travel. The Soviet

attack on the Mujahideen logistics was done in two phases. From 1980 until 1985, the Soviets sought to eliminate Mujahideen support in the rural countryside. They bombed granaries and rural villages, destroyed crops and irrigation systems, mined pastures and fields, destroyed herds and launched sweeps through rural areas, conscripting young men and destroying the infrastructure. The Soviet leadership, believing Mao Tse Tung's dictum, that the guerrilla lives in the population like a fish in water, decided to kill the fish by draining off the water. As a result, Afghanistan became a nation of refugees as more than seven million rural residents fled to the relative safety of neighbouring Pakistan and Iran or to the cities of Afghanistan. This Soviet effort denied rural support to the Mujahideen, since the villagers had left and most of the food now had to be carried along with weapons and ammunition and materials of war. The Mujahideen responded by establishing logistics

bases inside Afghanistan. The Soviet fight from 1985 to withdrawal was to find and destroy these bases.

Terrain, as any infantryman knows, is the ultimate shaper of the battlefield. Afghanistan's terrain is varied and challenging. It is dominated by towering mountains and forbidding desert. Yet it also has lush forests of larch, aspen and juniper. It has tangled 'green zones' - irrigated areas thick with trees, vines, crops, irrigation ditches and tangled vegetation. It has flat plains full of wheat and swampy terraces which grow delicious long-grained rice. It is not ideal terrain for a mechanized force dependent on fire power, secure lines of communication and high-technology. It is terrain where the mountain warrior, using ambush sites inherited from his ancestors, can inflict 'death from a thousand cuts'. The terrain dictates different tactics, force structure and equipment from those of conventional war.



Downed Soviet helicopter



## Rise of the Taliban

The Taliban originated around 1993-1994. Naseerullah Babar, interior minister during Benazir Bhutto's second Pakistani government from 1993-1996, along with other Pakistani military and ISI intelligence top brass got together in the province of Quetta, located on the border with Afghanistan, to form a militia movement consisting of religious students in Pakistani religious schools known as madrassas to gain control of Afghan mujahidin government.

It is alleged that in early 1994, Mullah Mohammed Omar led 30 men armed with 16 rifles to free two girls who had been kidnapped and raped by local commanders. He quickly gathered recruits from Islamic schools, and his movement gained momentum through the year. By October 12th about 200 Taliban seized the trading town of Spin Baldak from the forces of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, thus opening a supply route for Pakistani aid.

The Taliban later appeared as an escort to a 'trade delegation' sent by Babar from Quetta to Turkmenistan. This escort was not able to pass through local commanders in Kandahar. To aid them, other Taliban were called in to assist. When the

Taliban attacked on November 3rd, 1994 their opponents fled with without a fight, rescuing the convoy. That evening the Taliban attacked Kandahar and within two days had seized control of the city.

The Afghan government refused to accept the Taliban. A protracted battle then ensued between Taliban and the government forces south of Kabul, but also across the North, including Herat and Kunduz.

A steady outflow of graduates from Pakistani madrassas, gave the Taliban a ready supply of new recruits and they emerged from the ethnically Pashtun areas of Afghanistan. Many of the Taliban grew up in refugee camps in Pakistan created by the exodus fleeing the Soviet - Afghan War. As their ranks swelled, the original core body of Pakistan and Afghan soldiers assumed more specialized roles. Mullah Omar was proclaimed the Amir-ul-Momineen (Commander of the Faithful). It was alleged that Pakistan chose Mullah Omar because they knew he could easily be influenced and controlled and that his own Islamic education was very limited making him easily swayed by the state-funded muftis of Pakistan. He was proud of the fact that he had only spoken with two western journalists in his entire life.

Backed by [REDACTED] and other strategic Allies, the Taliban developed as a politico-religious force,



Osama Bin Laden

and eventually seized power in 1996. The Taliban were able to capture 90% of the country, apart from the Afghan Northern Alliance strongholds primarily found in the northeast in the Panjshir Valley. The Taliban sought to impose a strict interpretation of Islamic Sharia law and gave safe haven and assistance to individuals and organizations that were implicated as terrorists, most notably Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda network. The Taliban's spiritual centre became Kandahar and remains a key objective for them today.

During the Taliban's rule the population faced massive restrictions of freedom and human rights

violations. Women were fired from jobs and girls forbidden to attend their universities. Many who resisted were killed. Potential communists were systematically eradicated and the Islamic Sharia Law was imposed.

**The Northern Alliance** This was a term used by the Western media, Taliban and Al Qaeda to identify the United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UIF), a military-political coalition of various Afghan groups fighting against the Taliban and supported by Russia and Iran before 9/11 attacks. President Burhanuddin Rabbani was the notional head of the UIF, however most power resided with the Defence Ministers; Ahmed Shah Massoud and later Mohammed Fahim.

The Mujahadeen predecessors of the United Islamic Front forces previously showed themselves unable



Mujahadeen Fighters

to rule effectively, turning on each other after they took control in Kabul in 1992 from the Soviet-backed regime.

The Mujahadeen were also responsible for brutal excesses during the factional civil strife that raged after the collapse of the Communist government. This bloody feuding between forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and rival factions ultimately cleared the way for the Taliban conquest in 1996.

Three ethnic groups dominated the UIF, the Tajiks, who make up 25% of Afghanistan's population and are the second largest ethnic group, the Hazara, who make up 18% and the Uzbeks, who make up about 6% (Note these figures vary dependant upon the source). From the Taliban conquest in 1996 until November 2001, the UIF controlled roughly 30% of Afghanistan's population. This control spread through several northern provinces (hence the name 'Northern Alliance') and during the campaign against the Taliban, the Northern Alliance's fortunes fluctuated, but neither side succeeded in gaining a major advantage.

Ahmed Shah Massoud served as the UIF's Minister of Defence and was by far it's most visible and powerful figure. He personally commanded around 10,000 of the UIF's estimated 40,000 troops; Massoud's were reported to be the best trained and equipped UIF troops.



Northern Alliance Fighters

On September 13th, 2001 it was confirmed that Ahmed Shah Massoud had died, following an attack by Al Qaeda assassins posing as journalists four days earlier. Mohammed Fahim, the second ranking Tajik commander succeeded Massoud a few days later.

**Post 9/11** Al-Qaeda had sought refuge in Taliban controlled areas of Afghanistan in the mid 1990s and had subsequently constructed terrorist training camps. It was from here that the 9/11 plan to attack the World Trade Centre in New York was hatched. The United States issued an ultimatum to the Taliban to handover the Al-Qaeda leadership amongst other things which was effectively ignored; massive bombing and the invasion of the country by the United States and its allies followed, bringing about the Taliban's downfall. In late 2001, major leaders from the Afghan opposition groups met in Bonn, Germany, and agreed on a plan for the formulation of a new government structure that resulted

in the inauguration of Hamid Karzai as Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) in December 2001. The Loya Jirga (a traditional council of regional delegates) chose Karzai to assume the title of President of Afghanistan in June 2002.

As the country continues to rebuild and recover, it is still struggling against widespread poverty, continued effects from warlords, a virtually non-existent infrastructure, possibly the largest concentration of land mines and other unexploded ordinance on earth, as well as a sizable illegal poppy and heroin trade. Afghanistan also remains subject to occasionally violent political jockeying, although the nation's first genuinely free presidential elections were successfully held in 2004, with Karzai winning a landslide victory. Despite logistical problems, and some instances of voter intimidation and fraud, the Parliamentary elections in 2005 helped to further stabilize the country politically.



President Hamid Karzai

**1973**

A military coup ends the monarchy and establishes a republic. The coup is followed by a period of political instability.

**1978-79**

Two more violent coups provoke Islamist insurgencies. The Soviet Union launches a military intervention in late 1979.

**1980s**

Soviet and Afghan government troops fight against mujahedin guerillas backed by Pakistan, the US, and Saudi Arabia. Between the years 1979 and 1992 more than a fifth of Afghanistan's population leaves the country searching for safety in Iran and Pakistan.

**1989**

The Soviets withdraw from Afghanistan. A total of six million residents fled the country during the Soviet occupation.

**1992**

The mujahedin coalition captures Kabul. The coalition soon disintegrates.

**1994**

The Taliban, a Pakistan-backed militia of ultra-orthodox Sunni Muslims launches military operations along the Pakistani border and western Afghanistan.

**1996**

The Taliban captures Kabul.

**1998**

The Taliban massacres thousands as it extends its reach to North. The UN security council imposes economic sanctions against the Taliban for refusing to turn over Osama bin Laden who is wanted for attacks on US embassies.

**2000**

The UN Security Council imposes a ban on arms sales to the Taliban. Drought, shortfalls in humanitarian aid and international isolationism contribute to growing hunger and a current refugee population estimated at over two million. For the past 20 years, Afghans have comprised the largest single refugee group in the world.

**2001**

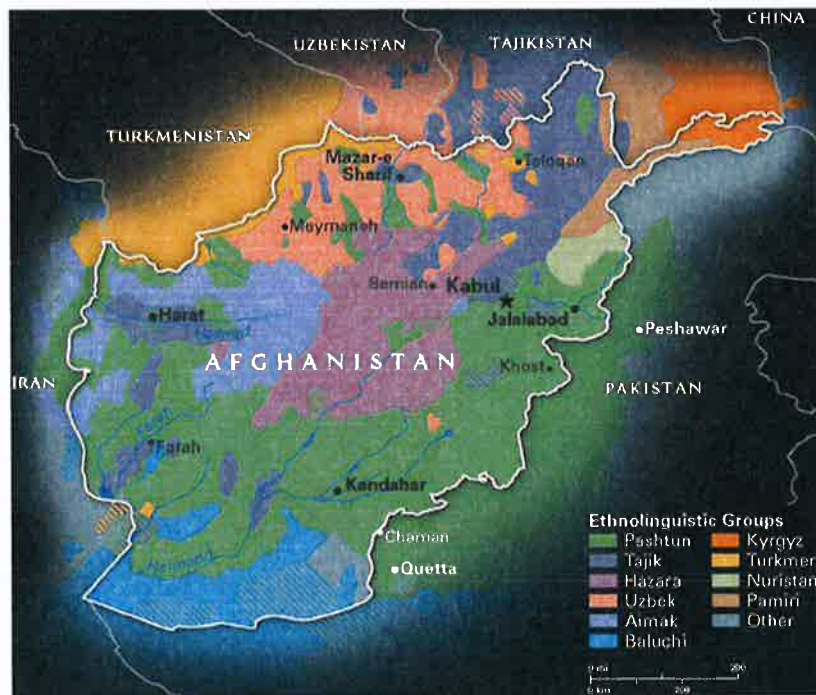
The US hold Osama bin Laden directly responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Centre, and the Taliban are targeted for protecting him. The US and UK working with the forces of the Northern Alliance launch air strikes against the Taliban.

### Ethnic Breakdown

Afghanistan's population density is 38 people per square kilometre compared to 248 per square kilometre in the UK. The high mountains of the central part of the country and the deserts in the south and southwest are either sparsely populated or completely uninhabited. Eighty percent of all people live in rural areas. There are also more than 2 million refugees outside of Afghanistan predominantly located in Pakistan and Iran. Since the fall of the Taliban, the International Community has repatriated 2

million refugees to Afghanistan.

Approximately 44% of Afghans are Pashtun, about half of whom are of the Durrani tribal group and the other half of the Ghilzai group. Tajiks are the second largest ethnic group with 25% of the population followed by Hazaras at 10% and Uzbeks at 8%. Other smaller groups including Turkmen, Qizilbash, Kazakh's, Aimaq, Wakhi's, Nuristani's, Baluchis, Kyrgyz, Sikh's, Hindus, and Jews, constitute the remaining 13 percent of the total population.

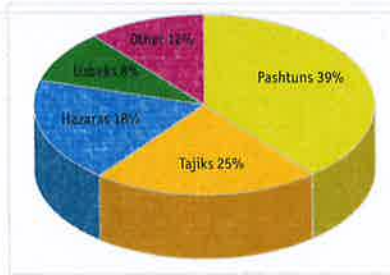


Ethno Linguistic Groups in Afghanistan



## Ethnic Groups

Afghanistan is not only ethnically diverse, but also ethnically fragmented. As a country, Afghanistan lacks a real coherent identity at the state level that supersedes ethnicity and unites the different ethnic groups. An Afghan's individual identity is derived from belonging to an ethnic group. Afghans do not generally think of themselves as citizens of Afghanistan, but rather as Pashtuns, Uzbeks, Tajiks, or Hazaras.



Ethnic Groups in Afghanistan by percentage of population

**Pashtuns** The Pashtuns are the largest single ethnic group and have been the country's dominant political group for many years. Afghanistan's Pashtuns migrated from what is now, Pakistan, starting in the 13th century AD. Pashtuns have generally proven themselves adept at warfare and conquest by defeating many invaders over the centuries. Afghanistan's Pashtuns are divided primarily into two groups: the Ghilzai's and the Durrani's, with the Ghilzai's residing predominantly in the eastern mountainous region of the

country, and the Durrani's generally present in the southern region centred around Kandahar; President Karzai is a Durrani Pashtun. The key underpinnings of Pashtun culture derive from a code of conduct known as Pashtunwali, the main elements of which are revenge (Badal), hospitality (Melmastia), and honour (Namus). As the code's name suggests, these concepts are most closely identified with Pashtuns, though they tend to be reflected similarly throughout all of the country's ethnic groups, particularly that of honour and the duty to extend hospitality. It is no exaggeration that even the poorest Afghan refugee may well offer a stranger his last bit of bread and tea and feel proud to do so. The Pashtuns have negative views of the Hazaras, whom they believe are second-class Afghans and of the Punjabis, the dominant ethnic group in Pakistan. Pashtuns speak an Indo-European language of the Iranian family called Pashtu and are mainly Sunni Muslims of the Hanafi School.

**Baluch** The traditional homeland of the Baluchis is in the south western desert region, and the group is particularly numerous in Helmand and the north western area of Farah provinces. An estimated 70% of Baluchis reside in Pakistan. The majority of Baluchis speak a language of the same name, which

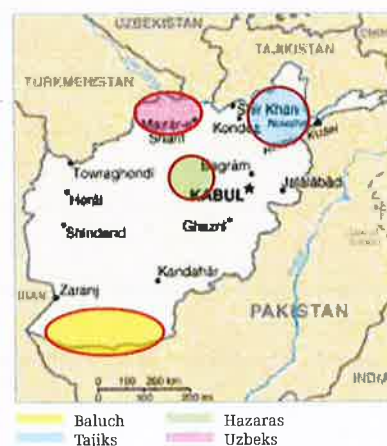
is related to Farsi. Up to half of the population speak a language called Brahui. Some commentators regard these speakers as a separate ethnic group. Most Baluchis are also fluent in Dari and Pashtu.

**Tajiks** The Tajiks are at least 25% of Afghanistan's population. They were the earliest inhabitants of the land, dating back to the 4th to the 1st Centuries B.C. They are most numerous in the relatively densely populated northern part of the country as well as in the cities of Kabul and Herat, where they are sometimes referred to as Farsi wan (meaning simply 'Persian speakers'). Like most Afghans, the Tajiks derive the bulk of their livelihood from agricultural pursuits. Tajiks speak Afghan Persian, known as Dari and are mainly Sunni Muslims of the same Hanafi sect as the Pashtuns.

**Hazaras** The Hazaras are the third largest Afghan ethnic group. Their name means 'Thousand' in Persian and refers to their descent from the soldiers of Genghis Khan who were organised in groups of one thousand when they invaded Afghanistan in the 13th century. Modern-day Hazaras still resemble their Mongol forbears, though intermixing with the indigenous Afghan population has occurred since. Their homeland is in central Afghanistan, and is often referred to as the Hazarajat.

The combination of their distinctive facial features, their minority Shi'ite religion, and the generally poor quality of the land they occupy has placed Hazaras at the bottom of the Afghan social scale. The Hazaras speak a form of Persian known as Hazaragi, which is differentiated from Dari by its words of Mongol origin.

**Uzbeks** Uzbeks are only about 8% of the population, but they have played an important role in Afghanistan history. The Uzbeks are found throughout northern Afghanistan, particularly in Faryab and Jowzjan provinces. Afghan Uzbeks and Afghan Tajiks have often joined forces together against the Pashtuns, but this is more out of convenience than out of any historical friendship between the two groups. This ethnic group speaks a dialect of Uzbek, and its members are generally practising Sunni Muslims.



## Tribal Groups in Helmand Province

Ethnic groups can easily be segregated into their respective areas and groups, however, tribal groupings and dynamics are more complex, with between 60 and 70 tribes. Listed below are the prominent tribes within the Helmand province.

**Alozai** With a population of around 70,000, the Alozai inhabit the central and northern areas of Helmand, principally Musa Qaleh, Bagran and Now Zad districts. There are five sub tribes, Shehzai, Dauzai, Pirzai, Hasanzai and Khalozai. Sher Mohammed Akhundzade is a senior Alozai member and assessed to be the tribal leader in Helmand. Alozai's are the dominant tribe within provincial politics, however, they are judged to be the fourth or fifth largest tribe in terms of population out of all Pashtun tribes. The Akhundzade family has been prominent in Helmand politics for over 20 years with Sher Mohammed Akhundzade's father and uncle both former governors.

The overall tribal leader of the Alozai tribe is assessed to be Habibullah Jan, based in Zarai district of Kandahar. He is known to have considerable wealth and is reported as being a 'criminal'. The tribe is judged to be heavily involved in opium production, processing and trafficking in Helmand, partly as a result of the former governor's stance towards narcotics.

**Alikozai** The Alikozai tribe are a sub tribe of the Durrani's which in turn are a sub tribe of the Pashtuns; the tribe has an estimated population of 80,000. Their native lands are in Kandahar, with elements in Baluchistan and Pakistan. Alikozais also inhabit Sangin, Baghni and the Now Zad districts of Helmand. The tribe is reportedly led by Mullah Naqueeb Alikozai.

**Ishakzai** The Ishakzais are the fourth largest tribe in Helmand, with a population estimated to be around 50,000. The Ishakzais reside in the Sangin, Now Zad and Garmsir areas of Helmand. There are two known sub tribes of the Ishakzai; Mulikai and Tajik. Ishakzais are assessed to be involved with opium cultivation with some factions more aligned to insurgent groups than others.

**Noorzai** Noorzai tribes are some of the most influential in southern Afghanistan, centred on Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul. Historically they have an antagonistic relationship with the Barakzai, Alozai and Popalzai tribes. Situated in the Nad Ali, Garmsir, Nawa, Washir and Now Zad districts, they are geographically spread across the province, with an estimated population of 25,000. Abdul Raman Jan is a senior member and potential leader of the tribe.

Mohammed Aref Khan Noorzai, former Minister for Tribal and Border Affairs, is commonly recognised as their leader. He has been implicated with drugs trafficking in the past.

**Barakzai** Barakzais presence in Helmand is concentrated in three districts, Now Zad, Nahri Sarraj and Nawa. Population is estimated to be 60,000 with no known sub tribes. The majority of Barakzais are assessed to be farmers, craftsmen and merchants and also have a strong presence in Gereshk Bazaar. The former governor of Kandahar, Gul Agha Shirzai is a senior tribal elder. Politics in the province are dominated by rivalries between the four tribes. Allegedly the policies of the former governor - which reportedly favour his own tribe above others - have resulted in Barakzai tribal members being in a favourable position economically.

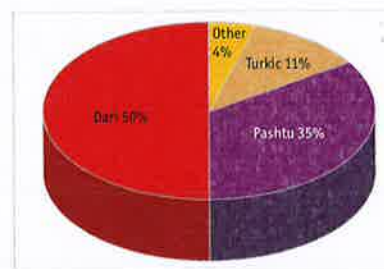
### Languages

Although there are thirty two languages spoken in Afghanistan, the two official languages are Pashtu (35%), which is Indo - Iranian language and Dari (50%), Afghan Persian. Within Afghanistan the majority of the country's educated population is in fact bilingual. Dari is a much more urban language in which business is most frequently conducted.

There are two major dialects of Pashtu: Western Pashtu spoken in

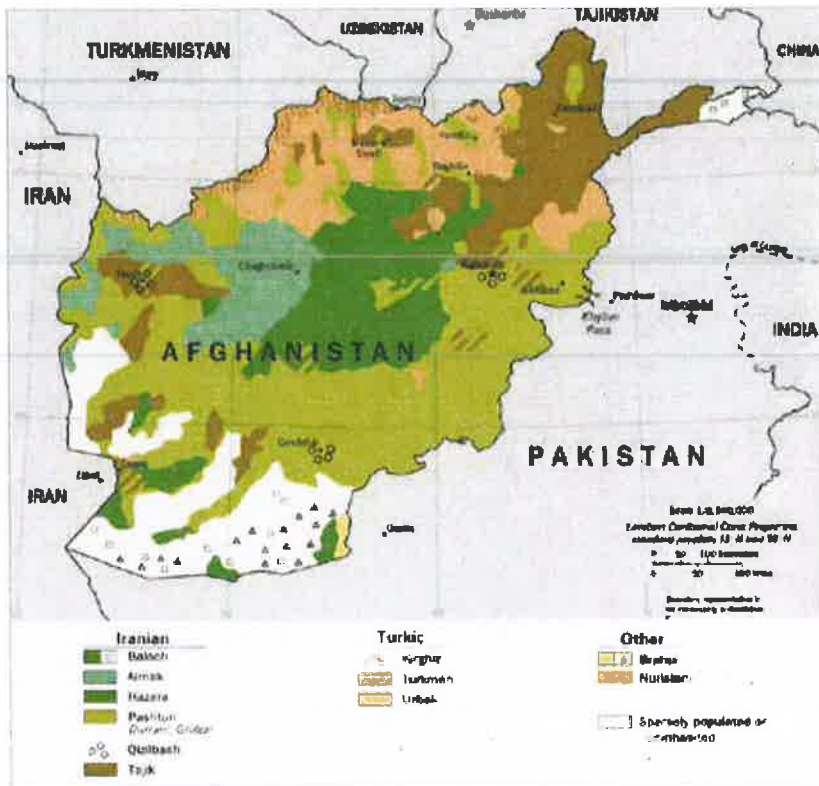
Central Afghanistan and in the capital, Kabul, and Eastern Pashtu spoken in North-eastern Pakistan. Most speakers of Pashtu speak these two dialects. Two other dialects are also distinguished: Southern Pashtu, spoken in Baluchistan (western Pakistan and eastern Iran) and in Kandahar.

Both Dari and Pashtu are written using adaptations of the Arabic Alphabet. In written form, Dari and Pashtu are similar, but they are not similar in speech. Schools use whichever language is most common in the area, and teach the other as a subject. The variation in spelling of the language's name (Pashtu, Pukhto, etc.) stems from the different pronunciations. In general, however, one speaker of Pashtu readily understands another. Given the complicated and diverse makeup of Afghanistan's languages, careful consideration must be given to identify a suitable interpreter for the area that operations will be undertaken.

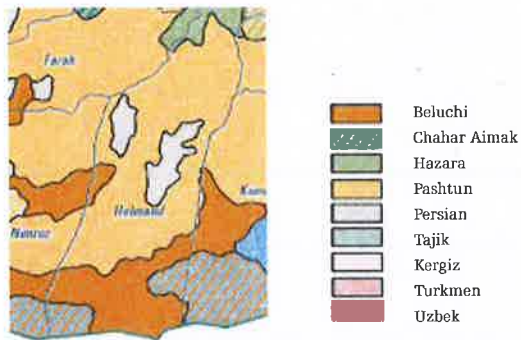


Languages in Afghanistan by percentage of population

## Ethnolinguistic Groups in Afghanistan



## Languages in Helmand





## Religion

The strongest tie among the various ethnic groups within Afghanistan is their Islamic religion. The overwhelming majority of Afghans (about 99%) are Muslims. Of these 84% are Sunnis and 15% percent are Shiites (mostly the Hazaras and Tajiks). Small groups of Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jews are scattered in the towns. Since the 1960s many Afghan Jews have migrated to Israel. Mazar E Sharif, in the north of the country, where the tomb of the Muslim leader Ali is said to be located, is a leading place of Muslim pilgrimage. Scattered throughout Afghanistan are the flag-covered graves of the Sufi (Islamic saints), people who are revered and petitioned for help in child bearing, settlement of disputes, moral leadership, or in other capacities.

### The Five Pillars of Islam A

Muslim's duties form the five pillars of the faith, these are:

- **Shahadat** (literally, testimony or creed) is central to Islam: "There is no god but God (Allah), and Mohammed is the Prophet of God". This profession of faith is repeated often, and its sincere recital designates one as a Muslim.
- **Salaat** or Daily prayer is conducted five times daily. Muslims pray in a prescribed manner after purification through ritual ablutions each day at dawn, midday, mid afternoon, sunset, and nightfall. Specific body movements accompany the prayers; the worshipper recites the prayers while facing Mecca.



A typical Mosque in Kabul

Whenever possible, men pray in congregation at the mosque under a prayer leader or imam. On Friday, the holy day, male Muslims are obligated to conduct Salaat.

- **Zakat** The act of giving alms to the poor. In the early days of Islam, the governing authority imposed Zakat as a tax on personal property, and it was proportionate to one's wealth. Now, Zakat may be collected at the mosques or by the government for distribution to mosques that provide for society's less fortunate individuals.

- **Sawm** (or **Ruzah** (Dari)) The fourth pillar (Fasting) entails a period of obligatory fasting during daylight hours in the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, Ramadan. Muslims are forbidden to eat, drink, smoke, or have sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during this time. The fasting commemorates Mohammed's receipt of the Qur'an.

- **Haji** Once in their lifetimes, Muslims are required, if physically and financially able, to make a pilgrimage, or Haji, to the holy city of Mecca to participate in special rites during the 12th month of the lunar calendar. Due to the extreme poverty within Afghanistan few people have undertaken the Haji: many of those who have

undertaken the pilgrimage change their name or title to Haji, thereby uplifting his prestige within the community.

Other terms used in the Islamic world are explained below:

- **Mullah** An important figure in Muslim life in Afghanistan is the mullah (a male religious leader or teacher). Any man who can recite the Qur'an [(Koran) (the sacred scripture of Islam)] from memory can be a mullah, but the mullah may not understand either the words or the meaning, since the book was written and is memorised in Arabic, which is not a local language. The mullah conducts the Friday sermon and prayers, marriages, and funerals. Mullahs also teach the laws and doctrines of Islam to both adults and children. Mullahs arbitrate local disputes, based upon Islamic legal principles, and they are also called upon to provide advice and resolution of many other physical, social, and personal problems, including such things as medicines, local water disputes, or a family feud. In some of the more remote rural areas, the local mullah and the local khan (landlord) dictate what their followers may or may not do. A Muslim stands in a personal relationship to God; there is no clergy in orthodox Islam.

Those who lead prayers, preach sermons, and interpret Sharia are chosen to do so by virtue of their superior knowledge and scholarship rather than because of any special prerogative conferred by ordination.

- **Jihad** The 'Sixth' Pillar. The concept of Jihad is often mistakenly taken to purely mean 'Holy war'. It is more accurate to think of this as a struggle or to strive, usually associated with the defence of the faith. This doesn't always mean military action but is a requirement of all Muslims. There is much debate between Muslims as to whether this is a true Pillar of Islam. Generally, the fundamental requirement to wage war on the infidel (non-believer) is a view taken only by extremists. In Afghan society, this can be a struggle for honour as well as faith (See Pashtunwali 5 - 1).

- **Sharia** Sharia (Islamic Law) is essentially God's blueprint for life. It has four basic roots which are, the Qur'an, the Tradition (Sunna) of Mohammed, Consensus (Ijma) and Analogy (Qiyas). Muslim Scholars still debate contentious areas of Sharia. The interpretation of Sharia (the following of a particular school of law) is often the root of disharmony between Muslim communities and the reason behind fundamentalist extremism.

- **Shi'a** Although Afghanistan is predominantly Sunni, a Shia Muslim minority exists. In the Shi'a community, an imam is vested with authority and leadership; he is a lineal male descendant of Ali (Muhammad's Son in Law). The office devolves from father to son. An imam, although not divine, is considered sinless and infallible in morality and faith. He can interpret the Qur'an and Islamic law (Sharia), and acts as an intermediary between individuals and Allah. Shi'a religious practices are similar to those of the Sunni, except for two concepts: temporary marriage (mutah) and religious concealment (taqiyyah).

### Religious Minorities

- **Ismailis** In the 8th century, Shi'a succession became contentious when the imam, Jafar as Sadiq, first named his eldest son, Ismail, as his successor, then changed his mind and chose a younger son, Musa Al Kazim. Ismail died before his father and thus never had an opportunity to assert his claim. When Jafar died in 765 AD, the imamate fell to Musa. Western scholars label those Shi'a who followed Musa as the Imami or Twelve Shia's, because they believe in the legitimacy of the first 12 imams. The Shia's in the community who refused to acknowledge Musa's leadership are known as the Ismailis or Sevener's, since they believe Jafar

named Ismail as the Seventh Imam and that Ismail's son should have become imam. Ismaili beliefs are complex and synthetic, combining elements from the Greek philosophies, Judaism, Christianity, and Eastern religions. Like the Shi'a, Ismailis practice taqiyyah, but unlike the Shi'a, it is a way of life. They generally follow Shi'a practices but are more conservative.

**Alawis** Alawis claim they are Muslims but are not recognized by conservative Sunnis. In the early 1970s, however, the Shi'a community accepted the Alawis as a branch of Shi'a Islam. Unlike Ismailis, Alawis regard Ali as the incarnation of God. Most tenets of the faith are secret, and Alawis refuse to discuss their faith with outsiders. Young Alawis are initiated into the secrets of the faith in stages. Alawis study the Qur'an and recognize the five pillars of Islam, but they do not set aside a particular building for worship. Traditionally Alawi's downplayed Islamic rituals, such as fasting, prayer and purification and observed Christian festivals, such as Christmas, Epiphany and Pentecost. The Christian influence may have resulted from contacts during the Christian Crusades. Syria is the main centre for Alawi and makes up approx 10% of the population; indeed the Syrian leader Bashir Asad is himself an Alawi.

**Druze** Like Alawi, Druze may be regarded as an offshoot of Ismaili Islam. The Druze religion spread from Egypt and is divided into two groups. Those who master the secret teachings of the sect and follow its dictates in their daily lives are referred to as the mature (Uqqal, or the knowers) and are regarded as the religious elite. The majority of the community are the ignorant (Juhhal) who strive for rebirth as one of the elite. Unlike mainstream Islam, Druze do not perform five daily prayers, observe Saum, or make pilgrimage to Mecca. Their main worship day is Thursday (as opposed to Friday) in accordance with other Islamic groups. The Druze are an important ethnic/political/religious group within Lebanon and a five pointed star is the main Druze symbol.

Before the Taliban regime was in power, all religions were allowed to practice freely in Afghanistan. The Taliban who practised a strict form of Islam called Wahhabism, demanded adherence to their brand of Islam and Sharia Law from all inhabitants. Under the Taliban all Hindus had to wear identity labels on their clothing to distinguish them from the Muslim majority; since according to their interpretations of the Quran all non Muslims must be identified. This type of act is reminiscent of the treatment of the Jews in Nazi Germany.

## Afghan Holidays 2008

### Religious Holidays

**10 Jan\*** Islamic New Year

**19 Jan\*** Ashura Festival (Shia)

**21 Mar\*** Roze-Maulad  
(Birth of the prophet Muhammad)

**30 Jul\*** Isra al-Mi'raj  
(Prophet's ascension into Heaven)

**1 Sep\*** First Day of Ramadan

**27 Sep\*** Laylat Ul-Qadr  
(Night of Power)

**1 Oct\*** Id al-Fitr  
(End of Ramadan)

**8 Dec\*** Id al-Adha  
(Feast of the Sacrifice)

### National Holidays

**15 Feb** Nauroz (New Years Day)

**18 Apr** Liberation/Victory Day

**1 May** Workers Day

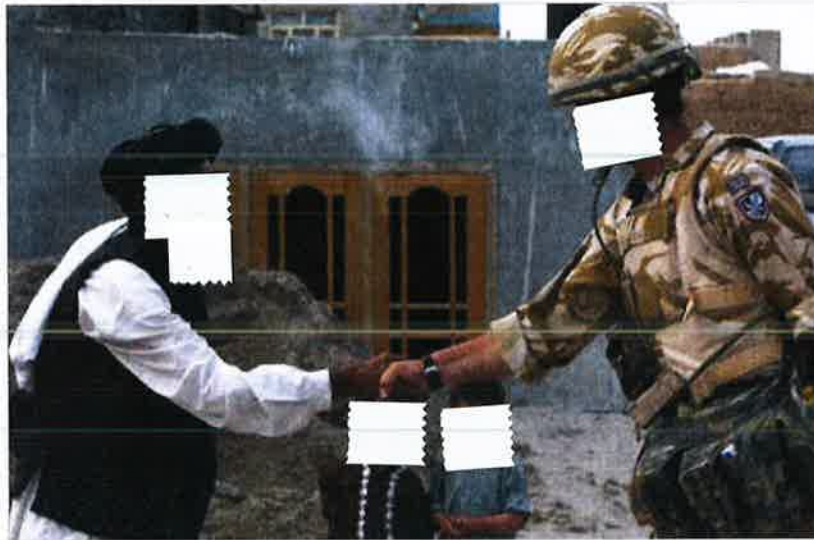
**18 Aug** Independence Day  
(celebrates independence from  
the UK in 1919)

\* The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar having 12 lunar months in a year of about 354 days. Because this lunar year is about 11 days shorter than the solar year, Islamic holy days, although celebrated on fixed dates in their own calendar, usually shift 11 days earlier each year in the Roman calendar.



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### **Pashtunwali - The Way of the Pashtun**

This is the indigenous pre-Islamic honour code of the ethnic Pashtun Afghan. Even though Pashtunwali has no root in Sharia Law it has some basic similarities, which is why other ethnic groups have adopted some of its tenets, making it a foundation of Afghan culture in concert with Islam. This said, the 5000 year-old Pashtun cultural practices often supersede religious ones. Jihad, while being religious struggle can also mean defence of tribal honour, family and loyalty. Pashtuns often express religious devotion through the code. Some of the main concepts are as follows:

- **Hospitality (Melmastia)**

Affording shelter and sanctuary to all is a social obligation, conferring honour on the host.

- **Loyalty (Sabat)** The code mandates devotion and loyalty to the Qawm and designated religious and political leaders (especially from their own tribe).

- **Territorialism (Ghayrat)**

Loyalty to the homeland is displayed through a willingness to defend tribal and personal territory, property and individuals. Although sometimes referred to

as Jihad in Pashtun circles, a fight does not always need a religious basis.

- **Justice (Badal)** It is considered honourable to respond to slights between individuals or tribes with reciprocation ('eye for an eye'). This can sometimes get out of control, unless arbitrators step in to seek resolution, often through the payment of compensation. This philosophy limits excessive violence between tribes. Failure to take revenge is seen as shameful.

- **Bravery (Tureh)** Pashtuns consider defensive or security roles in warfare as shameful and insulting. However, conducting a surprise, hit and run-attack against a superior force, and other similar acts of bravado, brings honour to the fighter and his tribe.

- **Nanawati (Shelter)** The right to shelter or asylum, which has additional connotations of forgiveness.

## Family and Society

Although the Afghan population is composed of many distinct ethnic groups, many elements of their way of life are much the same. Characteristically, the family is the mainstay of Afghan society. Extremely close bonds exist within the family, which consists of the members of several generations. The family is headed by the oldest man, or patriarch, whose word is law for the whole family. Family honour, pride, and respect toward other members are highly prized qualities. Among both villagers and nomads the family lives together and forms a self-sufficient group. In the villages each family generally occupies either one mud-brick house or a walled compound containing mud-brick or stonewalled houses. The same pattern prevails among the nomads, except that tents replace the houses. Extended families tend to be co-located, although



it is becoming more common in urban areas for families to be more dispersed. Traditional marriage preferences is with paternal parallel cousins (father's brother's sons or daughters), although other forms of marriage are widespread and may include cross ethnic ties, particularly in non - Pashtun communities.

Gender roles are strictly defined, with men representing the 'public face' of the household in its dealings with the outside world, while women are largely confined to the domestic environment. Although only men are able to participate in local political life, such as tribal councils (Jirgas or Shura's), women can be influential behind the scenes. Women also have a say in the upbringing of children and their decisions are instrumental in the determination of their children's' marriage partners.

Settlements in Afghanistan with less than 100 houses number over

10,000 and those with 100 to 250 houses number about 1000. There are 53 urban centres that range in size from 2500 to 25,000 people. In the smaller villages there are no schools, no stores, nor any representative of the government. Traditionally, each village has four sources of authority within it:

- The Malik (village headman)
- The Mirab (master of the water distribution)
- The Mullah (teacher of Islamic laws)
- The Khan (large landowner). Commonly the Khan will control the whole village by also assuming the role of both Malik and Mirab

**Diet** The diet of most Afghan villagers consists mainly of



A typical Afghan compound



Game of Buzkashi

unleavened flat bread called Nan, soups, a kind of yogurt called Mast, vegetables, fruit, and occasionally rice and meat. Tea is the favourite drink and is served first to the guest to quench his thirst. Food is usually served in communal dishes whilst sitting on the floor and is always eaten with the right hand. In the summer months food may be eaten outside under a shaded tree. In the domestic environment, most Afghan families eat together unless there are male guests present, in which case women will eat alone. The importance of hospitality in Afghan society means that it is important not to refuse second helpings when offered. However, it should be noted that Afghans will invariably offer food to visitors or guests even if this will leave little

for themselves. It is good practice, therefore, to be frugal when eating with locals, and to ensure that some food is left in communal dishes at the end of a meal. Because hands are used in eating there is a hand washing ceremony before meals and for this a special bowl and jug called a Haftawa-wa-lagan is used. A young male or female member of the family brings this to the guest, and pours the water over his hands for him, the bowl being used to catch the water.

**Village Life** In the villages the men work in the fields, joined by the women during the harvest. Older children tend the flocks and look after the smaller children. The village mosque is the centre of religious life and is often used as the village



guest house. Almost all decisions are made at shuras: a gathering of the village's elders and influential personalities. Interaction between Task Force Helmand and key leaders takes place at these informal gatherings and their importance should not be underestimated. Decisions made here will be binding and it is an opportunity to demonstrate the Government of Afghanistan's and ISAF's commitment to the region.



A shiray taking place with military personnel present

Twice a year groups of nomads may pass through villages on their routes from summer highland grazing grounds to the lowlands where they camp during the winter. The villagers traditionally permit the nomads to graze their animals over the harvested fields, which the flocks fertilize by depositing manure. The nomads buy supplies such as tea, wheat, and kerosene from the villagers; the villagers buy wool and milk products from the nomads. For food and clothing, the nomads depend on the milk products, meat, wool, and skins of their flocks; for transportation they

depend on their camels. Nomadic women are freer and less secluded than the village women.

A favourite sport in northern Afghanistan is a game called Buzkashi (see picture on opposite page), in which teams of horsemen compete to deposit the carcass of a large headless calf in a goal circle. Afghans also play polo and ghosai, a team sport similar to wrestling.

### Customs

- **Greetings** A smile, a nod, and a word of greeting are appropriate ways of greeting an Afghan in most situations. Embracing or kissing on both cheeks is also a common form of greeting between people of the same sex. The usual form of verbal greeting is Salaam alay-kum ("peace be upon you"), which elicits the response Alay-kum salaam ("and upon you peace").

- **The handshake** Customary in Afghanistan when arriving and leaving. Handshakes between men are soft and gentle, not a test of strength. They are not firm, but neither are they weak. Some Afghans may place their right hands over their hearts after shaking hands. This gesture simply means that the handshake is from the heart. Should an Afghan make this gesture, it is appropriate and expected that the receiver reciprocate.

• **Females** When uncertain as to how to greet an Afghan, it is prudent to wait until the other person extends his or her hand before making the same gesture. Whatever the situation, one should not attempt to initiate a handshake with a woman. Should a woman initiate a handshake, she will use only the tips of her fingers and will not touch palms.

• **Personal Space** Afghans typically stand closer to other people during conversation than most westerners do. When observing a westerner in conversation with an Afghan, it is common to see the westerner move away as the Afghan inches closer. This continual shifting may go unnoticed by the individuals, but can still lead to each feeling uncomfortable with the encounter.

• **Photographs** It is considered extremely rude to photograph someone without first asking their permission. Cultural norms also prohibit the photographing of women in Afghanistan. If possible, get an Afghan to photograph an Afghan.

The following are guides to meeting Afghans:

- It is accepted practice to stand up when someone - especially a senior man or a woman enters a room.

• Afghans usually sit on the floor in their own homes, and it is important when interacting with locals to cross one's legs rather than stretch them out. Women should be careful to cover their legs, ankles and feet with a scarf or shawl when sitting on the floor.

- It is considered respectful to maintain an upright posture when addressing someone in a formal situation such as a meeting or conference. Pointing the soles of one's shoes towards someone else may also cause offence. Shoes are regarded as defiling, and should be removed when entering someone's home or a mosque.

- Certain subjects are viewed as inappropriate topics of conversation; asking someone which ethnic group they are from is regarded as impolite, and questioning another man about female members of his family is especially taboo.

## **Dress**

Cotton and wool are the main material used in Afghanistan and these are woven and dyed and made into garments by each family or group.

**Male Dress** Baggy cotton trousers are a standard part of the Afghan villager's costume. The men wear long cotton shirts, which hang over their trousers, and wide sashes



around their waists. They also wear a skullcap, and over that, a turban, which they take off when working in the fields. Another form of dress is the long-sleeved, ankle-length 'Chupan'. This is a long coat made in wool, often white in colour and worn by the mountain people in the winter season. The Chupan is worn over loosely fitting jackets and trousers, or is wrapped round the body like a cloak. There is also a similar type of coat which is made in stripes of darkish colours.



A woman wearing a Burka

**Female Dress** The women wear a long loose shirt or a high-bodice dress with a swirling skirt over their trousers; they drape a wide shawl about their heads. Many women wear jewellery, which is collected as a form of family wealth. When urban women leave their houses they usually wear a Burka or Shadier, a long tent like veil that covers them from head to foot. Women in villages seldom wear the Burka, and educated urban women discarded the custom, especially under Soviet domination where it was regarded as backward. Under the Taliban however all women were forced to wear the Burka.

Young girls go bareheaded, but women cover their heads with long headscarves, the colours varying according to the groups to which they belong. The scarves are tied round the head, leaving a long end hanging down the back, which can be drawn across the face. A white headscarf signifies marital status.

Turbans are commonly worn; however, Pashtuns leave some of the turban cloth hanging down, while most of those in the rest of the country tuck the end in. The Taliban required all men to grow long beards. However, in Kabul, many men are clean-shaven.

The Pakol is another form of head dress that is often worn.



## Cultural Do's and Don't

**Do** - Shake hands firmly but gently in greeting and departure. Always use right hand.

**Do** - Try all food offered. This acknowledges the hospitality of the host. Items may have been difficult to acquire and regardless of wealth/status, the offering allows the Afghan to maintain honour.

**Do** - Expect to spend much of the visit socializing and drinking tea before discussing business

**Do** - Use applicable professional or academic titles i.e. Engineer, Doctor, and Professor etc. Recognition of achievement confers honour on the individual, his family and tribe.

**Do** - Expect Afghans to have a different sense of time and punctuality. Afghans believe that a task will be completed according to God's will.

**Do** - Give a gift in return for one received. Gifts acknowledge or initiate relationships.

**Do** - Beckon others by extending your hand, palm downward, and curling fingers inward.

**Do** - Remove footwear before entering a home or mosque. This shows respect as well as being hygienically practical due to the high quantities of excrement found in most streets.

**Do** - Recognise the reverence Afghans place with the elderly. Their experience and wisdom is cherished by the community.

**Don't** - Use the left hand for physical contact with others, to eat or to gesture: it is considered unclean.

**Don't** - Sit with the soles of your feet facing someone. It indicates that you believe the person is beneath you.

**Don't** - Show a women attention by addressing, touching, or staring at her. Don't ask men direct questions about their female relatives.

**Don't** - Walk away from someone who is speaking to you.

**Don't** - Tell an Afghan he is wrong if he gives incorrect information. It is considered a slight.

**Don't** - Expect Afghans to be able to read, especially in rural areas.

**Don't** - Beckon or point with a finger. It is considered rude and may be mistaken for a challenge.

**Don't** - Wear sunglasses when speaking to an Afghan or indoors. It is considered disrespectful of the buildings status.

**Don't** - Offer food or drink to an Afghan, or publicly consume either during Ramadan, when Muslims fast.

### Democratic Development: The Bonn Accord

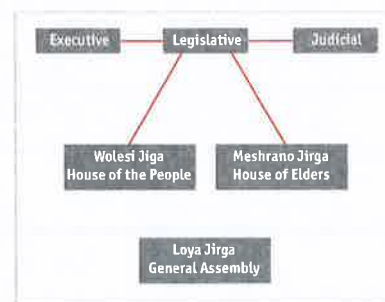
Following the fall of the Taliban at the end of 2001, key Afghan leaders met in Bonn along with representatives of the international community to set out the process to achieve a transfer of power to a fully elected government by June 2004. A number of key milestones were identified:

- **Stage 1: Afghan Interim Authority** from 22 December 2001. Unelected government of largely self-selected Afghan power-brokers led by Hamid Karzai.
- **Stage 2: Emergency Loya Jirga** June 2002. Traditional council of regional delegates selected members of the Afghan Transitional Administration, still led by Karzai.
- **Stage 3: Constitutional Loya Jirga** December 2003. Representative council met to consent to a new framework of government and to agree to a new Afghan National Constitution.
- **Stage 4: Presidential election** October 2004. Hamid Karzai swept to victory with a huge winning margin over his nearest challenger, Yunis Qanuni.

- **Stage 5: Parliamentary and Provincial elections** held September 2005. Flawed but acceptable electoral process sees the creation of the first representative democratic institutions since the 1960's. Throughout the Bonn Process, Karzai has led a diverse coalition of individuals from a variety of provinces, ethnic groups, political backgrounds, and tribal affiliations.

### The Afghan Government

The Afghan central government comprises a directly elected executive presidency; an appointed cabinet of ministers heading government departments; and a two chamber Parliament (the lower house, or Wolesi Jirga and upper house, or Meshrano Jirga).





Outside Kabul, each of the 34 provinces is directly administered by a governor appointed by President Karzai, alongside an elected provincial council.

During the transitional period of the Bonn process, representative central government was achieved through the assignment of a large number of ministerial posts across factional groups. Government positions were often assigned not on the basis of merit, professional suitability or ideology, but mainly on the basis of achieving a diverse ethnic and political representation. Whilst the resultant cabinet was unwieldy and prone to factionalism, the wide representation that the system achieved was crucial in bestowing legitimacy on the interim administration and in gaining broad acceptance from the majority of the Afghan population before the 2004 and 2005 elections.

In October 2004, Karzai won the presidency in the country's first nationwide democratic election. Winning a convincing 55% of the national vote, Karzai was the only candidate to demonstrate an ability to attract voters from across ethnic lines and was elected on the first round of voting. Many of the other leading candidates struggled to win a majority of the votes of their own ethnic groups. The Tajik runner-up, Younis Qanuni was subsequently elected as the Speaker, or Chairman, of the Wolesi Jirga in January 2006.

Following his electoral victory in 2004, Karzai's style of government has matured. Having achieved a popular mandate, he moved to appoint a cabinet of his own choice, largely formed of members owing political allegiance to him. The 27 strong cabinet selected in December 2004 had a strongly intellectual flavour, as Karzai sought to sideline the



Karzai's election campaign invoked the spirit of Massoud

previously dominant mainly illiterate warlords with their own vested interests in maintaining the status quo and influence in the provinces. This process was continued in March 2006 when Karzai carried out a reshuffle, reducing the number of ministers to 25 and diminishing the influence of the former Mujahideen still further.

**Wolesi Jirga** The parliamentary and provincial elections in September 2005 produced results largely along national ethnic lines.

The parliamentary Wolesi Jirga, formed of 249 MPs elected from all 34 provinces, is assessed to be comprised of 48% Pushtuns, 21% Tajiks, 12% Hazaras, 8% Uzbeks and 11% others, including Arabs, Baluchis, Aimaqs and Turkmen. In accordance with the national Constitution, 68 MPs are female (some 27% of the total).

**Meshrano Jirga** In the Meshrano Jirga, one-third of the 102 seats have been appointed by Karzai, while the remaining 68 seats are filled by two representatives each from the 34 provincial councils. The upper house also broadly reflects the national ethnic balance, but wields less power than the lower house. According to the Constitution, the Wolesi Jirga has the authority to pass any legislation with a two-thirds majority, even in the face of opposition from the Upper House and the President.

Members of both houses of Parliament possess a variety of backgrounds. There are many former jihadi or ex-Mujahideen fighters, together with intellectuals, a few former communists and many tribal representatives. However, few coherent voting blocs have been formed, and independent and non-aligned MPs form the largest group.



Karzai's ceremonial inauguration as president in December 2004



Afghanistan's freely elected Parliament met for the first time in 2005

The composition and role of the 34 elected provincial councils are less clear. They themselves have little formal power, but comprising many senior tribal and ethnic representatives, their support and participation will be needed by many of the centrally-appointed provincial governors in imposing effective control in the more remote regions. In addition, under current arrangements, each council selects two of their number to sit in the parliamentary upper house.

#### **Building Effective Governance**

Overall, the reach of the central government and the President's authority remains limited. Disarmed militia, criminals, and those involved in the narcotics industry, contribute to general lawlessness in many parts of the country, whilst regional warlords and senior tribal figures continue to undermine central government authority to their own advantage. Although progress has been made in

the removal of many uncooperative regional warlords and administrators, the implementation of government initiatives is almost entirely dependent on the will of local officials. Karzai has shown an increasing willingness to remove problematic provincial Governors and replace them with more competent and loyal individuals.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Moreover, many incompetent, disloyal and corrupt administrative and security officials below governor level remain in post, forming an obstruction to reform and effective regional governance.

The key strategic challenge to the long term stability of government is therefore the development of sustainable and robust state institutions. Security sector reform is the most urgent requirement in this state-building process and encompasses the development of law enforcement structures in the form of an effective national police force and supporting judiciary, alongside the continued decommissioning of local militia forces and the corresponding development of a centrally controlled national army. Reducing the nation's dependence on the illicit narcotics trade is another important strand. Currently, the narcotics industry accounts for some 50% of the overall Afghan economy and is estimated to

provide employment for up to two million Afghans. More importantly, the industry funds alternative and competing centres of power. This undermines progress towards stable governance and in the longer term will prevent the government harnessing sufficient revenue to sustain itself. Achieving reform will be slow. Most of the ministries remain ineffective, under resourced, badly managed and without the requisite number of skilled or experienced personnel; the current Minister for Education cannot read. The continuing presence of the international community in guiding reform is therefore crucial.

### Key Political Personalities - Central Government



#### President Hamid Karzai - Pashtun.

Leader of Afghanistan since fall of Taliban in 2001; elected

President in October 2004. Karzai has both Mujahideen credentials whilst also appealing to reform-minded westernised Afghans; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### Vice President Ahmad Zia Massoud

- Tajik. Younger brother of legendary Ahmad Shah



Massoud, the 'Lion of the Panjshir' and commander of the Northern Alliance; Mujahideen credentials



#### Vice President Karim Khalili

- Hazara. Leader of minority faction of key Hazara party Hezb-e Wahdat;



former moderate Mujahideen leader and member of Northern Alliance; remained a Karzai supporter despite breakaway of large number of supporters led by Mohaqqueq.

### Key Personalities - Helmand Province

#### Assadullah Wafa - Governor, Helmand

Province (Since Dec 06). Wafa was Karzai's preferred replacement as Helmand Governor. Wafa has previously



served as Governor Paktia Province from 2002-2005. He was then transferred to be Governor of Konar Province, another troubled area, a position he held until the summer of 2006, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During this period he also held the position of Deputy Minister and Advisor for Borders and Tribal Affairs within the Kabul administration. During Wafa's time in Paktia, he often faced angry public criticism of Coalition Forces over incidents where non combatants were killed or injured.

[REDACTED]

**Haji Pir Mohammad - Deputy Governor, Helmand Province**



(Since Dec 06). Mohammad is a well respected and influential figure, due to his moral

and religious values. He previously held the position of Deputy Governor of Helmand Province between 2002 and 2005, under Sher Mohammed Akhonzada.

[REDACTED]

disagreement in Mar 2006 ending Mohammad's relationship with the network.

**Engineer Mohammad Daoud - Former Governor, Helmand Province**

Daoud was appointed Governor in Dec 2005. Although



[REDACTED]

**Sher Mohammed Akhonzada - Former Governor, Helmand Province**



Sher Mohammed Akhonzada was the governor from the fall of the Taliban in 2001 until December 2005 when he became an MP in the Afghan National Assembly.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



**Amir Mohammed Akhundzada**  
**- Former Deputy Governor, Helmand Province**  
Amir Mohammed

Akhundzada is the younger brother of the former governor Sher Mohammed Akhundzada

[REDACTED]



**Abdul Rahman Jan (ARJ) - Former Chief of Police, Helmand Province (2002-2006)** Also known as Rahman Jan Sabir.

A Pushtun from the Noorzai tribe. His son Haji Wali Jan was elected to the Wolesi Jirga (lower house of Parliament) in September 2005. Continues to be an influential figure in the province;

[REDACTED]



## The Afghan National Army (ANA)

### Army Organisation

At full strength it is intended that the ANA be organised into five corps: the central corps in Kabul and four regional corps in Kandahar, Paktia, Herat and Balkh. The plans are already going ahead to develop the more technical elements of the ANA, especially Artillery, Engineering and Logistics. It is expected to take five to seven years to fully develop the regional corps. The process began on 1 September 2004 with the appointment of the four regional corps commanders and their staffs.



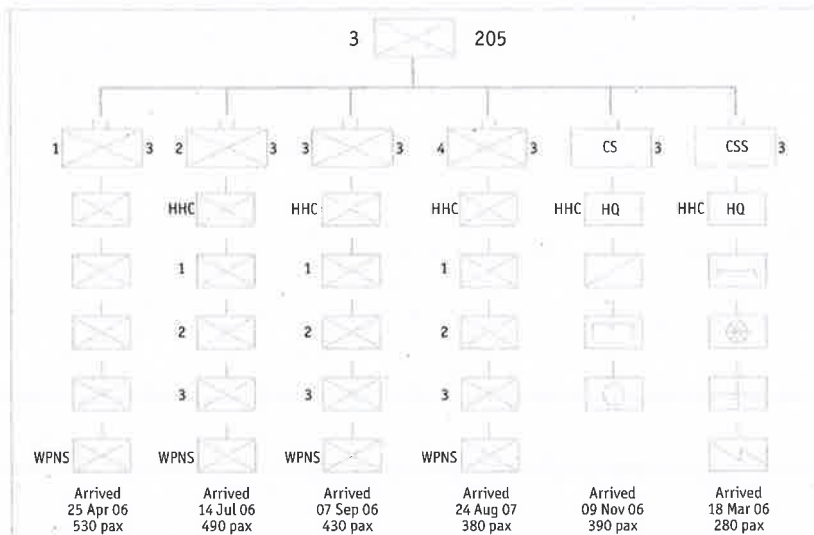
### Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Efforts continue to establish an effective MoD and an ethnically

balanced and nationally representative General Staff subordinate to civilian authority. While ethnic balance appears to be proving practical, the influence of disparate ethnic groups militates against harmony in the structure and it is unlikely that true civilian control will ever be implemented along the lines of western military forces. As with other government departments, the MoD has its share of patronage and inefficiencies that are the inevitable result of placement on ethnic grounds.

**Headquarters** Corps HQs have been established at the following locations:

- 201 Corps - Kabul
- 203 Corps - Gardez
- 205 Corps - Kandahar
- 207 Corps - Herat
- 209 Corps - Mazar-e-Sharif



3/205 Bde. The ANA Bde located at Camp Sharabak, adjacent to Camp Bastion.



**Brigades** Most Corps have three brigades under command, if in name only. 205 Corps Based in Kandahar, whose AO covers Helmand province, has three functioning brigades: 1/205 based in Kandahar, 2/205 based in Qalat and 3/205 based at Camp Shorabak in Helmand. Brigades are based on the old US style Brigades, with integral CS and CSS support ANA contribution to operations in Helmand has continued to rise, and at the time of writing the entire Brigade is deployable. The ANA operational areas stretch the length of the province, with the two main operational areas: Gereshk and Sangin, they also man numerous outposts and Patrol Bases throughout the province and surge either independently or in partnership with CF or other ANSF.

### **Forces in Helmand**

**Command and Control** The ANA tends towards an autocratic style of leadership. It is not uncommon for simple requests for fuel and stores to be passed to the senior commander for ratification. Mission Command is a growing concept amongst the

ANA but will not be totally accepted until there is a greater amount of trust and respect throughout the command structure and the HQs are sufficiently manned for there to be some depth for planning. The ability of the commanders ranges from the exceptional to the useless, but usually behind a useless commander there is a capable second in command.

**Equipment** The ANA are in the main a light role Army with troop transport being provided by Light or Heavy Transport vehicles (L/HTVs - Land Rover and 4 Tonne equivalent). Their dress is based on the American pattern personal equipment and webbing with Soviet weaponry, although there are plans to issue NATO standard weapons over the coming years. ANA operations within Helmand are on the rise, as they gain in confidence and ability. The ANA operational areas stretch the length of the province and are supported by the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLT) who assist with the planning and conduct of ANA operations.

## Combat Support



ANA Rangers

**Artillery** Presently the ANA are equipped with the D-30 field gun, this is due to be replaced by the US M198 155mm gun. Most Batteries in Afghanistan are not operational, however the battery in Helmand is capable of firing in support of troops and has done so in Garmsir throughout Herrick 6.



An ANA D-30 in action

**Engineers** The Engineer company within 3/205 has a lack of heavy plant that restricts their effectiveness. They are reasonably adept at the light role engineer task and are capable of building Non Engineer Bridges (NEBs),

low level defences (wire and Hesco) and provide excellent close support for their own light dismounted infantry (explosive entry).

**Army Aviation** The Army has no dedicated aviation capabilities. Such aircraft that are in service are maintained by the Air Force.

**Reconnaissance** The Recce Company is once again hampered by the lack of basic equipment, however they are developing as a light infantry force.

## Combat Service Support

The logistic chain of command is still developing and this results in sporadic supply to the subordinate units. 3/205 Bde's own internal logistic chain is improving fast, especially in the areas of basic planning, maintenance and resupply.

**Information / Psychological / Media operations** The ANA in Helmand are becoming increasingly aware of the potential for non kinetic effects. They are intuitively good at interacting with the public and gauging moods and intentions. Their ability to detect intimidation within the local population should be utilised wherever possible.

**Issues** There is a lack of sophisticated equipment within the



ANA, such as night viewing devices and secure communications. Even at the Bde level, there is little C2 infrastructure. These issues are being addressed; computers and the internet are being put into Bde HQs and a new radio is being issued. Being a relatively new army, there are problems with pay, absenteeism and equipment, however the ANA are improving at a dramatic rate and are starting to prove themselves in combat.

**Air Force** The Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAC) has limited air and aviation assets; they are unlikely to be used in support of operations in Helmand. The ANAAC has three wings: a fixed wing unit (7 airworthy planes, 5 of which are transport aircraft), a rotary-wing unit (10 transport and attack helicopters) and a presidential squadron (a further 2 helicopters). It is hoped that the ANAAC will expand significantly over the next five to ten years.

### **Afghan National Police (ANP)**



ANP Officers

Germany has been working in partnership with the United States in training the Afghan National Police. Germany is training senior police leadership at the Kabul police academy. The US is providing basic training courses at a central training facility in Kabul and seven Regional Training Centres in other provinces.

More than 57,000 members of the National Police, Highway Police, and Border Police have completed basic training programmes at US facilities. Over 12,000 have also completed more advanced training courses in specialized areas such as firearms, crowd control, investigative techniques, and domestic violence. All National Police were expected to have completed basic training by mid-2006; Highway Police will all complete training in mid-2008. In the past year, the US has enhanced the ANP training programme with mentors, embedding over 200 trainers and advisors around the country.

Whilst ANA training has largely been a success,

and the UK will provide additional OMLTs to train the ANP in much the same way as the ANA.

As part of a major pay and rank reform programme, the US and international partners are helping the ANP leadership to build a merit-based leadership and discipline structure to assure that the Police become widely-respected public servants and officers of a society based on the rule of law.

### **Afghan National Auxiliary Police (ANAP)**

The Afghan National Auxiliary Police (ANAP) is a new organisation within the Afghan National Security Forces. It was established in late 06, due to the agreed cessation of hostilities in various areas. The ANAP was formed in an attempt to reduce the feeling of corruption and distrust towards the ANP by the local population. The idea of the ANAP is to allow the local population to have a known, respectable and trained individual policing them. The ANAP training lasts for approximately two weeks; Lashkar Gah, has seen such training conducted for the ANAP officers for Helmand Province. Once their training is completed, they return to their home village to police their respective areas. It is believed that in Jan 07, there were approximately 50 ANAP officers within Helmand Province. At present the exact uniform for the Afghan National Auxiliary Police is not clear. It is likely to be similar to, but distinguishable from the ANP.

### **The Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA)**

The Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) was created as the specialist counter narcotics law enforcement department of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) in January 2003. CNPA units have been established, trained and supported in Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Lashkar Gah, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz and Fayzabad. A specialist CNPA drug detection team has been established in Kabul. The CNPA is responsible for the National Interdiction Unit and the Mobile Detection Teams.

### **The Afghan Special Narcotics Force (ASNF)**

The Afghan Special Narcotics Force (ASNF) is a 150 strong British trained unit; it was created within the MoI to conduct sensitive interdiction operations and reports directly to the MoI. Each person is individually vetted and trained to a very high standard. The ASNF are a well equipped and well motivated unit who



ASNF training

almost exclusively concentrate their operations against the infrastructure associated with the drugs trade, specifically processing laboratories and trading centres. Since Jan 2004 they have seized over 100 tonnes of opiates. The ASNF has a well deserved reputation for its professionalism and being a member of the Afghan Special Narcotics Force is highly regarded.

## Introduction

The threat to ISAF's mission comes from a variety of different sources in a variety of different forms. The situation is volatile, unpredictable and above all complex. The Taliban are not the only threat with national and international terrorist organisations, warlords, drug traffickers (narcos) and local criminal elements all contributing to regional instability. Individuals and tribes may be friendly one day but switch sides the next. Ceasefires between factions may be agreed simply to allow the poppy harvest to proceed unmolested. Whilst the rest of this chapter breaks down the enemy into its constituent parts, there is no defining line between them. Of equal importance, is the legacy mine threat from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; unmarked minefields are numerous.

## Taliban

The Taliban are an Islamic fundamentalist movement in Afghanistan that controlled most of the country from September 1996 to November 2001. Its origins



Taliban fighters

have already been described in Chapter 2. Members largely subscribe to a fundamental interpretation of Sunni Islamic law, derived from the Deobandi School of thought. The name Taliban translates as 'students' or 'seekers of knowledge'.

The Taliban promotes itself as a force for peace and unity gaining support from many war weary Afghan people, particularly Pashtuns, in hope of respite from years of conflict. Increasingly, there are a number of foreign fighters in their ranks, who originate from the wider Middle East and have been trained externally.

## Taliban Areas of Operations

The Taliban remains a persistent operational threat throughout its traditional strongholds in the south and south-east of the country; Kandahar is their vital ground. Coalition forces and bases have been a common target, though insurgent forces are increasingly striking at softer targets, posing a threat to Afghan government personnel and those perceived to be connected to international aid and reconstruction efforts. As the Kabul government asserts itself, the type of targets available to the extremist forces multiplies, including more deployments of the Afghan National Army, Police and international aid



workers dispersed around the country. Outside Pashtun dominated areas, the Taliban have only a minor presence. Pakistani border areas and some major cities continue to be a safe haven and a source of new recruits.

#### Structure and Key Personalities

Its personnel are divided up into 3 'Tiers':

##### Tier 1 Fighters

These are the most dangerous and professional group of fighters which include 'true believer' Taliban (TB), Al Qaeda (AQ), and foreign extremists. They are motivated by religious or

ideological factors, are generally better trained and may possess some combat experience. Other characteristics are:

- a. Highly motivated to fight, in many cases to the death.
- b. Likely to exercise good operational security and radio discipline.
- c. Exhibit complex battle procedures due to having enhanced C2 links.
- d. Occasionally wear military-style uniforms and boots instead of traditional Afghan clothing.



e. Conduct accurate and effective indirect fire.

Tier one members of the TB include senior leaders, many field commanders and full time dedicated fighters.

### Tier 2 Fighters

Tier 2 fighters are tribally and socially motivated. These fighters will follow the decision of local leaders and Tribal Chiefs. They are fair weather fighters offering their support to who they deem appropriate to the current situation. Whilst capable fighters, who follow a traditional warrior culture, they normally only sustain contact for a limited period.

The key attribute of Tier 2 fighters is that they have extensive knowledge of both the local terrain and localised tribal dimensions.

### Tier 3 Fighters

These fighters will only really fight for financial reasons including:

- a. Mercenaries.
- b. Those coerced due to financial burdens (including gambling debts, sick family members, impending marriage, property purchase, and other debtors).
- c. Drug addicts, who are often paid to conduct specific actions.



### Pyramid Structure



**Tactics, Techniques and Procedures** The Taliban have consistently adapted their TTPs to counter ISAF, ANSF and GoA encroachment into their Areas of Operation (AO). They are a determined, well co-ordinated and disciplined enemy who should not be underestimated. They will use accurate Indirect Fire (IDF), in the form of both mortars and rockets, to support ground assaults on fixed installations. The assaults will be determined and prolonged. Defensive positions will be well sited with multiple firing points and good arcs over the killing area. Snipers will be employed from well concealed positions and linked through ditches and trenches to the main stronghold.



Taliban prepared position in the Green Zone

The site is based around a piece of defensible terrain, not necessarily a compound, with good withdrawal routes. There are no hard and fast rules that govern the TTP's employed by the Taliban. The use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), improvised from redundant munitions, allows the insurgents to conduct low cost high

impact attacks incurring low casualty rates. They are typically placed on well used routes and detonated using command wires, pressure plates or by remote control. The suicide attack threat is prevalent in built up areas and uses a variety of means to deliver the suicide bomber to the intended target. Indicators and procedures for their use are covered later in this booklet. The Taliban currently have some night fighting equipment although this is limited to Image Intensifiers and rarely fitted to weapon systems.



Typical form of transport

## Illegally Armed Militias

**History** Due to the fractious nature of Afghanistan's recent history, there are a large number of residual militias in the country, controlled by local warlords.

**Capability** These militias can number up to several hundred men, and are primarily used to facilitate drug trafficking. The majority of politicians and drug smugglers maintain some sort of militia force. The average militia is between 20-100

personnel and is armed with AK-47s, PKM's, RPK's, and RPG's. It is assessed that modes of transport available to militias will include mainly SUV's, Land Cruisers and other 4x4 vehicles. It is likely that many militia groups will possess some means of radio/ telephone communication.

**TTPs** Some forces have been reported to set up checkpoints armed with small artillery pieces and anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) guns. Historical imagery identified several possible artillery pieces, though they were not present on more recent imagery. Forces have reportedly worn uniforms and fly the Afghan flag in order to appear as regular Afghan forces.

**Personalities** The majority of politicians and drug smugglers maintain some sort of militia force; most notably Haji JuMa Kahn and Sher Mohammed Akhunzada, the former Governor of Helmand Province, who each control a sizeable militia.

**Weapons** ANP border units reported seizing a large weapons cache in Baram Cha in early February which included 1 x 100 mm field gun and ammunition, 76mm ammunition, RPG rounds, Mortar rounds and approx 600 long barrelled weapons (LBWs). Weapons stocks are readily available

to militia groups due to leftovers from the Soviet occupation. It is assessed that there are more than 5 million mines, 500,000 rockets, innumerable small arms and a limited quantity of good quality man portable air defence systems (MANPADS). The use of suicide attacks by many militia groups is assessed as unlikely as it is viewed as being against the Afghan psyche - suicide bombers are assessed to be foreign fighters.

**Threat to Our Mission** The main use for these militias is in the conduct of narcotics distribution. It seems likely that counter-narcotics operations may result in conflict with these groups on a localised level; however the possibility of a large-scale resistance to Coalition actions would depend on the leaders of the militia, the local politicians and drug smugglers. If it appears that resistance is the best path open to these individuals, it is likely that they will consider attack an appropriate course of action, possibly employing guerrilla tactics to compensate for their comparative lack of capability.



## **Al - Qaeda**

**History** Al Qaeda was formed by Osama Bin Laden in 1988 as a haven for Islamic Mujahideen, and the name translates as 'The Base'. It was developed from the Maktab al-Khadamat 'MaK', a Mujahideen resistance organisation fighting the Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980's. Bin Laden fell out with Abdullah Azzam the co-founder of MaK over the future of the organisation and Azzam was assassinated. Osama Bin Laden's wanted to extend the conflict to non-military operations across the world.

Links with Afghanistan were formed early in the history of the organisation. When, in early 1997 Taliban discovered what they said was a Saudi plot to assassinate Osama Bin Laden, the Islamic militia, who by then controlled about two-thirds of Afghanistan, invited Osama Bin Laden to move to Kandahar for his own security. Osama Bin Laden agreed and fostered his relationship with Taliban's upper command by funding huge military purchases, building mosques and buying cars for the leadership. Osama Bin Laden set up a system to cream off the elite from the existing training camps to Al Qaeda. His aides would pick the most promising and send them to more specialized camps where, instead of basic infantry techniques, they had psychological and

physical tests, combat trials and finally instruction in the skills of the modern terrorist. Within a year, Osama Bin Laden had created the terrorist version of Special Forces.

Although it was responsible for the attacks US embassies in Africa and the attack against the USS COLE, it was the attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York that brought Al Qaeda to international attention. The US/Northern Alliance invasion of Afghanistan was in response to the Taliban refusal to handover Osama Bin Laden to the Americans. With the international export of this brand of religious extremism, Al Qaeda has come to be more a loose connection of similar groups operating under one banner, rather than a close network of insurgents with a distinct command structure.

## Personalities

### Osama Bin Laden



Muhammad Bin 'Awad Bin Laden, most commonly known as Osama Bin Laden is a militant Islamist and one of the founders of Al Qaeda. In conjunction with several other Islamic militants, in 1998 Bin Laden issued what he and the media have commented to be a Fatwa, that is, a religious Islamic edict, that Muslims should kill civilians and military personnel from the United States and allied countries until they withdraw support for Israel and military forces from Islamic countries.

### Zawahiri



Ayman al-Zawahiri born June 19, 1951 is a prominent member of the Al Qaeda group, a physician, author, poet, and formerly the head of the militant organization Egyptian Islamic Jihad. He speaks Arabic, French, and English. He is considered a terrorist by many nations.

He uses many aliases, including: Abu Muhammad (Abu Mohammed), Abu Fatima, Muhammad Ibrahim, Abu AbdAllah, Abu al-Mu'iz, The Doctor, The Teacher, Nur, Ustadz, Abu Mohammed Nur al-Deen, Abdel Muaz (Abdel Moez, Abdel Muez).

In 1998 he formally merged Egyptian Islamic Jihad into Al Qaeda. According to reports by a former Al Qaeda member, he has worked in the Al Qaeda organization since its inception and was a senior member of the group's shura council. He is often described as a 'lieutenant' to the head of Al Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden. It is also assumed that al-Zawahiri serves as Bin Laden's doctor.



Group photo of Ayman Al Zawahiri, Osama Bin Laden & Abu Hafis

**Threat to our Mission** AQ has become an entity which provides motivation for extremist groups and facilitates various factions to conduct its work.

There is an inherent struggle in Afghanistan between those who wish to wage an insurgency and those who support terrorist tactics, such as suicide bombings. It is likely that AQ is providing expertise to the insurgency in Afghanistan in regards to terrorist tactics and enabling links between the global jihad community and Afghan insurgents to aid in logistics and finance.



### **Pakistani Extremist Groups**

**General** Due to the close links that the Pakistani population has had with the original Mujahideen and the TB, it is unsurprising that insurgent groups within Afghanistan receive support from Pakistani extremists. Most of the support given to the TB comes from the Pakistani Pashtun population, although Afghan refugees, various Baluch elements and other religiously motivated individuals have sided with the TB. Some of this support is from Pakistani terrorist organisation, such as Laskar-e Tioba (LET), Harkat-ul Mujahideenn (HM), Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ).

**Threat to our Mission** Pakistani extremists provide a large number of the Tier 1 fighters, weapons' experts and IED experience. In addition they provide a safe haven to the Afghan insurgent groups in which they can train, plan, recruit and rest.

### **Other Afghan Insurgent Groups**

The TB are not the only insurgent group in Afghanistan, however, they are the prominent group in RC(S).



### **Haqqani Network**

The Haqqani network is an insurgent entity centred around the Zadran tribal leaders and the Haqqani family. The group shares the same ideology as the TB, but has different aims and objectives. Its main area of operations are Paktia, Paktika and Khowst provinces of RC(E), but elements have been known to operate in Zabol and some logistical routes will transit through RC(S). It is unlikely that any fighters from the Haqqani network will operate in Helmand.

### **Hezb - Islamic (Gulbadin Faction) (HIG)**

This group is headed by Gulbadin Hekmatyar and is a splinter group from one of the original seven Mujahideen groups. They operate in Kabul and the northern provinces of RC(E). The group is currently struggling to maintain momentum and garner support and has therefore resorted to more terrorist style operations. It is likely that some terrorist attacks in Kabul are attributed to HIG.

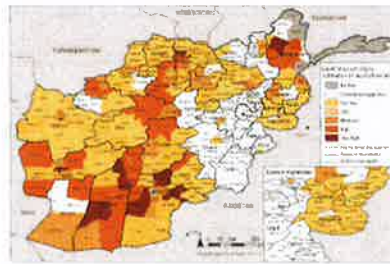
### Background

The cultivation of the opium poppy is not a new profession in Afghanistan. Throughout the Soviet occupation the money from the crop was used to fund the war effort. Following the Soviet defeat and withdrawal in 1996, the Taliban came to power; they appropriated and taxed established drug rings. In an attempt to gain international favour, the Taliban banned opium poppy cultivation in 2000 and used draconian methods to enforce the ban.

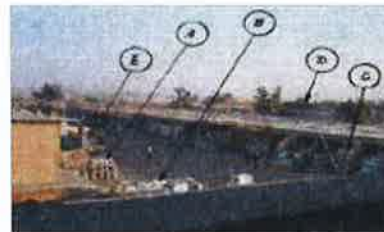
### Production

From the early 1990's there has been a steady increase in the areas of poppy cultivation. The south of Afghanistan (Helmand, Nimroz, Kandahar and Zabol) is the main producing area, accounting for 43% of the national opium production in 2005; 2007 saw the highest volume of poppy harvest yet.

Narcotics accounted for 40 - 60% of Afghanistan's GDP in 2005. The average gross income per person from opium associated families was



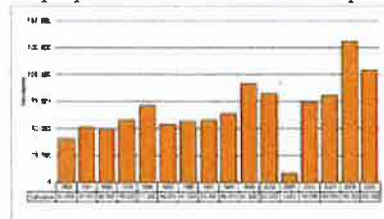
Areas of poppy cultivation  
White = Low  
Brown = Very high



A. Opium bags  
B. Ammonium Chloride  
C. Calcium Carbonate  
D. Government Building  
E. Calcium Carbonate Truck

The Taliban were removed from power in 2001 and President Karzai was democratically elected in 2002. Upon his appointment his administration banned opium poppy cultivation and imposed a system of eradication. However, without the harsh punishments imposed by the Taliban, this is having little effect.

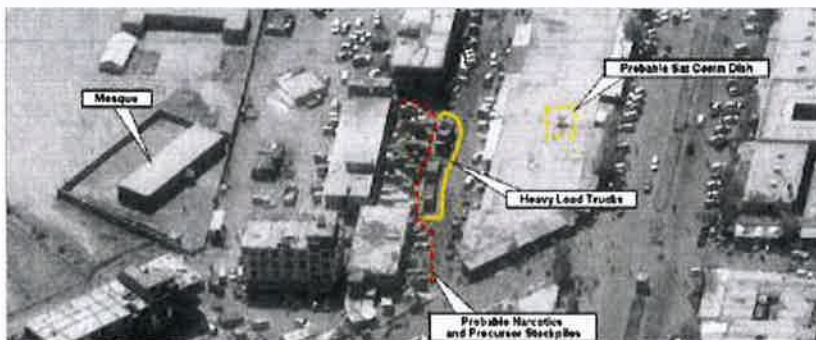
\$280, in comparison to the non opium associated families income of \$226 per person. In 2005 the UN reported that approximately 10% of Afghanistan's population (2.3 million people) were employed in the narcotics industry.



## Opium Routes & International Distribution

In excess of 87% of the world's opium and 90% of the UK's heroin is reported to have originated in Afghanistan. The UK's annual morphine requirement can be served with 24 hectares of opium poppy; in 2005 there were 104,000 hectares of poppy cultivated which would supply the UK with morphine for over 4300 years.

northern Silk Route, which runs through Central Asia. The anchor point for the Balkan Route is Turkey, which remains a major staging area and transportation route for heroin destined for European markets. Main trafficking route in RC South is in the area of the Chagai Hills in the Helmand Province, bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Afghan heroin moves to markets in Europe, Asia and the Middle East through Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia. An estimated 40% of the heroin and morphine from Afghanistan moves through Iran. Iran reports significant seizures of opium and heroin from smuggler convoys which are increasingly well-armed and capable of travelling at night.

Two primary routes are used to smuggle heroin into Europe: the Balkan Route, which runs through south-eastern Europe, and the

This is the main route as it is easier to distribute the product from Pakistan towards Eastern Europe than from Afghanistan.



## Civilian & Political Involvement & Attitudes

In 2005 the UN reported that around 10% (2.3 million people) were employed in the narcotics industry. It is noteworthy that a significant number of those associated with the farming of opium do so through indebtedness, having been reliant on the narco-traffickers for support during the Soviet occupation. With the apparent lack of alternate employment, especially in the rural areas, poppy cultivation is seen as acceptable and required by many Afghans.

It is not possible to present a measure of the level of corruption associated with the industry, but it is reported that it is rife through all levels of Afghan society, from the rural farmer to high ranking government officials. A significant contributory factor in this was the absence of any structured government following the Soviet withdrawal, allowing those in stronger positions to adopt power positions. This allowed those in power within the industry to cement their positions.

The Taliban has a huge involvement in the narcotics industry and it is reported that up to 60%



Extracting opium from poppy seeds

of their finance is gained through narcotics. The Taliban is involved in narcotics in a number

of ways, for example, mining poppy fields marked for eradication and the transporting and protection of narcotics. It is also reported that a number of key personnel involved in narcotics maintain their own militias. Frequently, these are larger and better equipped than the Afghan Security Forces.

The subject of eradication is a tricky one.

By destroying the poppy crop, you are destroying the livelihood of hundreds of farmers who are forced by



A ball of unprocessed heroin

the drug traffickers to grow the crop in the first place. The idea of legitimising the crop and producing opium for medicine has been floated, but dismissed as Afghanistan does not have the administrative capacity to control it. The system would be abused and send out the wrong message.

The long term plan is to provide the secure environment for farmers to cultivate their land free from intimidation and create the market economy to be able to sell cash crops such as saffron, wheat and fruit. The Government of Afghanistan's updated National Drugs Control Strategy (NCDS) sets out the priorities for the next 5 years.

These, and how the UK intends to support them, are highlighted below:

**Targeting the trafficker and the trade** The UK's Serious Organised Crime Organisation (SOCA) supports the training of the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) in Kabul and extending into seven key provincial offices.

**Strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods** DfID is spending £130 million over 3 years on alternative livelihoods including £30 million in Helmand for Afghans involved in poppy production. This includes providing short term work through building essential local infrastructure.

**Developing effective counter narcotics institutions** The FCO is funding a £12.5 million Institutional Development project to strengthen the Ministry of Counter Narcotics and other counter narcotics institutions in Afghanistan. The FCO has also helped the Government of Afghanistan to create a Counter Narcotics Trust

Fund (CNTF) to mobilise international donor support. The UK is channelling £30 million worth of CN assistance through the CNTF over a three-year period and \$83.6m has so far been raised in total.

**Demand reduction** With UK support, the Ministry of CN is working with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to increase understanding of drug dependency, addiction and drug abuse prevention methods. The UK has also assisted in the development of a set of drug abuse prevention guidelines and protocols, which were approved by the Government of Afghanistan at the beginning of April 2005.

The UK is the partner nation with the Government of Afghanistan in attempting to eradicate the narcotics industry within that country. Whilst no longer using the title of G8 Lead (the eight most developed countries in the world) in combating the Afghanistan drugs trade, the UK aims to support the Afghan Government through Security Sector Reform.



A field full of poppies - Helmand, Spring 2007



## Disease Risks to Deployed Personnel

Afghanistan is assessed as HIGH RISK for infectious diseases. Without force health protection measures, mission effectiveness will be seriously jeopardized.

The following is a brief summary of the infectious disease risks in Afghanistan. Risk varies greatly depending on location, individual exposures, and other factors.

### Food and Waterborne Diseases

Sanitation is extremely poor throughout the country, including major urban areas. Local food and water sources, including ice, are heavily contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, parasites, and viruses to which most UK service members have little or no natural immunity. If local food, water, or ice from unapproved sources is consumed, diarrhoeal diseases can be expected to affect a very high percentage of personnel within days. Given cultural traditions, uncooked local food should be politely refused and care taken not to consume water from an unknown source. Hepatitis A and typhoid fever can cause prolonged illness in a smaller percentage of personnel. Viral gastroenteritis (e.g. Norwalk and viruses) and food poisoning may cause significant outbreaks. In addition, large cholera outbreaks occur among the local population annually and could pose a risk to UK personnel.

**Insect Borne Diseases** From May to November, the climate and ecological habitat support large populations of disease carrying insects including mosquitoes, ticks, and sand flies. Significant transmission of many serious diseases occurs countrywide, including in urban areas. Many of these diseases are more common than officially reported.

Malaria is the major risk in Afghanistan, capable of debilitating a high percentage of personnel for up to a week or more. Issued protection measures, such as tablets, mosquito nets and insect repellent must be adopted throughout Helmand. In addition, Crimean-Congo haemorrhage fever, leishmaniasis, sand fly fever, typhus, West Nile fever, and others are transmitted at varying or unknown levels in this country. Without appropriate countermeasures, UK personnel could be struck down by these diseases for long periods.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia infections are common, as well as a variety of other sexually transmitted diseases, including chancroids, herpes, syphilis, and venereal warts. HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B are present at low levels.

### Respiratory-borne Diseases

Afghanistan is one of 23 countries that account for 80 percent of new

tuberculosis cases worldwide. Tuberculosis transmission in Afghanistan (321 per 100,000 populations) is significantly higher than in the UK. In addition, deployed UK forces may be exposed to a wide variety of common respiratory infections in the local population. These include influenza, pertussis, viral upper respiratory infections, viral and bacterial pneumonia, and others. Outbreaks of meningitis and influenza occur primarily from November through February and are associated with crowded living conditions.

**Water Contact Diseases** Lakes, rivers, streams, or other surface water in rural areas may be contaminated with leptospirosis. Regionally, large leptospirosis outbreaks have been reported associated with contact with contaminated water sources. Operations or activities that involve extensive water contact, especially where the water is stagnant, may result in personnel being temporarily debilitated with leptospirosis.

**Animal Contact Diseases** Human cases of rabies occur throughout much of the country with most exposures resulting from dog bites. Human rabies vaccine is typically unavailable, and most local nationals bitten by rabid animals die; soldiers bitten by animals should seek medical advice immediately. Human cases of anthrax

occur sporadically, and outbreaks among livestock are common.

### **Afghan Medical Capabilities**

Afghanistan's health care system is the worst in the region and far below Western standards. Most medical facilities lack a stable source of electricity and access to water. The country has not recovered from its civil war and has relied heavily on non governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations (IOs)(Aid Agencies) that provide better care than the government. The Taliban interferes with medical aid, medical supplies delivery, and medical personnel operations for both Afghan and NGO/IO hospitals.

Since the civil war and up until 9/11, NGOs and IOs have been the primary providers of health care in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan lacks an emergency response capability. NGO/IO personnel had provided personnel and material for relief efforts. There is no evacuation service (ground or air); patients must provide their own transportation to hospitals.

Hospital care is poor by any standard. The few hospitals are primarily located in the capital, Kabul. Facilities located in major cities and sponsored by NGOs provide the best health care, but even these facilities are not up to Western standards. Most provinces have several clinics, though the security situation limits

the ability of the NGOs and the Afghan government to provide health care services to more rural areas. Pharmaceuticals are usually unavailable, and the blood supply is not safe. Islamic law restricts medical care. Females generally are prevented from working; very few Afghan women may work in the medical field. Male physicians are forbidden to treat female patients. The government is trying to find additional nurses and midwives to offset the imbalance in care for Afghan women and children.

### **RC(S) Medical Capabilities**

All the Task Forces in RC(S) have the ability to treat casualties and the standard of medical care is excellent. All soldiers deploying will receive a mandatory environmental hazards brief which will inform them how to avoid the diseases that have been highlighted and what to do if symptoms are observed. Commanders should consider environmental hazards as a factor during their planning process; individuals should consult page 11-22 for some generic health tips.

## **Dangerous Animals**

### **Indian Spectacled Cobra**

**Snakes** There are many forms of snakes in Afghanistan and some are life threatening. If seen, snakes should be avoided.



### **Arthropods**

#### **Scorpions**

Although scorpions are capable of inflicting a painful sting, none in the region are known to be life-threatening.



**Spiders** Although several species of Afghan spider are capable of inflicting a painful bite, none of them are known to be life-threatening.

**Insects** Specific information on insects of medical importance is lacking. However, nearly all countries have at least one species of moth having venomous hairs and whose larva (caterpillar) has venomous

spines. Usually, the caterpillars are either very hairy (for example, puss moths/flannel moths) and almost unrecognizable as caterpillars, with long silky hairs completely covering the shorter venomous spines, or bear prominent clumps of stiff, venomous spines on an otherwise smooth body.

Contact

with these caterpillars can be very painful. Some, but not all, of these caterpillars are brightly coloured.

**Centipedes** Centipedes capable of inflicting a painful bite do live in Afghanistan, however, none of them are known to be life-threatening.

**Millipedes** Millipedes do not bite and in general are harmless to humans. However, when handled, some larger millipedes (may be more than 50 millimetres long) secrete a very noxious fluid that can cause severe blistering upon contact with tender skin; a few are capable of squirting this fluid a distance of at least 2 feet.



### Afghan Currency

The currency in Afghanistan is the Afghani (AFN); notes are available in 1, 2, 5, 10, 50, 500 and 1000 denominations. The AFN can be further broken down into Puls, with 100 puls equalling 1 AFN. Puls are available in 1, 2 and 5 denominations.



10 AFN note



50 AFN note



500 AFN note



### Exchange Rate & Typical Costs

The exchange rate is approximately 99 AFN to 1 GBP and below is a list of typical goods and services which an Afghan may expect to pay for:

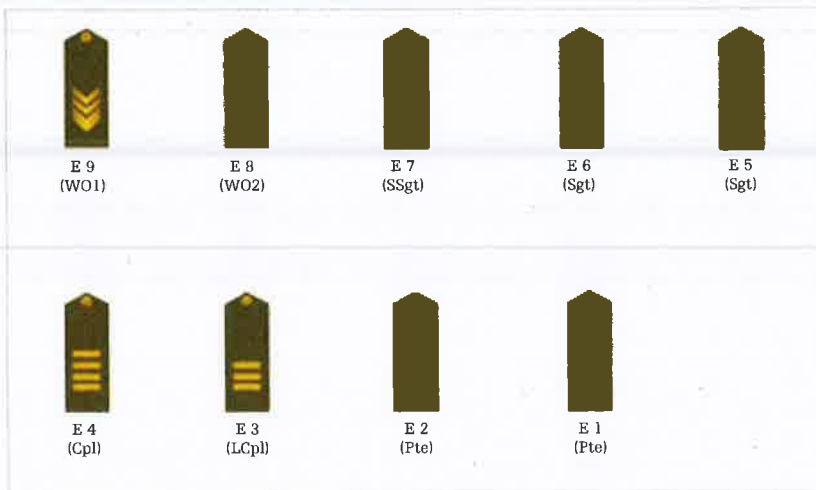
- Labourer in Kabul earns 140 AFN (£1.41) per day
- A yarn maker earns 30 AFN (£0.31p) per week
- One chicken costs 110 AFN (£1.12)
- A watermelon costs 30 AFN (£0.31p)
- A child's portion of rice & yoghurt costs 6 AFN (£0.06p)



## ISAF Badges of Rank

Below is a selection of badges of rank for several countries currently deployed in Afghanistan within ISAF.

### Estonian Enlisted Badges of Rank



### Estonian Officer Badges of Rank



**United States Enlisted Badges of Rank**



**United States Officer Badges of Rank**



**Danish Enlisted Badges of Rank**



**Danish Officer Badges of Rank**



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### Canadian Enlisted Badges of Rank

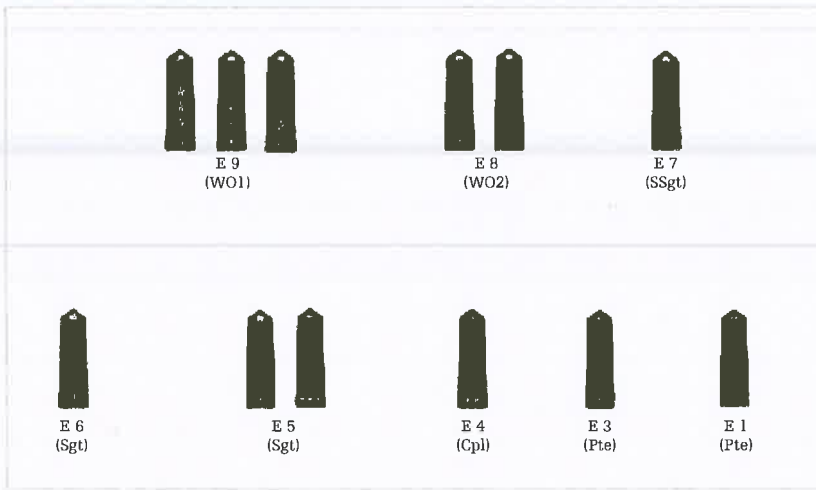


### Canadian Officer Badges of Rank



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**Czech Enlisted Badges of Rank**



**Czech Officer Badges of Rank**





### Jordanian Badges of Rank

The Jordanian badges of rank are very similar to that of the British Army. The enlisted badges of rank are identical up to the rank of WO, which appears as a blank rank slide. There are currently no pictures available of the Jordanian badges of rank.

### Weapon Recognition

Small Arms and Crew Served Weapons Overview. Weapon ownership is part of Afghan culture. Most men own at least one firearm, some several; consequently small arms are present in theatre in abundant quantities. Small arms will be encountered on a daily basis, and it should be noted that many are held or carried legally.

The Afghan armed forces, insurgents and civilians and have been equipped by, or acquired weapons from, a number of nations over the years. Consequently there is a wide variety of weapons dating from the World War II era to more modern times. These include British, German, Chinese, Iranian and former Warsaw Pact manufacturers, and in particular the ubiquitous Russian Kalashnikov series of assault rifles and machine guns.

Despite the age of many of these weapons they should not be discounted as a threat. They are robust, easy to acquire, and easy to use with only rudimentary training.

**Pistols** Below is a small sample of pistols and their ammunition. Similar types of pistols from Chinese, Iranian or Pakistani manufacture can also be expected.



TT-33 Tokarev (7.62mm)



Makarov PM (9mm)

**Bolt Action Rifles** Bolt action rifles may be used for self protection or hunting. They are also extremely accurate over long ranges, and fire modern ammunition natures.



Lee Enfield (7.7 mm)

**Automatic Rifles** The Kalashnikov series of assault rifle are widely used by insurgent forces due to their robust nature and availability. Other more modern designs are also available within Afghanistan including the Iranian-G3A1 and the Chinese manufactured CQ (similar to the M16).

### AKM



(7.62 mm) Modernised AK47.  
The forged and machined receiver

is replaced by a pressed steel construction. The most obvious distinguishing feature for the AKM is the cutaway compensator fitted to the muzzle. AKMS also available.

#### AK -47



(7.62 mm) Inclusion of 'S' designation (AKS) indicates a folding stock. This reduces the length of the AKS from 800mm to 550 mm.

#### Type 56



(7.62 mm) Chinese version of the AK-47. Some 10-15 million have been made since the 1950s. They account for a fifth of the AKs available world wide.

#### AK-74



(5.45 mm) The AK-74 is easily identified by the prominent muzzle brake and the horizontal grooves cut into the stock. AK-74s are found in small numbers and are primarily status weapons or used by foreign fighters.

#### AKS-74U



(5.45 mm) A status symbol weapon. Can be fitted with BS-1 silenced grenade launcher.

#### Sniper and Anti - material Rifles

Although many of the large calibre long barrelled weapons in service are of Russian origin, weapon systems such as the Barrett 82A1 12.7mm rifle and its Chinese copy the Type JQ have been reported to be in use.

#### Dragunov SVD



Russian Sniper rifle (7.62 mm)

#### PTRD-41



Soviet anti tank rifle (14.5 mm)

## Machine Guns

The majority of light and medium Machine Guns available in Afghanistan are of Russian or WW2 design, with a maximum effective range of between 800 - 1000m.

DP and DPM (7.62 mm)



PKM (7.62mm)



Most common machine gun used by EF

**Heavy Machine Guns** Ranges vary between 1000 - 2000m

DShK-38/46 12.7 mm



Crew Served Weapons. SPG 9 is the most common recoilless rifle in Afghanistan. Other former US and Chinese weapons have been found but in small quantities only.

SPG-9 Kopye



Anti tank recoilless rifle 73 mm  
PG-9 HEAT, OG-9 HE Frag

## Anti-Armour Weapon Systems Overview

### Anti-tank rocket launchers

The most common infantry anti-armour weapon in Afghanistan is the RPG-7. These are popular with insurgents and are used to engage Coalition AFVs, slow moving aircraft and helicopters, and for harassing fire against installations.

There are numerous copies of the RPG-7. These systems are identical in capability, but are distinguishable by their different fittings and weapon markings.

The majority of the warheads have a maximum range in the order of 950 m, at which point they self-destruct. Using iron sights, targets can effectively be engaged at ranges of 250-300 m. Using an optical sight the maximum effective range increases to 500 m. At night an effective range of up to 200 m can be achieved using an image intensified night sight.

The most basic RPG-7 HEAT rockets penetrate 260-400 mm of armour. More modern HEAT warheads can penetrate 400-600 mm (Armour), whilst the most dangerous tandem warhead rocket, the PG-7VR, is believed to be able to penetrate in excess of 750 mm (Armour).

The majority of RPG warheads (except those of Iranian manufacture) have self destruct fuses, which may be used to create an airburst effect after about 950 m of flight.



Chinese Type 69 (above) and Russian (below) RPG-7

RPG-18, RPG-22, and RPG-75 are single-shot disposable launchers. The RPG-16 is a modernised version of the RPG-7 which splits in half for ease of carriage.

### Improvised Indirect & Indirect Fire Weapons Overview

The majority of serviceable conventional artillery in Afghanistan is now held in cantonments. The Afghan National Army has some artillery of its own, which is beginning to be used on operations as Close Support OMLT's train the Close

Support Bn in 3/205 Bde. Indirect fire attacks on Coalition forces in Afghanistan are however, common.

These attacks have involved the use of mortars and surface-to-surface Free Flight Rockets.

Rocket attacks have been unconventional in their application and most have been conducted using improvised launchers.

This unconventional use of indirect fire limits its effectiveness. Significantly, accuracy and consistency are seriously degraded. In addition conditions in Afghanistan such as heat, altitude, difference in height of target and launch point, and the conditions under which the projectiles have been kept will make them perform in a manner that is not predicted by range tables.

**This may actually make the range longer than otherwise expected.**



S5 air to ground rocket



Improvised Type 63 107mm launchers

S5 are high velocity (550 m/s) rockets. They will therefore be effective in the direct fire role against material targets.

They may also be used in the direct role from an improvised launcher.



Improved Type 63  
107mm launchers



Modified twin barrel  
launcher

Weight 66 kg  
Length 2.87 m  
Range 20000 m



BM-21-P Single Barrel

**Type 63 107 mm** Chinese rocket system also manufactured in Iran. Airbursts are likely to be a malfunction as proxy fuses are rare.

Rocket natures for both 107 mm and 122 mm include HE frag, smoke and incendiary.

Ranges for all rockets will vary depending on the condition of the rocket, the altitude and temperature at the time of firing, and the altitude of the target relative to the launcher.



Single Launcher



12 Barrel Launcher



Weight 18.9 kg, Length 841 mm, Range 8500 m

### 122 mm Launchers and Rockets

122 mm rockets are fin stabilised in flight. The fins are folded flush to the rocket and deploy on exiting the launcher. If fired without a launcher they are highly inaccurate.



Single Launcher

Weight 45.8 kg  
Length 1.905 m  
Range 10800 m  
Fired from single  
Launcher

### Mortars

Barrel Length 1220 mm  
Range 3040 m



82mm M37

Barrel Length 1670 mm  
Range 6300 m



107mm M38



After the use of rockets, mortars are the most common form of indirect fire. The calibre used in an incident is rarely recorded.

The 82 mm M37 is easily transported, by man or pack animal, and deployed to fire at large area targets. Mortars larger than 82 mm will be in cantonments and caches however, the ammunition may be used for the construction of IEDs.

Mortars suffer from the same inherent inaccuracy problems as rockets. Well trained and experienced IDF teams are rare but are characterised by a noticeable increase in accuracy. There is a healthy supply of 82mm ammunition and a threat of accurate IDF should be considered in any static location.

### **Anti Aircraft**

Aircraft provide insurgents with high value targets both in terms of financial cost to the Coalition and in terms of potential Coalition casualties. Attacks on aircraft attract media attention and boost morale of insurgents.

The complex terrain in Afghanistan lends itself to operations against aircraft. The Afghan insurgents have years of experience gleaned from engaging Russian airborne troops, and have a wide variety of tactics and weapons with which to engage aircraft.

Slow moving, low flying fixed wing aircraft, and helicopters in the

hover are very vulnerable. They are particularly easily engaged with small arms, medium or heavy machine guns, MANPADS and RPGs. The latter can either be used in the direct fire role, or at extreme range where the insurgent takes advantage of the self destruct fuse to create an air burst effect.

The use of IEDs at HLS sites should also be considered, especially if the HLS is regularly used.

### **Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)**

MANPADS are widely proliferated amongst insurgent groups.

These weapons include the Russian-made SA-7 (and its Chinese copy the HN-5), SA-14 and SA-16, and the US-made FIM-92A Stinger-Basic MANPADS and Blowpipe. With the exception of Blowpipe these missiles use infra-red (IR) seekers to guide the missile onto the heat source of an aircraft target. Blowpipe uses radio-command signals to manually guide the missile onto the sightline of the target.

IR seeking MANPADS comprise the missile in a tube, a detachable grip stock, and a battery unit. The grip stock is detached from the tube after firing the missile, and can be used again. The battery can only be used for one engagement.

For missiles with cooled IR seekers - such as the SA - 14 and SA - 16 - the battery provides power as well as a coolant Nitrogen gas, and is known

- Large numbers of Stinger, Blowpipe and SA-7/HN-5 MANPADS are known to be in the hands of insurgents. SA-14 and SA-16 are not as widely deployed.

- The deployment of small numbers of more advanced MANPADS - such as SA-18 or QW-1 - could occur without warning.

- All MANPADS in Afghanistan pose a threat to helicopters and transport aircraft.

as a battery coolant unit (BCU). The un-cooled SA - 7/HN-5 does not need coolant - its battery unit provides power only.

The advantage of the cooled-seeker MANPADS - SA - 14, SA - 16 and newer Systems - is that they have an all-aspect capability against an air target i.e.: they can be fired at the rear, side or front.

The older un-cooled MANPADS - SA-7 and its copies - guide on the hot engine source from behind the aircraft, and so are limited to rear only engagements.

Characteristic:  
Un-cooled seeker

Attack aspect:  
Tail-chaser

Effective ceiling:  
Rotary Wing

Tactical ID: Cylindrical  
battery unit



SA-7 / HN-5 Grail /  
Strela-2

Physical threat:  
All these MANPADS are a threat to low-flying  
helicopters and transport aircraft.

Remarks:  
Copied by China as HN-5, by Pakistan as Anza-I,  
and by Egypt as Sakr-Eye.

Characteristic:  
Cooled seeker

Attack aspect:  
All-aspect

Effective ceiling:  
Rotary Wing

Tactical ID: Round  
ball-type battery  
coolant unit, parallel to tube.



SA-14 Gremlin / Strela-3

Physical threat:  
All these MANPADS are a threat to low-flying  
helicopters and transport aircraft.

Remarks:  
Small numbers confirmed in Afghanistan.

Characteristic:  
Cooled seeker

Attack aspect:  
All-aspect

Effective ceiling:  
Rotary Wing

Tactical ID: Ball-type  
battery coolant unit,  
sloping downwards - note image shows spike on  
missile and optional IFF collar.



SA-16 Gimlet / Igla-1

Physical threat:  
All these MANPADS are a threat to low-flying  
helicopters and transport aircraft.

Remarks:  
In small numbers. Not to be confused with 'Igla'  
which is the SA-18.

## Improvised Explosive Devices Overview

**The improvised explosive device (IED) is the largest single threat to Coalition Forces in Afghanistan**

Central to the IED threat is the use of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) components in their construction. In Afghanistan, initiation devices such as the spider dual tone multi-frequency (DTMF) initiator may be mass produced and brought to the insurgent from external sources.

The four fundamental components of an IED are:

- **Switch** Common electrical switches, clothes peg, mousetrap, radio frequency transceiver.
- **Power source** Chemical reaction, battery, mains power, spring-loaded striker.
- **Initiator** Detonator, percussion cap, electric match, friction initiator.
- **Main charge** Homemade/commercial/military explosives, military explosive ordnance, fuel.

IEDs in Afghanistan have evolved from early pressure and command wire devices, to more advanced radio controlled IEDs. This does not mean that early designs have been abandoned. They are frequently resurrected as the means to counter Coalition countermeasures (particularly electronic counter measures).

**Overview** - Insurgents in Afghanistan utilise a number of different methods for emplacing IEDs and conducting attacks. There are no hard and fast rules. The following points provide a general indication of TTPs employed by insurgents in the Afghanistan theatre.

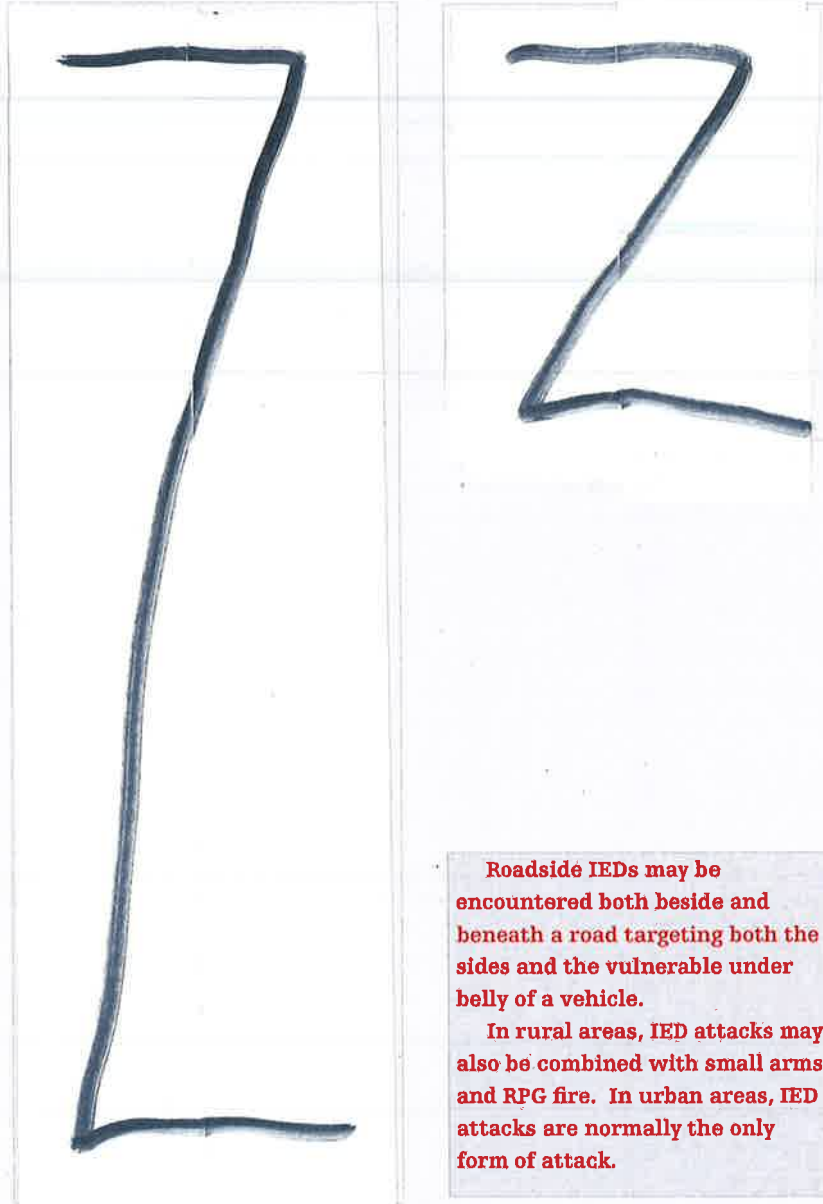


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**Treat the find of an IED or the scene of an incident with the utmost caution and carry out the drills as taught. There may be secondary devices or vital forensic evidence for specialist agencies to deal with.**

## Roadside IED - Possible Indicators





**Example IED Configurations**

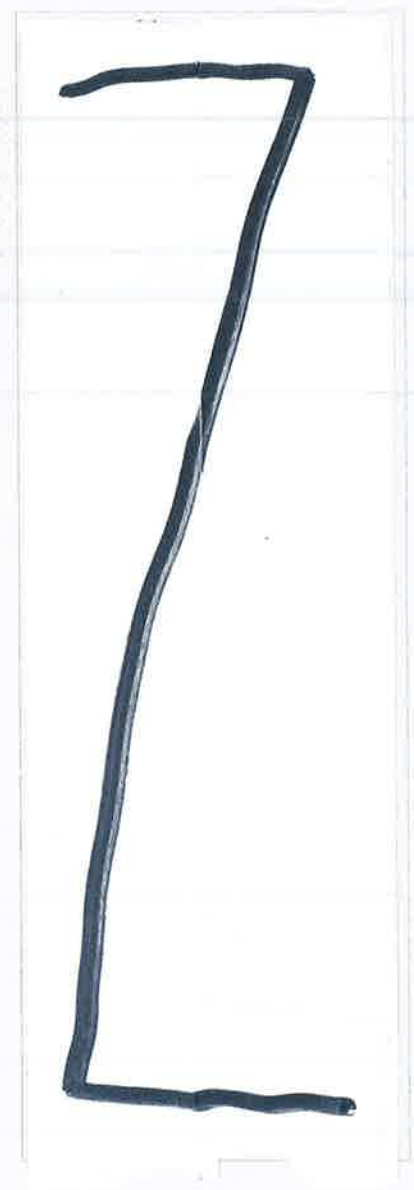
**Typical Command Wire**



**Pressure Device (VOIED)**



**VBIED Possible Indicators**



**Suicide IED Possible Indicators**

**IED carried on Person**



**Example Victim Operated VBIED**



**Suicide Driver of VIED**



## Landmines and UXOs

- Landmines and UXO continue to present a major threat to personnel who are deployed in all areas of Afghanistan. More than 60 types of mines from over ten countries have been found.

- UXO is found throughout Afghanistan. It is often concentrated around areas of previous fighting and ammunition dumps. Areas containing UXO are seldom marked, so movement away from regularly used or cleared routes is hazardous.

- Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, with approximately 10 million mines still uncleared.

- Afghans are known to have laid mines and then recover them for reuse, so the location of mines is subject to change.

- The most common AP mines used are the Russian PMN and POMZ-2. Insurgents are known to use landmines as a weapon or as a component of an improvised explosive device (IED).

- Landmines in Afghanistan are used extensively, at random and, despite their age, they are still active.



PMN Mine



POMZ-2 Mine

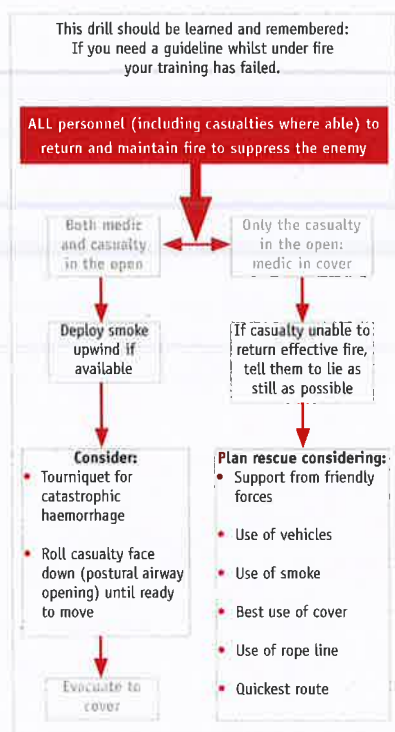
Remain vigilant, especially when crossing VPs, both in built up areas and the dessert.

### Warning

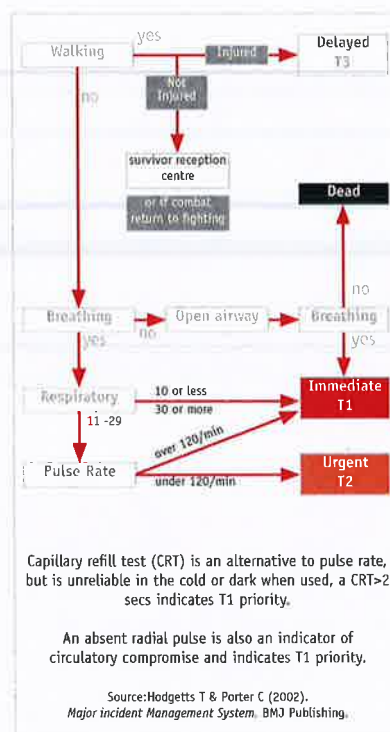
**Landmines** are to be treated as **Live, Armed and Dangerous** at all times unless advised otherwise by an appropriate authority.

## Essential Casualty Drills

### Care Under Fire



### Casualty Triage



**9 - Liner (CASEVAC Request  
OP HERRICK)**

<b>Line 1</b>	<b>Location of HLS (UTM Gd ref)</b>												
<b>Line 2</b>	<b>Call Sign and Frequency</b>												
<b>Line 3</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>No. of Cas / Precedence:</b></td> <td><b>UK triage</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A. Immediate</td> <td>T1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B. Urgent</td> <td>T2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. Priority</td> <td>T2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. Routine</td> <td>T3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. Convenience</td> <td>T4 or dead</td> </tr> </table>	<b>No. of Cas / Precedence:</b>	<b>UK triage</b>	A. Immediate	T1	B. Urgent	T2	C. Priority	T2	D. Routine	T3	E. Convenience	T4 or dead
<b>No. of Cas / Precedence:</b>	<b>UK triage</b>												
A. Immediate	T1												
B. Urgent	T2												
C. Priority	T2												
D. Routine	T3												
E. Convenience	T4 or dead												
<b>Line 4</b>	<b>Special Eqpt required:</b> A. None B. Hoist C. Extraction eqpt D. Ventilator E. Other												
<b>Line 5</b>	<b>No. of Cas by type:</b> L. No. of litter (str) patients and / or A. No. of ambulatory (walking)												
<b>Line 6</b>	<b>Sy at PUP / LZ:</b> N. No. of en tps P. Possible en tps E. En tps in area X. Armed escort req for Med team												
<b>Line 7</b>	<b>Marketing Method the PUP / LZ:</b> A. Panel B. Pyrotechnics C. Smoke D. None E. Other												
<b>Line 8</b>	<b>Nationality Status and No. of Cas:</b> A. All ISAF mil (state nationality) B. All ISAF civ (state nationality) C. Mil (Non - ISAF) D. Civ (Non - ISAF) E. En PW												
<b>Line 9</b>	<b>Description of PUP / LZ:</b> (Obstacles, power cables, identifying features, etc.)												
<b>Additional</b>	Time of injury Type of injury Nature of incident / mechanism of injury Pulse, Blood pressure, Breathing rate Conscious level ZAP No.												
<b>Reference:</b> Appendix 1 to Annex B To UKTF/H5/J3/3006/3 Dated 24 Dec 06													



## Casualty Planning

### Think

"Am I likely to be involved in an incident that will involve having to treat a casualty; am I ready?"

### Personal Preparation

"Do I/We have the necessary equipment (including BCD Aide Memoire\*) to deal with the situation? Am I confident using this equipment?"

### Equipment

"Is there sufficient Individual, Team Medic, and Section-Level medical equipment to enable us to treat casualties, should the unforeseen happen?"

### Training

"Do I/We know how to:

- Help a casualty under fire?
- Apply a Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT)?
- Open an airway?
- Assess breathing and treat a sucking chest wound?
- Find, control and treat bleeding/shock?
- Give morphine/label casualty?
- Triage for treatment and evacuation?
- Monitor and record what the medics need to know? (MIST - see below)
- Use the '9 - Liner'?
- Best deploy my medics and give them the best environment we can in order they can do their work for us?

And, if not, who can show me?"

### SAFE Approach (care under fire)

**Do not become a casualty yourself**

- S - Shout, "Man Down" and Send for help
- A - Assess/Avoid threats
- F - Find casualty and Free from danger
- E - Evaluate <C>ABCD and Evaluate

### MIST casualty handover

- M - Mechanism of injury
- I - Injuries you have found
- S - Signs (A? B? C? Conscious? etc.)
- T - Treatments given

\* Battlefield Casualty Drills Aide Memoire (MATT3)

## Generic - Health Planning

### Think

"Is there anything that I am likely to do that may constitute a health risk; am I ready?"

### Personal Preparation

"Do I/We have the relevant equipment and Aide Memoires to deal with the situation? Am I confident using this equipment?"

"Do you know which water source is safe to drink from and that washing helps maintain Combat Effectiveness?"

"What protective measures are implemented to stop getting bitten by flying, jumping or crawling insects when I am asleep or whilst I am at work?"

### Equipment

"Is there sufficient Individual, Team Medic and Section-Level medical equipment to mitigate these risks?"

### Training

"Do I/We know how to:

- Build a safe toilet / latrine?
- Wash my hands before eating?
- Eat or drink only authorised produce?
- Help a heat casualty?
- Monitor for hypothermia?
- Keep my feet healthy?
- Deal with a bite or sting?
- Help colleagues feeling stress?
- Report sick and know where to go?
- Keep my contact lenses clean?
- Monitor and record what the medics need to know?
- Evacuate the wounded?
- Best deploy my medics and give them the best environment we can in order they can do their work?

And, if not, who can show me?"

### Remember

**You are your most effective weapon.**  
Look after yourself.

**Ignorance is an enemy - fight it.**

## Useful Terms and Phrases

### Commands, Warnings and Instructions

English	Pasthun
Stop!	wadarega!
Stop or I will shoot!	wadarega yaa dee wulim
Follow our orders.	zaman da amrunopaerawi wukra
Don't shoot	ma wala
Put your weapon down	wasla dee parmzaka kegda
Move.	tersha
Come here.	delta raasha
Follow me	pa maa pase raaza
Stay here	delta wadarega
Wait here	delta wosa
Do not move	harakat makawa
Stay where you are	pa Khpal zaydee wadarega
Stay where you are Come with me	la maa sara raaza
Take me to ____	maa ____ ta boza
Be quiet.	chup sha
Slow down.	wro sha
Move slowly.	karaar karaar za
Hands up.	laasuna porta kra
Lower your hands.	laasuna kata kra
Lie down.	parmzaka prioza
Lie on your stomach.	parmaKh prioza
Get up.	wadarega
Surrender	taslim sha
You are a prisoner	ta yaw bandee yee
We must search you	munbayed tasee talashee kuro
Turn around	maKh dee rawarawa
Walk forward	maKh ta wolar sha
Form a line	pa qataar ke wadaregay
One at a time	yaw yaw

You are next	worpasey te yee
No talking	Khabaree makawey
Do not resist	muqawamat makawey
Calm down	aaraam sha
Give me	maata raaka
Do not touch	laas ma worwrey
Do not remove	mo bezaya kawey
Keep away	leree wadaregay
Let us pass	mon pregday chee teer sho
Don't be frightened	mawerega
You can leave	ta tlaay shey
Go	zah
Go home	korta zah
Open	Khlaas kra
Close	watara
Beware	Khabar wosa
Bring me	maata rawra
Distribute	Wowisha
Fill	dak kra
Do not remove	mo bezaya kawey
Keep away	leree wadaregay
You can leave	ta tlaay shey
Lift	porta kra
Pour into	pakee toyee kra
Put	kegda
Take	waaKhla
Load	baar kra
Unload	Khalee kra
Help me	zamaa sara marasta wukra
Show me	maatay rah kara kra
Tell me	raata wowaya

**Helpful Words, Phrases  
and Questions**

English	Pashtun
Please	mehrabaanee
Thank you	deyra manana
Can someone assist us?	tsok zamun sara marasta kawaley shee
OK	sama da
Excuse me / I'm sorry	baKhana ghwaarom
Yes	ho
No	Na
Maybe	shaayed
Right	sahee
Wrong	ghalat
Here	delta
There	halta
I want	za ghwaarom
Danger	Khatar
We are here to help you	moong delta raghlee yu che staase sara maresta wukru
Help is on the way	komak raara segee
You will not be harmed	pe taa so tsok gharaz palaree
You are safe	taaso ta kom Khatar neshta
OK, no problem	sama da, farq na kree
Who?	tsok?
What?	tso shey?
When?	kala?
Where?	cheeree?
Why?	walee?
How?	tsanga?
What happened?	tsa peah Khada?
Do you have ___?	tasey ___ laray?
Do you need help?	kamak ta zaroorat laray?

I am	za yem
You are	tasee yaast
He is / She is	hagha de / hagha da
We are	moong yu
They are	doy dee

#### Greetings and Introductions

English	Pasthun
Welcome.	Kha raaghlaast
Hello	as-salaamu 'alaykum
Good morning	as-salaamu 'alaykum
Good night.	shpa dee pa Khayr
Good bye.	da Khoday pa amaan
How are you?	tsenga yee?
I'm fine, thanks, and you?	za Kha yam, manana, tatsenga yee?
I'm pleased to meet you	za Khoshala yem chela tasee sara gorum
Thank you for your help.	staa la maraste tsaKha manana
My name is ____ .	zama num ____ deh

#### Interrogation

English	Pasthun
Do you speak English?	ta pe inglisee Khabaree kawaley shee?
I do not speak Pashto	za pa paKhtu Khabaree nasham kawaley
What is your name?	staa num tsa deh?
When is your birthday?	da zegedo neta deh tsada?
Where were you born?	ta cheree payda shavey wee?

What is your rank / title?	staa rutba tse shee da?
What is your nationality?	ta da kom hey wadiye?
Do you have any identification papers?	ta tazkera larey?
Do you have a passport?	ta passport larey?
What is your job?	ta si tso wazifa larey?
Who is in charge?	tsok salaahiyat larey?
Where do you serve?	cheree karkavey?
Which group are you in?	pa kom group ke ye?
Answer the questions.	dee poKhtuno ta tzawab Warka
Which group are you in?	pa kom group ke ye?
Where are you from?	ta da kom zae ye?
Do you understand?	ta poheegee?
I don't understand.	za na poheegum
How much?	tsum-ra?
How many?	tso?
Repeat it	tekraar ye kra?
Where is ___?	___ cheree deh?
What direction?	komee Khwaata?
Is it far?	aaya hagma larey deh
Are there armed men near here?	aaya delta nigdee wasla wal Khalak eshta?
Where did they go?	doy cheree wularl?
What weapons?	tso dawa waslee?
Speak slowly.	karaar karaar Khabaree kawa
Where is your unit?	staa qitaa cheree da?
Where are you from?	ta da kom zae ye
Where did you see them?	ta doy cheree wulidel?
Where is your family?	staa koraney cheree da?



## Numbers

English	Pasthun
0 Zero	sefer
1 One	yawo
2 Two	dwa
3 Three	dre
4 Four	tsaloor
5 Five	peenza
6 Six	shpag
7 Seven	woh
8 Eight	ateh
9 Nine	nah
10 Ten	las
11 Eleven	yohl-las
12 Twelve	dohl-las
13 Thirteen	dyarlas
14 Fourteen	tswaarlas
15 Fifteen	peenzal-las
16 Sixteen	shparlas
17 Seventeen	wol-las
18 Eighteen	atel-las
19 Nineteen	non-nas
20 Twenty	shal
30 Thirty	dersh
40 Forty	tsalveKht
50 Fifty	panzohs
60 Sixty	shpeeta
70 Seventy	aweyah
80 Eighty	ateyah
90 Ninety	navee
100 Hundred	sel

1,000 Thousand	zer
10,000 Ten Thousand	las zera
100,000 Hundred Thousand	sel zera
1,000,000 Million	milyon
Plus	jama
Minus	manfee
More (than)	la dey na ziat
Less (than)	la dey na leg
Approximately	taKhmeenan
First	lomray
Second	dohom
Third	dreyam

#### Days of the Week/Time

English	Pasthun
Sunday	yakshamba
Monday	do shamba
Tuesday	se shamba
Wednesday	chaar shamba
Thursday	jumaa
Friday	shamba
Saturday	parun
Yesterday	non
Today	sabaa
Tomorrow	woraz
Day	shpah
Night	hafta
Week	miyaasht
Month	kaal
Year	saneeya

Second	daqeeqa
Minute	daqeeqa
Hour	sa'at
Morning	sahaar
Evening	mahaam
Noon	gharma
Midnight	nima shpa
Now	wos
Later	wrusta

#### Directions

English	Pasthun
Above / Over	par sar
After / Past	wrusta / teyra
Back / Behind	behrta / tarsha
Before / In front of /Forward	maKhke / tar maKha / ronday
Between	po manz ke
Coordinates	kwardenator
Degrees	daraja
Down	Kh-kata
East	sharq
Far	lerey
Longitude	arzul balad
Left	chop
Latitude	tulool balad
My position is ____	zamaa mawze ____ da
Near	nigde
North	shamaal
Northeast	shamaal sharq
Northwest	shamaal gharb

Right	Khe
South	junoob
Southeast	junoob sharq
Southwest	junoob gharb
Straight	maKhamaKh
Under	laande
Up	luwar
West	gharb

### Locations

English	Pasthun
Beach	da bahr ghara
Border	sarhad
Bridge	pull
Camp	kamp
Dirt road	Khama sarak
Forest	zangal
Harbour	ban-dar
Hill	ghunday
House	kohr
Lake	daand
Meadow	chaman
Mountain	ghar
Ocean	samandar
Path	laar
Paved road	road poKh sarak
Place	zaay
Position	mawze
River	sindh
Road	sarak
Sea	baheera

Square	maydaan
Tree	wona
Valley	darah
Village	kele
Where?	cheeree?

#### Descriptions - Colours

English	Pasthun
Black	tohr
Blue	aabee
Brown	naswaaree
Gray	Kher
Green	sheen
Orange	naarenjee
Purple	baanjaanee
Red	sur
White	spin
Yellow	Zeyr

#### Descriptions - Sizes

English	Pasthun
Big	ghat
Deep	zhawor
Long	ugdh
Narrow	tang
Short (in height)	tit
Short (in length)	land
Small, little	worukee, leg
Tall	jug
Thick	paandh
Thin	nazuk
Wide	baraKh

### Descriptions - Shapes

English	Pasthun
Round	gird
Straight	mostaqeem
Square	murab-ba
Triangular	musal-las

### Descriptions - Tastes

English	Pasthun
Bitter	treeKh
Fresh	taazah
Salty	maalgin
Sour	treeyoo
Spicy	tund
Sweet	Khog

### Descriptions - Qualities

English	Pasthun
Bad	badh
Clean	paak
Dark	tiyaareh
Difficult	mushkil
Dirty	chatal
Dry	wech
Easy	aasaan
Empty	Khaalee
Expensive	graan
Fast	chatak
Foreign	Khaareejee
Full	dak
Good	Kha
Hard (firm)	saKht



Heavy	droond
Inexpensive	arzaan
Light (illumination)	roKhnayee
Light (weight)	spuk
Local	zayee
New	nawe
Noisy	shor mashor
Old (about things)	zor
Old (about people)	zor
Powerful	qawee
Quiet	araam
Right, Correct	drust
Slow	karaar
Soft	naram
Very	deyrh
Weak	kamzore
Wet	lund
Wrong, Incorrect	ghalat
Young	dzwan

**Descriptions - Quantities**

English	Pasthun
Few / Little	tsodaneh / leg
Many / Much	zee-yaat
Part	barKha
Some / A few	yaw sa / yao so
Whole	tol

### Emergency Terms

English	Pasthun
Emergency!	iztiraree halaat!
We need a doctor!	moong yaw daakter ta zaroorat laru!
Distress signal	da Khatar ishara
Help!	marasta!
Evacuate the area!	da dzaaye Khaalee krey

### Food and Sanitation

English	Pasthun
Food	dwodey
Can	qotay
Cup	piyaala
Fork	panja
Knife	chaara
Plate	bushqaab
Spoon	qashuga / kachuga
Beans	lubyaa
Beer	beer
Bread	wucha dwodey
Butter	koch
Cheese	paneer
Coffee	qahwa
Fish	maahee
Flour	woruh
Fruit	meywa
Meat	ghowa-ha
Milk	shedey
Oil	ghwaree

Potatoes	kachalu
Rice	wureje
Salt	maalga
Soup	hor-wa
Sugar	bura
Tea	chaay
Vegetables	sabzijaat
Water	ooba
Wine	sharaab
Drink	uKhra / Khwaral
Eat	wutsKha / tsKhel
Don't push!	teyla ma kawa! moong deyr ghezaee mawad laru
Give me your bowl.	kaasa de raaka
Is the water safe to drink?	dad de tsKholo obo dee?
Boil the water.	oba josh krey
Wash your hands.	laasuna mo preemundzey
Wash yourself here	delta zan wumeenza
We need 10 litres of potable water.	moong da laso litero pa andaza da tsKholo obo ta artia laru
Where is the latrine?	da awdas matee zay cheeree deh?
The latrine is to the ____ .	. makan ____
to the left	chape Khwata deh
to the right	heye Khwata deh
straight ahead	maKhamaKh deh
Is the food fresh	aayaa daa ghezaa taaza da?
Is the food spoiled?	aayaa da ghezaa Khraba shwee da?
Burn this.	da wuswa zawa

### Fuel and Maintenance

English	Pasthun
Gasoline	petrol
Oil	moblaayl
Diesel	deezel
Gas / propane	gaaz / propeyn
litres	litera
Do you have ____ ?	aayaa tasee ____ larey?
Hydraulic fluid	haydroleekkee maye
Hydraulic system	haydroleekkee system
We need maintenance support	moong de hifz aw muraqeebat pa hakla komak ghwaro
We need ____ .	moong ____ ta zaroorat laru
400-cycle	tsalor sawa saikela dawre
3-phase	dre feeuza
Alternating current	mutanaweb barq
115-volt	yaw sel aw peenzelles volta

### Medical Terms / General

English	Pasthun
Antibiotics	anteebiotik
Bandage	plaster
Blood	weena
Burn	swazee dal
Clean	paak
Dead	mer
Doctor	daakter
Fever	taba
Hospital	roghtun
Infection	gazak ya mikrob aKhestana

Injured	zaKhmee
Malnutrition	sue taghazee
Medic	aaskaree daakter
Medicine	daroo
Nurse	parastaar
Poison	zaher
Sick	naarogh
Vitamins	vitaameen
Wound	zaKham
I am a doctor.	za daakter yem
I am not a doctor.	za daakter na yem
I am going to help	za ghwarum komakwukrem
Can you walk?	ta qadam wohali shee?
Can you sit?	kena-stela shee?
Can you stand?	drey daley shee?
Are you in pain?	kum zaye dey dard kawee?
You will get a shot.	ta pejkaree kawu
I will take you to the hospital	za ba dee rughtun ta bozum
What is wrong?	tse takleef larey?
Are you injured?	ta zaKhme yeh?
Can you feed yourself?	ta paKhpala dwoday Khwaralay shey?
Open your mouth.	Khula dey Khlasa kra
Are you pregnant?	ta hamela yeh?

**Medical Terms / Parts of the Body**

English	Pasthun
Abdomen	Kheyta
Ankle	hangere
Arm	mut
Bone	hadukey
Brain	maghz
Chest	seenah
Ear	ghwag
Elbow	tsangal
Eyes	stargey
Face	maKh
Finger	gwota
Foot	p-ha
Hair	wih-taan
Hand	laas
Head	sar
Heart	zra
Kidney	pah-ta wargey
Knee	zangun
Leg	lengey
Lips	shundee
Liver	yana / dzigar
Lungs	segee
Mouth	Khulah
Neck	ghaara
Nose	paza
Pelvis / Groin	konghub / gholang
Ribs	pohtay
Shoulder	wuga
Skull	kakaray



Spine	da mla tir
Stomach (area)	nas
Stomach (organ)	meda
Teeth	ghaahuna
Toe	da p-hre gota
Tongue	zhaba
Wrist	da laas band

#### Military Ranks

English	Pasthun
General	genraal
Admiral	bahree genraal
Colonel	dagarwaal
Lieutenant Colonel	dagarman
Commander	qumandaan
Major	jagran
Captain	turan
Lieutenant	bridman
Senior Sergeant	brid ghe
Soldier	askar
Airman	hawaayee askar
Seaman	bahree askar
Marine	bahree askar

### Occupations

English	Pasthun
Air Force	hawaayee quwa
Army	ordu
Marines	bahree askar
Navy	bahree quwa
Air Defence	daafe hawaa
Commander	qumandaan
Dentist	da ghaaho daakter
Doctor	daakter
Driver	moterwaan
Farmer	bazger
Fisherman	maahee geer
Government employee	da dawlet maamoor
Guard	mahaafez
Housewife	da kor hadza
Labourer	mazdurkaar
Mechanic	meKhaaneek
Messenger	posta rasaan
Pilot	peelot
Policeman	polees
Sailor	kishtee waan
Businessman	tajer
Shopkeeper	dukaandaar
Soldier	askar
Student	shagird
Teacher	huwonke

**Relatives**

English	Pasthun
Aunt	amma
Aunt (paternal /maternal)	amma / Khaala
Brother	wrohr
Child	maashom
Children	maashomaan
Cousin Paternal	da tra zowey
Cousin maternal	da tra lur
Daughter	lur
Family	koranay
Father	plaar
Grandfather	neekah
Grandmother	aanaa
Husband	mera
Man	sarey
Men	saree
Mother	mohr
Relatives	Kh-pelwaan
Sister	Khohr
Son	zoy
Uncle (paternal /maternal)	aka / maama
Wife	merman
Woman	hazaa
Women	hazey

**Weather**

English	Pasthun
Cold	sareh
Dry	wech
Earthquake	zalzalah
Fog	lahar
High winds	tund baad
Hot	tohd
Humidity	rutu-bat
Ice	yaKh
Lightning	brehnaa
Rain	baaraan
Sandstorm	da reg tufaan
Severe	saKht
Snow	waawra
Storm	tufaan
Temperature	da haraarat daraja
Thunder	taalanda
Tornado	tufaanee berbookay
Typhoon	tufaan
Weather	hawaa
Wet	lund

**General Military Terms**

English	Pasthun
Airfield	hawaayee dagar
Ammunition	muhimmaat
Armed men	wasla wal Khalak
Artillery	tupjee quwa
Barracks	qaghoshuna
Base	qaraargah
Camp	kaamp
Cannon	tohp

Car	moter
Commander	qomandaan
Enemy	duhman
Explosive	chawdunkee mawaad
Friendly	dostaana
Grenade	lasee bam
Gun	topak
Jeep	jeeb
Kilometre	kilometer
Knife	chaqu
Leader	rah-bar
Machine gun	maashindaar
Mine	maayn
Minesfield	da maayn saha
Missile	raket
Mortar	haawaan
Officer	saaheb mansab
Plane	topancha
Protection	alwataka
Refugee	saatana
Rifle	topak
Rocket	raket
Rocket Launcher	raket lanchar
Shelter	panaagah
Ship	kishtey
Sniper	maher naha wishtunke
Soldier	askar
Stronghold	Sangar
Tank	taank
Tent	Khayma
Trailer	wagoon
Truck	laarey
Unit	qitaa
Weapons	wasley

### Mine Warfare Terms

English	Pasthun
Angle	zaaweeya
Cleared Lane	paka shiwee lara
Compass	qutb numaa
Danger Area	Khatar naaka seema
Demolition	wranawal
Grappling Hook	changak larunkey rasey
In Place	pa sama toga day yaw shee zay pa zay kawel
MetAllic	ospaniz
Mine	maayn
Minefield	da maayn seema
Non-metallic	gheree ospaniz
Pace	Qadam
Stake	Stake da mogeyo pa zaria pa naha kawel
Tape	teyp
Tree	wona

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