



PRIMARY ROLE

The primary role of ISAF is to assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in providing a safe and secure environment within Kabul and its surrounding areas, which will assist in the reconstruction of a new Afghanistan.

In carrying out this mission, ISAF conducts patrols throughout the 16 different police districts in Kabul and its surrounding areas. Over a third of these patrols are carried out jointly with the Kabul City Police.

On a political level ISAF works closely with the Afghan authorities, United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), UN agencies, International Organisations, and Non-Governmental Organisations. As part of this process, ISAF has established liaison teams in all departments of both the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and UNAMA.

ISAF currently runs Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects throughout the city, focusing on assessment of the provision of basic human needs such as fresh water, electric, power, and shelter, and by improving the existing infrastructure destroyed by more than 20 years of conflict. CIMIC is also involved in the rebuilding of medical facilities and the renovation of schools.

OPERATIONS

ISAF is operated under the auspices of NATO with Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum in charge of the overall operations.

ISAF was established, to assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in maintaining security within the ISAF Area of Responsibility (AOR) so that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as the personnel of the United Nations (UN), can operate in a secure environment in order to enable the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan the build up of security structures in Afghanistan in accordance with the Bonn Agreement and as agreed in the Military Technical Agreement (MTA).

The ISAF Commander's intent is to:

1. ensure a safe environment
2. reconstitute Afghan authorities
3. improve capability of Afghan police and armed forces
4. operate Kabul International Airport (KAIA) and maintain an Air Liaison Officers Cell (ALOC)
5. ensure force protection measures and improved situational awareness

AFGHANISTAN FACT SHEET

Location: Central Asia

Country: Republic; following December 22, 2001 Afghan interim authority and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan presided over by President Hamid Karzai since

national elections in November 2004; both governed by the United Nations Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Borderlines: China to the North – East (76 kilometres), Iran to the West (936

kilometres), Pakistan to the East and South (2,430 kilometres), Tajikistan (1,206 kilometres) and Turkmenistan (744 kilometres) and Uzbekistan to the North (137 kilometres)

Languages: Pashtun (35%), Dari (50%), Turkic languages (primarily Uzbek and Turkmen, 11%), 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai, 4%)

Climate: continental with cold winters and dry, hot summers

Religion: Sunnite Muslims (84%), Shiite Muslims (15%), other (1%);

Ethnic groups: Pashtun (38%) Tajik (25%), Hazara (19%), Uzbek (6%) and smaller ethnic groups (12%);

Flag: vertical black, red and green bars covered by a coat of arms

