

4 NATO IN AFGHANISTAN



■ KEY INFORMATION

NATO is strongly committed to help establish the conditions in which Afghanistan enjoys a representative government and self-sustaining peace and security through its leadership of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). It has committed itself to remain in Afghanistan for as long as it takes to achieve these objectives, on the basis of existing UN Security Council Resolutions, with the aim of helping to lead Afghanistan out of nearly four decades of authoritarian rule, foreign occupation and civil war.

INITIAL ISAF TASKS

ISAF's tasks are laid out in a Military Technical Agreement established at the Bonn Conference. Its tasks include assisting the Afghan Transitional Authority in the maintenance of security in Kabul and its surrounding areas so that the Transitional Authority and UN personnel can operate in a secure environment.

In more concrete terms, ISAF has been assisting, through its presence, in creating a secure environment, developing Afghan security structures, identifying reconstruction needs, as well as training and building up future Afghan security forces. This has involved helping to train the first units of the new Afghan National Army and national police, rehabilitating schools and medical facilities, restoring water supplies, providing agricultural technical assistance and many other civil-military projects.

ISAF also operates parts of the Kabul International Airport (the Kabul International Airport task force) and maintains an Air Liaison Officers Cell. It has played a role in supporting the removal of heavy weapons in Afghanistan to three cantonment sites near Kabul and has supported the security arrangements for the voter registration and national elections.

Earlier in the year, ISAF assisted in providing security for a major political event, the convening of a constitutional *Loya Jirga*¹, a grand council specific to Afghanistan, which adopted a new constitution. ISAF will also assist the Afghan authorities, within its means and capabilities, with the holding of national elections whether presidential or parliamentary, or a combination thereof. To this end, ISAF has been working with the Afghan Transitional Authority and its chair, President Karzai, as well as with the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), other international organisations and non-governmental organisations operating in the country.

ORIGIN AND STRUCTURE OF ISAF

ISAF was created in accordance with the Bonn Conference, December 2001, after the ouster of the repressive Taliban regime. Afghan opposition leaders attending the conference began the process of reconstructing their country, by setting up a new government structure, namely the Afghan Transitional Authority. The concept of a UN-mandated international force to assist the newly established Afghan Transitional Authority was also launched to create a secure environment in and around Kabul and support the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

¹ *Loya* is the Pashtun term for "grand" and *Jirga* is a Persian/Mogholi word meaning "group".

These agreements paved the way for the creation of a three-way partnership between the Afghan Transitional Authority, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and ISAF.

ISAF is not a UN force, but is a coalition of the willing deployed under the authority of the UN Security Council (four UNSC Resolutions - 1386, 1413, 1444 and 1510 - relate to ISAF). Since 11 August 2003, it is supported and led by NATO, and financed by the troop-contributing countries.

ISAF is structured into four main components:

- ISAF Headquarters: commands the Kabul Multinational Brigade and conducts operational tasks in its area of responsibility. It liaises with and assists in the work of UNAMA, the Afghan Transitional Authority, and governmental and non-governmental organisations;
- the Kabul Multinational Brigade: ISAF's tactical headquarters, responsible for the planning and conduct of patrolling and civil-military cooperation operations on a day-to-day basis;
- the Kabul International Airport: ISAF assists the Afghan Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in the overall operation of the airport;
- the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kunduz.

PRTs AND THE EXTENSION OF ISAF

The UN has extended ISAF's mandate to cover the whole of Afghanistan (UNSCR 1510). NATO is now operating beyond Kabul in Kunduz, where it took over the Provincial

Reconstruction Team (PRT) led by Germany. It is currently considering the take-over of more PRTs across the country which will operate separately but complement other PRTs under Operation *Enduring Freedom*, the US-led counter-terrorist operation in Afghanistan.

PRTs are small teams of civilian and military personnel working in Afghanistan's provinces to provide security for aid workers and help reconstruction work. They are key in supporting the three pillars of the Bonn Agreement: security, reconstruction and political stability.

In the longer term, consideration may be given to enhancing unity of command between ISAF and Operation *Enduring Freedom*.



■ CHRONOLOGY

- 2004** **September:** National elections expected to take place.
- 31 March-1 April:** NATO Secretary General participates in a donor's conference on Afghanistan in Berlin.
- February:** ISAF IV succeeded by ISAF V under the command of Lt. Gal. Hillier.
- 4 January:** Adoption of a new constitution by the *Loya Jirga*.
- 2003** **31 December:** NATO assumes command of the Kunduz Provincial Reconstruction Team, previously led by Germany.
- 19 December:** NATO decides to expand the role of ISAF IV.
- 19 November:** Appointment of Mr Hikmet Cetin (Turkey) to the position of NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan.
- 13 October:** the UN Security Council adopts resolution 1510 authorising the expansion of ISAF's operations to include operations anywhere in Afghanistan.
- 28 September:** Meeting between NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson and the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai.
- 11 August:** NATO takes over the command and coordination of ISAF. Lt. Gal. Gliemeroth commands ISAF IV.
- 5 July:** First NATO troops set off for Kabul.
- 16 April:** The North Atlantic Council agrees to expand NATO's support to the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan.
- February:** ISAF III under the command of Germany and the Netherlands, on the basis of UNSCR 1444.

2002 27 November: The Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) hosts a Force Generation conference for ISAF.

17 October: NATO approves a request from Germany and the Netherlands for NATO support in helping them to prepare to take over command of ISAF early 2003.

20 June: ISAF II under the command of Turkey, on the basis of UNSCR 1413.

10-20 June: A national *Loya Jirga* takes place and gives the Transitional Authority 18 months in which to hold a second national *Loya Jirga* to adopt a constitution and 24 months in which to hold national elections.

13 June: Harmid Karzai is elected as Head of the Afghan Transitional Authority; the UN issues a mandate for a multinational force deployed in and around Kabul to help stabilise the country and create the conditions for self-sustaining peace.

4 January: ISAF tasks laid out in a Military Technical Agreement.

2001 20 December: ISAF I established by UNSCR 1386 under the command of the United Kingdom, with forces and assets from 18 other countries.

5 December: Bonn Conference.

7 October: Launch of US Operation *Enduring Freedom*.

September-October: Ouster of the repressive Taliban regime by the US.

■ OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND READING

Go to the electronic version of the press kit for clickable links
[\(www.nato.int/istanbul2004/presskit.htm\)](http://www.nato.int/istanbul2004/presskit.htm)

Final Communiqué of NATO defence ministers, announcing the decision to expand ISAF beyond Kabul (paragraph 5), Brussels, 1 December 2003
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-148e.htm>

Announcement in the final communiqué of NATO foreign ministers in Madrid, 3 June 2003, of NATO take-over of ISAF (paragraph 3)
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-059e.htm>

About NATO in Afghanistan
<http://www.nato.int/issues/afghanistan/index.htm>

Fact sheet on ISAF
<http://www.nato.int/issues/afghanistan/factsheet.htm>

NATO's ISAF mission online
<http://www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF>

Frequently Asked Questions on ISAF
http://www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF/Update/media_faq.htm

"The Road to Kabul". *NATO Review* article (Summer 2003) by Diego Ruiz Palmer giving a detailed account on the role, functioning and evolution of ISAF up to the NATO take-over
http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2003/issue2/english/art3_pr.html

"Preparing for the Constitutional Loya Jirga". ISAF news piece
by Major Guy Turpin explaining the origins, functioning and role
of this council, 5 December 2003

<http://www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF/Update/getready.htm>

Operation *Enduring Freedom*

<http://www.army.mil/operations/oef/>





■ A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

COMMANDERS

The overall command of ISAF comes under the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, **General James Jones**, who appoints the commander of the ISAF Headquarters. The Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) is subordinated to the ISAF Headquarters and is commanded by a separate commander.

ISAF HEADQUARTERS

- Operational command for ISAF IV since 15 January 2004: General Gerhard W. Back (German Air Force), Regional Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces North Europe, Brunssum, the Netherlands
From 17 July 2003 to January 2004: General Sir Jack Deverell (British Army), Regional Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces North Europe, Brunssum, the Netherlands
- Commander of ISAF IV since 9 February 2004: Lt. General Rick Hillier (Canadian Army)
Commander of ISAF IV from 25 June 2003 to February 2004: Lieutenant-General Götz Gliemeroth (German Army), Commander JCC (NATO's Joint Command Centre headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany)
- Deputy Commander of ISAF since 6 February 2004: Major-General Wolfgang Korte (German Army)
Deputy Commander of ISAF IV from 25 June 2003 to February 2004: Major-General Andrew Leslie (Canadian Army) and Commander of Regular and Reserve Force army brigade groups in Canada's Land Forces Central Area, based in Toronto.

THE KABUL MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE (KMNB)

- Commander KMNB since February 2004: Brigadier-General Jocelyn Lacroix (Canada)
COMKMNB from August 2003 to February 2004:
Brigadier-General Peter Devlin (Canada)

ISAF I: Led by the United Kingdom. Forces and assets from 18 other countries, including from 12 NATO member countries: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Turkey. Five from NATO Partner countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Romania and Sweden; and one non-European country: New Zealand.

ISAF II: Led by Turkey. Participation from nine other NATO member countries: the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain; ten NATO Partner countries: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Romania, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; and one non-European country: New Zealand.





ISAF III: Led by Germany, the Netherlands and Canada. Participation from 11 other NATO member countries: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Turkey; 14 NATO Partner countries: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; and one non-European country: New Zealand.

ISAF IV: Led by NATO. Participation from 23 NATO member countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States; eight NATO Partner countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; and one non-European country: New Zealand.

ISAF V figures, as at 23 June 2004



ISAF WITH AN OVERALL STRENGTH OF 6300 PERSONNEL

A. Contributing NATO countries (26)

Belgium	Lithuania
Bulgaria	Luxembourg
Canada	The Netherlands
Czech Republic	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
France	Romania
Germany	Slovakia
Greece	Slovenia
Hungary	Spain
Iceland	Turkey
Italy	United Kingdom
Latvia	United States

B. Contributing non-NATO countries (10)

Albania	Ireland
Austria	New Zealand
Azerbaijan	Sweden
Croatia	Switzerland
Finland	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*