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FACT SHEET

NATO SUPPORT TO COUNTER NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN

- Eliminating the illicit production of opium in Afghanistan is vital to the long-term security, development and effective governance of Afghanistan.
- According to the latest UNODC survey (August 2007), there are now 13 opium-free Provinces in the centre-north region of Afghanistan, as opposed to 6 in 2006.
- Poppy cultivation continues to be a problem in areas where there is a relative lack of strong governance. The narcotics trade, encouraged and supported by Taleban extremists, funds and supports the insurgency, drains the legal economy and promotes corruption.
- NATO's main mission – helping the Afghan government extend its authority throughout the country, and helping to create the conditions for reconstruction and development – is essential for the success of the Afghan-led counter-narcotics effort.
- The Afghan Government, supported by the international community and in particular the United Kingdom as lead G8-nation, has the primary responsibility for counter-narcotics efforts. Supporting Afghan Government counter-narcotics programmes is a key supporting task for NATO-ISAF. ISAF support includes:
 - sharing of counter-narcotics information through the Intelligence Fusion Cell, which brings ISAF together with Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Afghan authorities and other key international community actors;
 - developing command and control procedures for effective liaison, co-ordination and deconfliction with the Afghan National Security Forces and the OEF Coalition;
 - supporting the Government's counter-narcotics information campaign with a range of activities, including television and radio advertisements;
 - training Afghan national security forces;
 - providing emergency support, such as medical evacuation, to Afghan army forces conducting counter-narcotics operations;
 - providing logistical support to international community actors, such as the international counter-narcotics agencies, as well as Afghan counter-narcotics personnel and forces.
- NATO-ISAF is committed to full implementation of its counter-narcotics tasks as outlined in the current ISAF mandate.

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