



Progress in Afghanistan

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Contents page

1. Foreword by Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, Jean-François Bureau, and NATO Spokesman, James Appathurai	1
2. Executive summary	2
3. Security	4
• IED attacks and Counter-IED efforts	4
• Musa Qala	5
• Operations Medusa successes - Highlights Panjwayi and Zhari	6
• Afghan National Army	8
• Afghan National Police	10
• ISAF growth	10
4. Reconstruction and Development	12
• Snapshots of PRT activities	14
• Afghanistan's aviation sector: taking off	16
• NATO-Japan Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects	17
• ISAF Post-Operations Humanitarian Relief Fund	18
• Humanitarian Assistance - Winterisation	18
5. Governance	19
• Counter-Narcotics	20





Foreword

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission is approaching five years of operations in Afghanistan. This report is a snapshot - rather than an exhaustive list of efforts by all contributing nations - of where progress is being made, in the main areas in which the international community is providing support to the Afghan Government. It makes no claim to show all sides of every issue relating to Afghanistan's development. NATO is not impartial in Afghanistan – we have chosen the side of the UN, the Afghan Government and the Afghan people. But it is accurate; the information herein is drawn from authoritative sources, including within NATO. Where possible, we have identified those sources, and given examples to substantiate our assertions.

The conclusion we draw from this report is simple: this broad international effort to help Afghanistan build a more stable and secure future is achievable, and it is being achieved. Of course, real challenges remain, and this will be a long-term effort; but the information contained in this report gives reason for optimism.

James Appathurai
NATO Spokesman

Jean-François Bureau
Assistant Secretary General
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Executive Summary

August 2008 marks the fifth anniversary of NATO's presence in Afghanistan. Set against the devastating effect of decades of conflict, these five years have witnessed substantial progress in all spheres of Afghan life – from a reasonably stable security situation in most of the country to a massive increase in the number of health clinics and children in schools.

Since 2003, NATO-ISAF has gradually extended its reach and is now responsible for security across the whole country. The number of our troops has grown steadily from the initial 5,000 in Kabul to the current 47,000 ISAF personnel in theatre. Today, large parts of the country are relatively stable with no or very few security incidents per month even if the security situation in southern Afghanistan and parts of the East remains challenging for international and Afghan security forces.

There is room for cautious optimism. In 2007, the direct engagement of Afghan National Army (ANA) and ISAF routinely defeated militants. Although the overall number of security incidents across Afghanistan has increased, this corresponds to the expansion of Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and NATO-ISAF operations to areas formerly considered to be extremist strongholds. In 2007, 70% of security incidents were confined to 10% of Afghanistan's 398 Districts. These districts contain less than 6% of the Afghan population.

This progress would not be possible without the increasing effectiveness of our Afghan partners. The ANA is becoming a professional, well-trained and equipped force that will be able to fully provide for its country's security. In 2002, there was no ANA to speak of. Today, the ANA stands at around 50,000; every two weeks, the Kabul Military Training Centre graduates 1,100 more soldiers. The ANA is increasingly taking the lead in security operations and played a key role in liberating Musa Qala from Taleban extremists in December 2007. Ninety per cent of the Afghan public sees the ANA as an honest and fair institution.¹ The evolution of the ANA and particularly the ANP are essential pillars in building an Afghanistan that is at peace with itself and its neighbours.



NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer is welcomed by Mullah Salaam, governor of Musa Qala.

Although the security situation remains challenging, military success has allowed for significant strides in reconstruction and development in many areas as well as helping support improvements in governance at both national and local levels. ISAF's operations are providing the space and opportunities for economic and political progress. In some parts of the country ISAF's routine presence is sufficient to allow construction and development to blossom. Elsewhere, ISAF is fighting for the space to allow reconstruction and development to begin. Musa Qala was an important example.

More than 4,000 km of roads have been built where only 50 km existed in 2001, the rehabilitation of the North-East power system has advanced and access of the rural households to electricity has been significantly increased. In 2007 alone, ISAF nations completed 1,080 civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) projects.

Afghan-led programmes, such as the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), have been increasingly successful. Since its foundation, the NSP has allowed two thirds of Afghan communities (more than 20,000 villages) to finance rural development projects worth up to USD 60,000 each.²

¹ The Asia Foundation Survey 2007.

² Source: National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.



In a young nation where the median age is 17.5³, 2,000 schools were built or repaired in the last five years and around 6.4 million children (including 1.5 million girls) are now in schools.

Since 2001, both infant and under-five mortality has declined by 26% and 22% respectively.⁴

In 2001, 8% of Afghans had access to some form of healthcare. Now more than 80%⁵ of the population has access to medical care.

Despite all this progress, significant challenges remain. These continue to be addressed by NATO-ISAF in concert with our Afghan partners as well as the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other key international actors.

ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) have supported their local partners and representatives of the relevant ministries on governance issues, including the reform of the justice system, and routinely take part in local *shuras*. They have also been instrumental in developing, with their Afghan partners, all 34 Provincial Development Plans that will help implement the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the country's main national planning and budgeting exercise and principal poverty reduction strategy.⁶

One of Afghanistan's toughest challenges remains narcotics. Although 80% of Afghans feel that poppy cultivation is wrong, Afghanistan still produces 93%⁷ of the world's supply of opium. The influence of the narcotics trade continues to hamper progress in key areas: security, governance, economic development and, increasingly, health. That being said, some encouraging developments have been recorded in recent years due to Afghan-led and international community-supported efforts. These include that the non-opium economy has grown at an average of 12% over the past four years, the number of poppy-free provinces has grown from six in 2006 to 13 in 2007.⁸

Afghan public support for international involvement in Afghanistan remains high with around 70% of Afghans supporting the presence of international forces. The majority of Afghans believe their country is going in the right direction and 84% support their current government (as opposed to 4% who would support the Taliban). They also maintain a positive view of reconstruction efforts with 63% saying that reconstruction efforts in their area have been effective since 2002.⁹



NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) General John Craddock are briefed on the ISAF achievements in Musa Qala.

3 Source: CIA World Factbook.

4 Source: Afghanistan Themes (US).

5 Source: International Monetary Fund Country Report no. 08/73, 2008.

6 UN Secretary General's Report on Afghanistan, March 2008.

7 Source: UN International Narcotics Control Board Report, March 2008.

8 Source: UNAMA, 2008.

9 Source: BBC/ABC/ARD Poll, December 2007.

Security

The provision of security is the focus of the ISAF mission. Since NATO took command of ISAF in 2003, it has successfully expanded to cover the whole territory of Afghanistan, allowing the Afghan Government to gradually spread its influence into previously ungoverned areas. Today, 60% of the country is relatively stable with no or very few major security incidents. In those areas, the security environment has allowed greater progress in reconstruction and development, governance and counter-narcotics. That being said, the security situation in southern and parts of eastern Afghanistan remains challenging for ISAF and the Afghan authorities. Those opposed to the process of Afghan development, including Taleban extremists, local war/drugs lords, fighters from outside Afghanistan's borders and those with criminal interests, all share a desire to restrict the ability of the Afghan Government to provide for and govern its people.

In key areas of the South and parts of the East of the country, security incidents have risen in number over the past two years since ISAF took over responsibility there. Direct engagement of the ANA and ISAF troops in 2006 led the militants to adopt guerrilla and terrorist tactics, such as roadside bombings and attacks against civilian targets. Whilst aimed at affecting Afghan and international public opinion, these tactics do not allow militants' expansion on the ground, nor do they undermine ISAF's resolve and commitment to its mission.

ISAF is working hard to reduce the threat from IEDs through a mix of enhanced C-IED training for ISAF and ANSF personnel, increased outreach to the people of Afghanistan, and the development of new technical C-IED measures, including through partnerships with industry. New measures include more effective jamming electronics and better armour and physical protection systems for vehicles.

IED attacks and counter-IED efforts

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) represent a danger to the Afghan population, the ANSF and the multinational forces operating in Afghanistan. Counter-IED (C-IED) efforts therefore form an important part of NATO-ISAF efforts to improve security in the country.

C-IED training is part of the curriculum that the Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLTs) and Embedded

Training Teams (ETT) deliver when training members of the ANA.

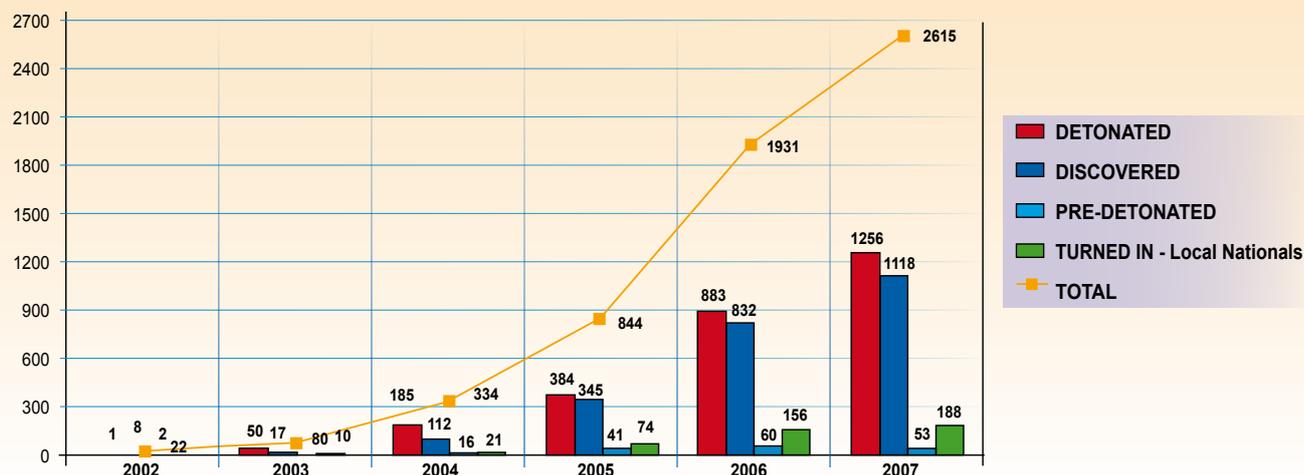
C-IED gear is included in the equipment list for Afghan infantry *kandaks* (battalions).

A number of engineers in the ANSF are qualified as C-IED operators.

A C-IED school exists in Mazar-e-Sharif.

While the number of IED attacks increased in 2007 over 2006, so did the number of IEDs that were discovered and pre-detonated, as well as those that were reported by local nationals.

IED Breakdown





As assessed by NATO military commanders, the increase of security incidents corresponds to the expansion of ANA and ISAF operations to areas formerly considered to be Taliban extremists' strongholds. In several contested districts, they have been forced to cede key territory. Musa Qala, Panjwayi and Zhari in the South, but also Golestan, Bala Baluk and Delaram in the West, and Qaysar in the North are among those militant strongholds that were retaken and secured thanks to the joint operations of ISAF and the ANA.



Afghanistan's national flag is raised at Musa Qala's highest peak in sign of victory.

Musa Qala



District Administrator Mullah Salaam distributes backpacks during the school opening ceremony in Musa Qala in February 2008.

On 11 December 2007, after several days of fighting, the ANA, supported by ISAF, successfully freed Musa Qala district centre from Taleban control and restored the authority of the Government of Afghanistan over the area.

Although the security situation in the region is still fragile, people from the Musa Qala district have been able to enjoy the beginning of a more secure and stable environment. Thanks to the proactive and constant pressure of the ANSF and ISAF, the Taleban extremists have been unable to initiate any offensive operation in the area. At present, about 1,000 ANA soldiers are assigned to the security of the Musa Qala district alone. They are supported by about 100 Afghan National Police (ANP) who concentrate on law enforcement. Elements from ISAF's Task Force Helmand, as well as OMLTs, are reinforcements for the Afghan security presence.

The re-establishment of security in the Musa Qala district has allowed reconstruction and development efforts to take place. Based on the priorities identified by the local Afghan leadership, a number of projects have been selected for immediate implementation. These include:

- construction of the Bazaar Road
- construction of the Central Mosque
- construction work at the Comprehensive Health Clinic
- provision of a 750 kW generator which will ensure a more regular and reliable power supply to the urban centre

The start of both the Bazaar Road and Comprehensive Health Clinic projects as well as the inauguration of the Central School in early March are illustrations of progress underway in Musa Qala. Construction of the Bazaar Road should be completed in the spring of 2008 and is part of what will become a wider road building programme designed by the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development to connect Musa Qala with Sangin and the village of Yateemchi. The inauguration of the Central School in early March also illustrates progress under way in Musa Qala. Thirty-one teachers will provide instruction to about 500 pupils.

Increased patrolling by the ANP in and around areas marked for development has encouraged greater engagement of contractors. It is already anticipated that the increased contractor activity in Musa Qala will generate substantial development within the town, stimulating the economy, generating employment and lowering contract prices through increased competition.

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development has opened an office with 10 personnel in the district. So far, 11 projects have been put out for bid, with seven in the design phase.

Operation Medusa successes – Highlights - Panjwayi and Zhari

Operation Medusa in the summer of 2006 was the largest battle in recent Afghan history. The strategic significance of this event is best understood by looking at the situation in the districts of Zhari and Panjwayi today.

Today, ANSF control much of the populated territory of these two key districts. In February 2008, ANSF took over responsibility for security in the Zhari district, with ISAF forces in support. It is foreseen that ANSF will take similar responsibility in Panjwayi.

As the Zhari-Panjwayi region is stabilised, reconstruction and development has begun, thereby improving the lives of the local population. The Afghan Government launched an ambitious series of local development projects through a programme called Community Development Councils (CDCs), funded in part by the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA). There are now 40 CDCs operating in Panjwayi. The aim of the programme is to shore up support for the local government by providing development under the Afghan flag.

Thanks to this programme, the communities have identified priority projects that typically involve the building of irrigation ditches through cash-for-work projects. Beyond the community level, large infrastructure works include the building of roads, employing several hundreds of workers, providing medium-term employment opportunities in a region where it is next to impossible to find a job. The bridge and road construction projects, aimed at ensuring the use of the Arghandab river between the Zhari and Panjwayi districts, are among the most important.

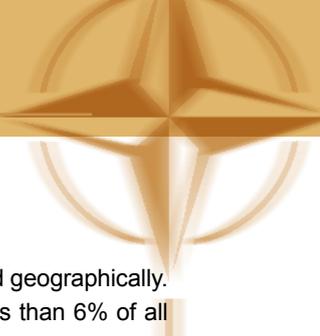
A series of checkpoints have also been established across Panjwayi and work has begun on the Joint District Co-ordination Centre that would oversee security efforts in the region, set the conditions for rapid reaction to incidents and establish an efficient Joint Quick Reaction Force, and promote and reinforce ANSF credibility.



Local workers undertake the construction of the 6.5 Km road to Panjwayi district centre.



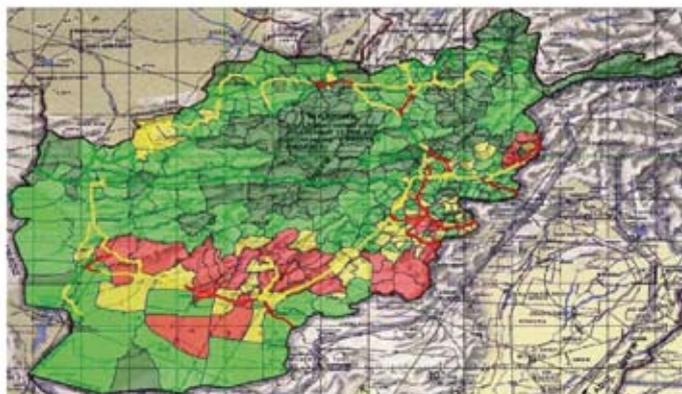
Construction of a causeway across the Arghandab River between the districts of Zhari and Panjwayi.



As the Taliban extremists suffered a series of tactical defeats, their ability to conduct sustained activity is limited geographically. In 2007, 70% of security incidents were confined to 10% of Afghanistan's districts. Those districts contain less than 6% of all Afghan population. Since 1 January 2008, 91% of insurgent activities have been reported in only 8% of the districts.

Security incidents across Afghanistan - 2007

Districts

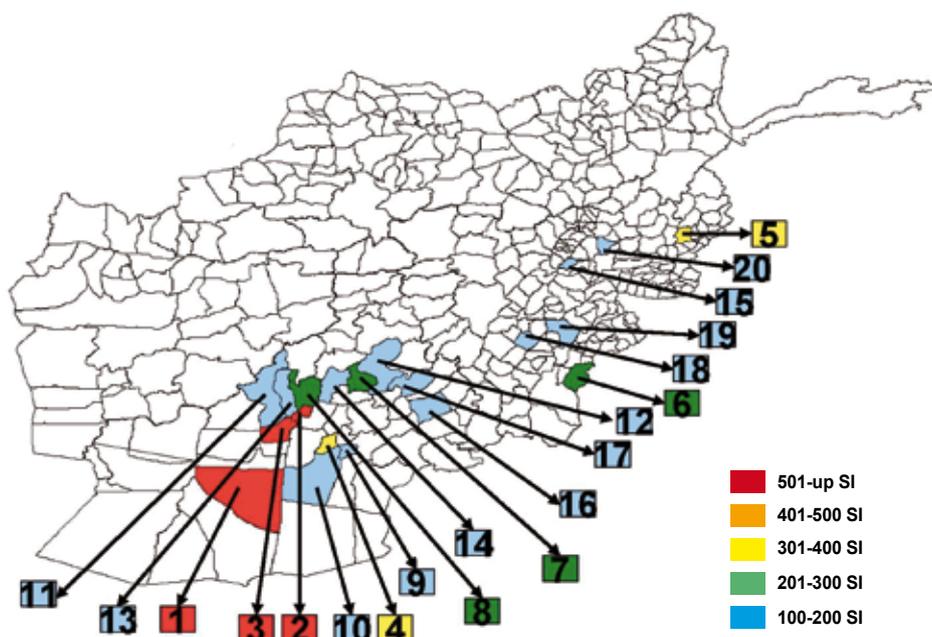


- More than 75% of AFG experienced less than 1 security incident per quarter per 10,000 people, supporting the assessment that the insurgency is not expanding across AFG.
- 70% of the events occurred in 10% of the districts.
- The population of these districts is less than 6% of the population of AFG.
- The increased number of security incidents in 2007 is attributed by ISAF Commanders to increased ISAF, ANSF & Coalition Forces presence & operational tempo.

N.B: A Security Incident is any event that can have either a negative or positive effect on the security of a region. Normally this divided into two broad categories of ISAF/ANSF initiated events and Opposing Militant Force initiated events. This includes the discovery, turn-in, and unexplained detonation of ordnance.

The 20 districts most affected by security incidents also correspond to well-known extremist areas where the militants are now continuously challenged by ISAF and the ANSF.

Security incidents (SI) - 20 Most affected districts 2007

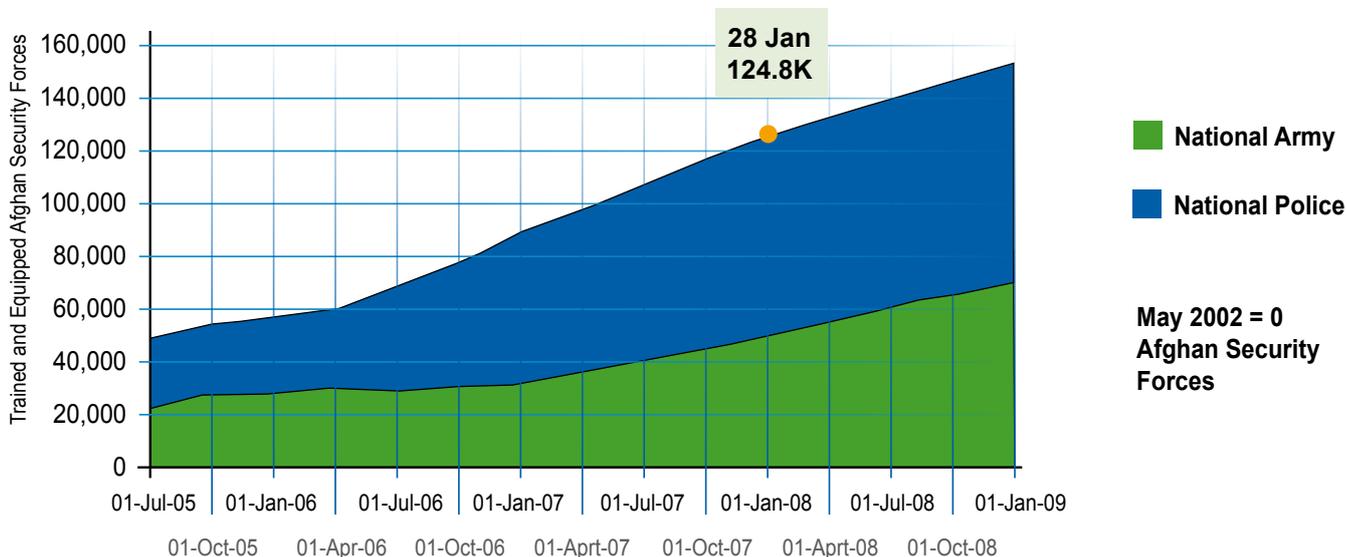


	Province	District	Nr
1	HELMAND	GARMSIR	842
2		SANGIN	565
3		NAHRI SARRAJ	563
8		KAJAKI	237
11		NAW ZAD	157
13		MUSA QALA	151
4	KANDAHAR	ZHARI	374
9		KANDAHAR	169
10		PANJWAYI	161
7	URUZGAN	TARIN KOT	239
12		CHOWREH	156
14		DIHRAWOD	149
16	ZABUL	QALAT	127
17		DAYCHOPAN	124
6	PAKTIKA	BERMAL	257
18	GHAZNI	ANDAR	101
19	PAKTYA	ZURMAT	100
15	KABUL	KABUL	141
20	KAPISA	TAGAB	100
5	KUNAR	DARREH-YE-PICH	357

With the 2006 eastward and southward expansion, ISAF has established bases in each of these districts with the aim of maintaining constant pressure on the militants, and leaving them limited time and space to prepare their own operations. The international forces have undermined the command and control capability of the militants.

The development and growth of the ANSF is also essential to achieving lasting security success in Afghanistan.

Afghan National Security Forces



Afghan National Army

“At the strategic level, our main effort is to achieve our goals in Afghanistan by ...helping the Afghan government to develop its security forces...to the extent that they can be effective without outside assistance.”

(NATO’s Operational Plan for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan)

Mentoring and supporting the ANA is one of ISAF’s key military tasks. ISAF assists the Afghan Government to bring the ANA up to operating capability primarily through the provision of OMLTs. These teams support ANA training and deploy on operations in an advisory role. OMLTs also play a particularly important coordinating role between ANA and ISAF operations. In addition, a number of nations provide training support on a bilateral basis.

NATO has now fielded well over 30 OMLTs, and the Alliance is working to increase this number.

Since its creation in May 2002, the ANA has grown in size and capability, confidence and credibility. Today, it stands at more than 50,000, many of whom are conducting operations side-by-side with ISAF forces. In many cases the ANA is now engaged in or leading major operations.

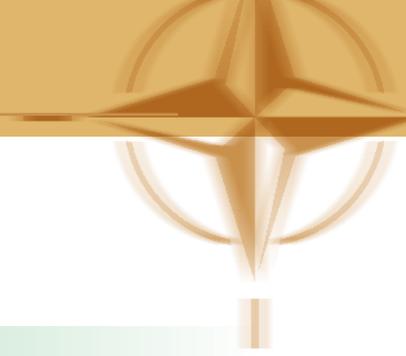
For example, in September 2005, all five Corps of the ANA worked in support of the elections held for the Afghan

National Assembly. In October 2005, the ANA provided airlift and medical support to the victims of the Pakistani earthquake, delivering 166,000 tons of relief supplies to Pakistan.¹ More recently, from November 2007 to January 2008, 203rd Corps of the ANA planned and led Operation KHYBER to secure the Khowst-Gardez pass.

The ANA currently has a leadership role in approximately 25% of military operations in Afghanistan. Participation is of course much higher, e.g. 100% of military operations in Regional Command East and 90% in Regional Command South.

In Tokyo, in February 2008, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) endorsed a target ceiling for the ANA of 80,000 troops by 2010.² Current plans call for 77 battalions organised into 13 light brigades, a mechanised brigade, a commando brigade, a headquarters and support brigade, enabling units and the initial operation of an air corps. Priority therefore remains to develop a credible ANA ground manoeuvre force. Until such time as the ANA becomes capable of conducting operations autonomously, ISAF and coalition forces remain committed to providing air support, medical evacuation and artillery when required.

In addition to training and mentoring the ANA, NATO-ISAF nations provide donations to help equip the Afghan army.



ANA equipment donations from ISAF nations include:

Bulgaria:	mortars, binoculars, ammunition
Canada:	small arms, ammunition and equipment
Czech Republic:	helicopters
Estonia:	small arms and ammunition
Finland:	field telephones and generators
Germany:	blankets, clothing and equipment
Greece:	tanks and ammunition
Hungary:	small arms and ammunition
Latvia:	small arms, mortars and ammunition
Lithuania:	ammunition
Montenegro:	small arms and ammunition
Poland:	uniform items, weapons systems spare kits and ammunition
Romania:	mobile kitchen trailers, associated equipment and uniforms
Slovenia:	small arms, mortars and ammunition
Switzerland:	three fire trucks, spare parts and training
Turkey:	howitzers and ammunition, military sewing factory equipment and military academy supplies

A Trust Fund has been established to cover the transportation and installation costs of the equipment donations, the purchase of equipment, the purchase of services for engineering and construction projects, and in/out-of-country training. The following countries have contributed to the ANA Trust Fund: Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom.

The Asia Foundation survey of 2007 reported that 90% of those Afghans interviewed found the ANA honest and fair, and 89% believed the ANA helped to improve security.



Italian soldiers of the 22nd Alpini Company and the Afghanistan National Army conduct a joint patrol just outside Kabul.

1 ANSF Information Book, CSTC-A, January 2006.

2 Quality, Quantity and Financial Sustainability of Afghan National Army, General Abdul Rahim Wardak, Afghan Minister of National Defense, January 2008; Report to JCMB VII, February 2008.

Afghan National Police

Developing a capable Afghan National Police (ANP) is critical to ensuring security both within Afghanistan and at its borders.

Currently, the ANP totals 75,558 out of the maximum 82,000 authorized. Alongside the regular police force, the ANP also includes counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics forces; customs, counter-IED and border police; as well as the auxiliary police forces acting in complement to the existing security apparatus.

ANP operations with the ANA are continuing to mature with coordination, infrastructure and training improving. The Ministry of Interior (MOI) has initiated a number of reforms aimed at increasing the professionalism of the ANP.

Key to the ANP development process is the United States Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan's (CSTC-A) Focused District Development (FDD) programme. Under this programme, ANP district police are taken out of the field to be trained at a Regional Training Centre over a period of eight weeks. The first such cycle began in December 2007. The most critical component in ensuring that gains are maintained is the fielding of Police Mentor Teams (PMTs). The temporary deployment of 1,000 USA Marines from April to November 2008 under CSTC-A will assist with the training and mentoring role in

Regional Command South and Regional Command West. Whilst still lagging behind the ANA, progress in police training and deployment is starting to make real gains. The launch of the European Union Police (EUPOL) mission in mid-June 2007 is also a welcome development in that area.

Within the existing authority and current force levels, ISAF is able to conduct some niche training for the ANP. In most cases this takes the form of limited training provided by PRTs and Regional Commands.

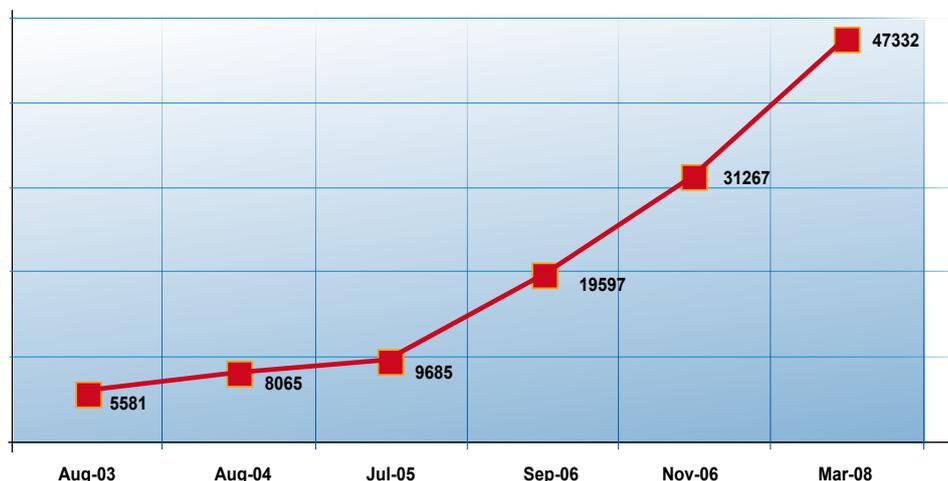


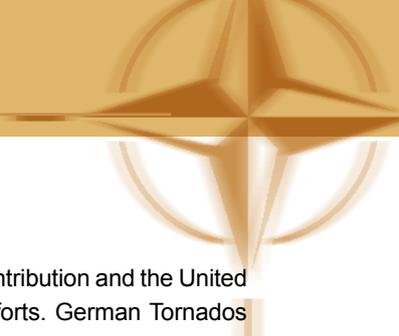
Afghan police trained by United States forces.

ISAF growth

ISAF itself has continued to grow in size and capability since 2003 when NATO took command of the 5,882 strong force with 32 contributing nations covering only the Kabul area. Today, 39 nations contribute to the NATO-ISAF mission, including all 26 Allies with personnel on the ground. By March 2008, ISAF stood at around 47,000 troops.

Increase in ISAF troop levels





This upward trend should continue in 2008, with 11 countries having already decided to reinforce their contribution and the United States currently deploying 3,200 additional Marines to support ISAF operations and ANSF training efforts. German Tornados have been deployed to Regional Command North since spring 2007 and French Mirages and Rafale were redeployed to Kandahar airfield in September 2007.

At the Riga summit in 2007, the NATO Allies affirmed their commitment to provide 'in extremis support' for each other anywhere in Afghanistan.

Additional contributions announced for 2008 (as at 6 February 2008):

Australia:	20 forces for OMLTs
Azerbaijan:	21 forces
Belgium:	4 x F-16, 100 management staff
France:	20 forces for OMLTs
Germany:	4 OMLTs Manœuvre Coy of 250
Hungary:	20 forces for OMLTs
Norway:	3 x helos + appx 70 personnel 100 infantry troops 100 special forces 1 OMLT (35 personnel)
Poland:	8 x helos and 400 management staff
Singapore:	2 officers
Slovak Republic:	4 personnel for OMLT 35 personnel (Manœuvre unit members) 2 x 8 Medical staff

ISAF strength in Regional Command South RC(S)

Evolution of ISAF strength in Regional Command South follows the same trend. From 9,275 personnel from 11 nations when expansion to the South took place in mid-2006, ISAF strength in the region totalled 17,522 personnel from 17 nations in March 2008.

Reconstruction and development



A new well set up outside a school thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Norwegian soldiers.

One of the lessons learnt over the five years of NATO's engagement in Afghanistan is that a military solution alone does not suffice to secure and stabilise the country. Security, governance, and reconstruction and development activities must complement and support each other. To that end, practical support for reconstruction and development efforts stands as one of ISAF's key supporting military tasks.

The following statistics represent just a snapshot of progress across the country:

- By the end of 2007, 6.4 million children were now in school, including 1.5 million girls. This is the highest number ever in the history of Afghanistan. In Kabul alone, there are five universities, comprising 14 faculties and 10,000 students. There were only about 900,000 children attending schools five years ago, and no girls, for whom education was illegal. Construction work of 1,816 schools commenced in 2007.¹
- Since 2002, 16 million vaccinations against childhood diseases have been administered, contributing to a 26% decline in infant mortality in the last five years.²
- In 2007, there were about 103 hospitals and 878 health centres across Afghanistan.³ More than 80% of the population have access to health care, as opposed to 8% under the Taliban rule.

¹ ISAF CJ9.

² Operations in Afghanistan, United Kingdom. Collected by SHAPE.

³ Major General Bruno Kasdorf, ISAF Chief of Staff, 11.10.07.



- 440 irrigation canals were built over the last five years⁴.
- Today, the construction of the ring road is 100% complete in RC(E) and 73% of the Ring Road is paved around the country.⁵
- Real GDP growth is expected to exceed 13% in the current fiscal year ending on March 19, 2008
- Afghan GDP has doubled since 2003 to amount to USD 10 billion this year.⁶

ISAF provides direct support to reconstruction and development through the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). Today, there are 26 PRTs across Afghanistan, led by 14 different nations with a total of 30 countries

represented. The most recent one was opened in Logar in March 2008 by the Czech Republic, supported by the United States.

To date, over 7,500 civil-military cooperation projects have been launched across Afghanistan, of which 75% have already been completed.⁷ In 2007, 1,080 projects have been completed and about 800 others are underway.⁸

Every effort is made to ensure that projects promoted or supported by ISAF are carried out within the context of existing development programmes, such as the highly successful National Solidarity Programme. These projects are planned in close consultation with the local government and international community partners and aim to support the priorities laid down in the Afghan National Development Strategy.

Local contractors begin to lay down gravel on Route Summit – a two-lane road that will connect the Panjwayi district with Highway One and will become a major commercial artery as well as a means to ensure security. The project has been led by Canada in the aftermath of Operation Medusa.



⁴ ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.

⁵ Brigadier General Anderson, Deputy Commander, Support, RC(E), 17.01.08.

⁶ Major General Bruno Kasdorf, ISAF Chief of Staff, 11.10.07.

⁷ NAC Visit Package.

⁸ ISAF, 2007 Facts & Figures.

Snapshots of PRT activities

Below are a few examples of PRT activities across Afghanistan

Regional Command North - RC(N)

Thanks to relative security and stability in the North of Afghanistan, today, RC(N) has one of the best project completion rates of the country.

⇒ PRT Meymaneh

The Norwegian-led PRT, supported by Latvia, is carrying out a huge project consisting of the construction of 82 schools. Coordinated with the World Bank, the United Nations, non-governmental organisations and the Afghan Government, completion of this project is foreseen for 2008.⁹

⇒ PRT Pol-e-Khomri

The Hungarian-led PRT, supported by Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovakia, undertook the construction of a 35 km water supply project in the district of Dahana-I Ghor. The project does not only aim at increasing the water supply capacity for the area, it also stands as an important opportunity to use and develop local contracting.¹⁰

Regional Command East - RC(E)

⇒ PRT Panjshir

This wind power facility project, run by the United States-led PRT in Panjshir, is a prime example of what PRTs can do in relatively stable areas. Coordinated with the Afghan government and the Provincial Development Plan, this wind power facility will provide much of central Panjshir with a constant and reliable source of energy 24/7. It will also allow for a reduction in diesel fuel expenditure, down to 10% of current levels, and will make a serious contribution to the local power grid. Work completion is scheduled for mid- 2008.¹¹



Wind power facility project led by the United States-led PRT in Panjshir.

⇒ PRT Sharana

At the request of the Provincial Governor, the Provincial directors of agriculture and irrigation, and the mayor of Sharana, the United-States-led PRT has built flood walls aimed at preventing damage to agricultural land and living space. Completed in February 2008, these flood walls will permit better management of the water resources in Paktika and act as a significant boost to local agriculture, particularly in the most remote villages.¹²



Large areas of agricultural land flooded in Sharana, Paktika Province. Flood walls will prevent such damages from happening in the future.

9 ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08
10 ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.

11 ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.
12 ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.



Regional Command South - RC(S)

⇒ PRT Qalat

The United States-led PRT, supported by Romania, is currently completing the construction of a trade school. Vetted and partially managed by the Director of Education, the school will ultimately be handed over to the Afghans to manage. The project is to be completed mid-2008.¹³

⇒ PRT Tarin Kowt

Carried out by the Netherlands-led PRT, supported by Australia, this quick impact project now facilitates transport beyond the Chora area, which was unserved under Taleban rule and has recently been cleared by ISAF forces.¹⁴



Bridge built by Badghis PRT, allowing military and civilian economic development teams to reach remote areas.



Canal bridge in Chora district repaired by PRT Tarin Kowt.

⇒ PRT Herat

The Italian-led PRT has replaced a bridge that was barely passable for foot traffic with a modern bridge that can handle significant economic traffic. The Qarya Jaya Bridge connects the main road (Herat – Iranian border) to the north of Herat Province, thereby facilitating access to the capital of the province for 42 villages.¹⁶



Qarya Jaya Bridge before its reconstruction.

Regional Command West - RC(W)

⇒ PRT Qala-i-Naw

The Spanish-led PRT oversees the construction of 32 km of roads and three bridges across the Badghis province. This project will allow both military and civilian economic development to reach to remote areas. This improved access will be also instrumental in enhancing good governance and extending the authority of the Afghan government.¹⁵



Qarya Jaya Bridge reinforced and paved on by PRT Herat.

¹³ ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.

¹⁴ ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.

¹⁵ ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.

¹⁶ ISAF CJ9, 22.01.08.

Afghanistan's aviation sector: taking off

NATO's assistance to Afghanistan includes the rehabilitation of the civil aviation sector in the country.

After the London Conference in 2006, with the development of the Afghan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the Afghan Authorities further addressed the rehabilitation of the aviation sector. The benchmarks identified in the ANDS include the following:

By the end of 1389 (20 March 2011): Kabul International Airport and Herat Airport will achieve full International Civil Aviation Organization Compliance; Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar will be upgraded with runway repairs, air navigation, fire and rescue and communications equipment; seven other domestic airports will be upgraded to facilitate domestic air transportation; and air transport services will be increasingly competitive with international market standards and rates.¹⁷*

* Afghan solar calendar

Today, NATO-ISAF and Coalition Forces control the whole of Afghan airspace and run major airports, including Kabul International Airport (KAIA). One of the main military tasks in the NATO Operational Plan is to facilitate a gradual transition of air navigation and operational responsibilities to the Government of Afghanistan as soon as practicable.

Coordination and synergy between ISAF and civilian actors has also been essential in assisting the Afghan Government with the air transportation of thousands of pilgrims during the Hajj season.



Project for the new terminal at Kabul International Airport.

In the coming years, NATO will continue to support the efforts of the international community¹⁸ in supporting the Government of Afghanistan to implement its ANDS/ Transport strategy for the rehabilitation of the civil aviation sector.

NATO, in coordination with the Afghan Government and international stakeholders, will assist the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in the creation of a reliable Civil Aviation Authority and a secure aviation infrastructure which guarantees safe and efficient air transportation in the country.

The rehabilitation of the civil aviation sector to international standards will open Afghanistan to increased international air traffic and will provide for an increase in aviation revenues (currently estimated at USD 30-40 million per year) that are an important source of state income.



Herat airport tower.

¹⁷ Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

¹⁸ United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), US Central Command Air Force (CENTAF), International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Air Transport Associations (IATA) + India, Japan.



NATO-Japan Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects

In March 2007 a framework was finalised within which Japan would provide up to YEN 2 billion (approx. EUR 12.8 million) of financial support for humanitarian projects in Afghanistan, particularly in the areas of primary healthcare and education.

Funding is made available through the “Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects” (GAGP) scheme.

- In principle, projects are in the area of primary education, vocational training, health and medical care, or water and sanitation.
- Projects are proposed by NATO-ISAF PRTs and approved by the Japanese authorities, but must then be implemented by NGOs or local government authorities which control their own budgets.
- The geographical area for projects is decided on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the priorities of the Government of Japan and NATO, with a view to strengthening the objectives of the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy.
- To date, projects have been funded in Regional Commands North, West and East covering fields such as vocational training, female literacy, the eradication of tuberculosis and the construction of primary, middle and secondary schools.
- Japan also assists Afghanistan on a bilateral basis, including most recently with emergency humanitarian aid following the heavy snowfalls of the past winter.



Japanese funding contributes to enhancing girls' education in Afghanistan.

ISAF Post-Operations Humanitarian Relief Fund

The ISAF Post-Operations Humanitarian Relief Fund (POHRF) was established in 2006 to provide quick humanitarian assistance, such as food, water and shelter, or to repair buildings immediately following sizeable ISAF military operations.

The basic principle is for this humanitarian assistance to remain “as civilian as possible, as military as necessary”.

The Fund consists entirely of voluntary donations.

The Commander of ISAF is responsible for the Fund’s sound financial management.

The North Atlantic Council, through NATO’s Senior Civilian Representative,

is regularly updated on the implementation of the Fund.

In the 4th quarter of 2007, POHRF funds were used in Regional Command Capital, North, West and South.

To date, over one million Euro has been disbursed.

Humanitarian Assistance / Winterisation

This winter, the worst recorded in 30 years, ISAF has been provided humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population affected by the harsh winter conditions.

Since January 2008, more than 90 tons of humanitarian aid has been delivered. Efforts were coordinated by ISAF forces, the Afghan National Security Forces and UNAMA and respective NGOs.

To date, supplies notably included:

Regional Command West

- 27 tons of coal, food and winter clothing in the Qaysar district, Ghowr province¹⁹
- 50 tons of food, blankets, raincoats, boots and generators in the Badghis Province²⁰

Regional Command North

- 900 blankets, 450 kits of children’s winter clothes, 450 rubber boots and 450 adult-sized winter coats delivered to a refugee camp next to PRT Pol-e Khomri, Baghlan province has delivered.



Humanitarian aid delivery in Rabat, Paktika Province.

- Swedish-led PRT in Mazar-i-Sharif conducted Operation Winter Coat, which allowed for the distribution of humanitarian aid in the Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan and Sar-e-Pol provinces, thereby helping more than 600 families and refugees.

Regional Command East

- More than one ton of food (rice, beans, sugar, salt, cooking oil); more than 50 tarps, 200 sweaters, 100 boxes of tea and 25 children’s school kits were distributed to one thousand people in Sabari district in Khowst province.
- In Nangarhar province, more than 700 pounds of school supplies were delivered to more than 1500 High School students.²¹

Regional Command Capital

- ANP security patrols have allowed ANA and ISAF forces to deliver more than 1.5 tons of humanitarian aid to the Surobi Valley

In addition, ISAF and ANSF’s assistance continues through the Medical Civilian Action Program. Veterinary assistance operations are also conducted jointly by ISAF and Afghan National Security Forces to protect livestock through the harsh winter conditions



Task Force Uruzgan supports flooding crisis in Deh Rawod District.

¹⁹ Claudia Foss, ISAF Press Conference.

²⁰ Claudia Foss, ISAF Press Conference.

²¹ SHAPE.

Governance

“The Government of Afghanistan is stronger than it has ever been, a network of health clinics, schools and village-based development councils now literally blankets the country. There is a strong consensus amongst the international community to accelerate our support around Afghanistan’s reconstruction blueprint, the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Significant challenges remain, but undeniable progress is being made and the challenge now is for the international community to step up its support for Afghanistan’s comprehensive development plan as articulated by the ANDS.”

Chris Alexander, Deputy Special Representative to the UN Secretary General in Afghanistan

The Afghan Government, in cooperation with its international partners, is working to develop fully functioning state institutions at the national level and to expand its ability to provide basic services to its population throughout the country by establishing sub-national institutions, including civil administration, police, prisons and judiciary, in each province.

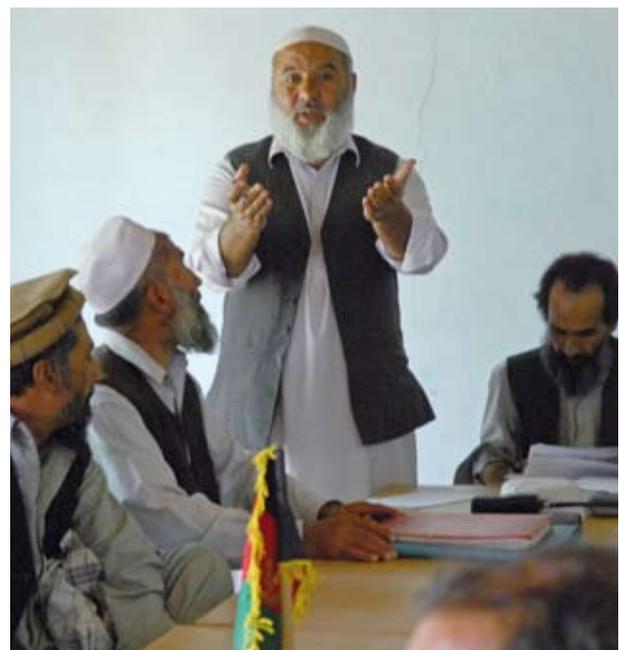
At the national level, the international community, in line with the Afghanistan Compact and with the oversight of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), continues to work closely with the Afghan Government to support institution-building across all key government ministries. The number of ministries has been reduced to reflect core government functions; since 2002, the civil service capacity has increased through the Priority Reform and Restructuring programme. One of the key partners for the Afghan Government is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through both the Country Programme focusing on state-building, democracy and civil-society empowerment and its State-Building and Government Support Programme aiming at strengthening government institutions at both national and sub-national levels.

Improving government capacity to establish the rule of law in order effectively to tackle corruption and the narcotics trade remains a key challenge. The National Justice Sector Strategy and the National Justice Programme were developed following the July 2007 Rome Conference on the Rule of Law. The programme and the strategy are focused on strengthening Afghan capacity to deliver legal services and improving coordination of donor activities. A draft national Anti-Corruption Strategy has been developed

with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In counter-narcotics, the Government’s Prioritized Implementation Plan for the National Drugs Control Strategy has been endorsed.

In view of the importance of improving governance at the sub-national level, the Afghan Government established the Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) in August 2007. The IDLG is focusing on those provinces, where the security situation is unstable and local government is less developed. A key part of this endeavour is also a reconciliation process led by the Afghan Government with those prepared to work within the Afghan Constitution. IDLG’s efforts are complemented by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the European Union (EU), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and others.

ISAF and ISAF-led PRTs remain an important supporting partner for the Afghan Government in the provinces. Their principal mission is to build capacity, support the growth of governance structures and promote an environment within which security, governance and development can all improve. The PRTs have, inter alia, helped set up Provincial and District Coordination Centres as well as Provincial Development Councils and assisted the provincial and local governments in prioritizing their development ideas and finalizing the 34 Provincial Development Plans.



An afternoon *shura* in the district of Char e Asile outside Kabul. Political, social and major practical issues are discussed, debated and decided upon during these meetings by appointed leaders.

Counter-Narcotics

Since the adoption of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy in May 2003, the Afghan Government, supported by the international community, is in the lead to combat the drug trade. Opium is not only a criminal problem; it funds the insurgency, drains the legal economy and promotes corruption. It constitutes a significant threat to Afghan governance, stability and regional security. For this reason, dealing with illicit drug production cannot be confined to poppy eradication but requires the action of the Afghan Government and the whole international community in the fields of security, rule of law, governance, and alternative livelihoods.

There is a clear link between a lack of security and the narcotics trade. While eradication operations are not an ISAF task, ISAF provides support to the overall counter-narcotics effort in Afghanistan; most obviously through security. ISAF's support also includes information-sharing with the relevant Afghan authorities, the conduct of efficient public information campaigns, and, when requested, the provision of logistic and in-extremis support to the Afghan National Counter-Narcotics Forces.

ISAF has also become more proactive, conducting joint planning with organizations such as the Poppy Eradication Force and Interagency Operational Coordination Centre to ensure coordinated efforts that optimize the synergy between counter-narcotics and security missions.

Although the overall picture remains of real concern, there are some signs of progress. In the North, the number of opium-free provinces doubled, from six in 2006 to 13 in 2007. Opium poppy cultivation there decreased by 72% last year and eradication totalled 2,871 ha.²² In the West, cultivation in Ghowr Province recorded the biggest decrease (68%) in Afghanistan in 2007.²³ The Afghan Government's Good Performers' Initiative, which is in its first year, and the Counter-narcotics Trust Fund already prove to be effective incentives.

This shows that counter-narcotics efforts can succeed. ISAF will continue to examine ways to do more to maximize military support for counter-narcotics operations within the current mandate.



Encouraging dialogue with poppy farmers.

NATO-Russia Council counter-narcotics training project

In December 2005, the Foreign Ministers of the NATO-Russia Council launched the pilot project for counter-narcotics training of Afghan and central Asian Personnel. Its purpose is to contribute to other international efforts aimed at fostering security in and around Afghanistan by helping address the threats posed by the trafficking in narcotics. To date, over 330 officers have been trained at the training centres in Russia and Turkey, as well as through courses conducted by mobile training teams in the region. In June 2007, the project was extended for an additional two years beyond the pilot phase, which runs till the end of this year.

²² Report Afghanistan in Review 2007, as compiled by SHAPE.

²³ Report Afghanistan in Review 2007, as compiled by SHAPE.





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