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**NATO's OPERATIONAL MENTOR AND LIAISON TEAMS (OMLTs)  
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- The Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) programme is an important part of NATO-ISAF's contribution towards the development of the Afghan National Army (ANA).
- OMLTs provide training and mentoring to the ANA. They also serve as a liaison capability between ANA and ISAF forces, co-ordinating the planning of operations and ensuring that the ANA units receive necessary enabling support (including close air support, casualty evacuation and medical evacuation).
- OMLTs are composed of 13-30 personnel (depending on the type and function of the ANA unit with which it is partnered) from one or several countries. Each OMLT is normally deployed with an Afghan unit for a minimum period of six months.
- There are currently 59 OMLTs operating in all five regions of Afghanistan. The current requirement to fully support the ANA is 68 OMLTs, some of which are expected in the coming months.
- The NATO-ISAF OMLT programme works in complementarity with the US-led Embedded Training Teams (ETT), which perform similar duties.
- Under OMLT mentorship, the ANA's capabilities are increasing steadily. Today, 28 Kandaks (Battalions) and 11 HQs (2xCorps & 9xBrigades) have reached the highest standard - Capability Milestone 1 (CM1) - assessed to be fully capable of conducting independent operations at battalion level.
- In September 2008, the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board (JCMB) decided to authorize the expansion of the ANA from 80,000 to 122,000 force level (+ 12,000 training pool and transient personnel). Thanks to the accelerated fielding plan, this expansion should be completed by October 2010. This will increase OMLT requirements to 103 by December 2010.
- Twenty-seven nations have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the OMLT programme: Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.