

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)



Afghan National Police

ANSF meets targets

In January 2010 the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, the formal decision-making body for Afghan and international coordination, endorsed an increase of the Afghan National Army (ANA) growth target to 171,600 by October 2011 and for the Afghan National Police (ANP) to 134,000 by October 2011. 80,000 soldiers and policemen have been added to the force since December 2009 and the current approved end-strength for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) is 305,600 by the end of October 2011. With current ANSF strength at 290,000 (164,000 ANA and 126,000 ANP), the ANSF has reached 95% of the October 2011 growth target, and is only 15,600 soldiers and police short of this goal.

At the Kabul Conference in July 2010, President Karzai publicly expressed his ambition to see the ANSF in the lead in conducting security operations across Afghanistan by the end of 2014, an Afghan ambition which NATO applauds and fully supports. On 22 March 2011, President Karzai announced the first Afghan provinces and districts to start the transition of security responsibility, in 7 areas where the ANSF has been assessed as capable of shouldering additional security tasks with less assistance from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). As the ANSF takes on more responsibility in these areas, ISAF will shift to a more supporting role.

Afghan National Police

The primary branches of the Afghan National Police include:

- The Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) is assigned to Police Districts and Provincial and Regional Commands. It also includes Traffic Police, Fire and Rescue and a United Nations Protective Force. The AUP total an approximate strength of 92,500 personnel.
- The Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) is a specialised police force trained and equipped to counter civil unrest. It is a nationally deployable police capability that maintains the rule of law and order utilising proportionate armed capabilities. There are approximately 10,000 ANCOP.
- The Afghan Border Police (ABP) provides the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) with a general law enforcement capability at international borders, entry points, and in the Border Security Zone, which extends 50 km into Afghan territory. The ABP deters and detects illegal entry and other criminal activity. In addition, the ABP controls pedestrian and vehicular traffic at border crossing points and is responsible for airport security at five international airports and multiple border crossings. ABP currently number 19,600 of the total police forces in Afghanistan.
- The Government of Afghanistan established an Afghan Local Police (ALP) force in August 2010. The ALP is an Afghan-owned community focused programme, which provides interim community based security in areas with little or no ANSF presence. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior, this police program is foreseen to last two to five years to compensate for shortfalls in Afghan National Security Forces. ALP is established in selected areas upon request by the local populace and following validation by the Afghan Government. ALP recruits are vetted and approved by local shuras (committees) and district police chiefs. ALP sites are mentored by international forces and monitored by the local shura, the District Chief of Police, District and Provincial Governors and the Ministry of Interior. Essentially ALP provides for small, community-based self-defence units under the MoI's chain of command, represented by the District Chief of Police. The units are representative of, and accountable to, the community, and have no arrest or investigative authorities. This programme stands as a bridge solution until adequate numbers of ANSF are trained to provide security for the entire country. At the end of the interim period required to build up the Afghan National Police and Army, ALP will either step down or be incorporated into the Afghan National Police. Currently, there are 40 operational ALP sites with 6,100 recruits.



Afghan National Police being trained by Czech Military Police

Afghan National Army and Air Force

The Afghan National Army is comprised of six Corps Headquarters and a Capital Division. All but one of these are assessed as capable of executing operations and providing regional security with varied partnered unit assistance. Seventeen of the twenty brigades throughout the country are also assessed at this level.

To date, the ANA has been, by necessity, an infantry-centric force. NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan (NTM-A) has begun to focus on the development of enabling capabilities - such as military police, intelligence, route clearance, combat support and logistics - needed to provide the ANA fighting elements with the necessary underpinning support. Training schools and Afghan Defence University Branch Schools - of which 11 out of 12 are already functioning - are also cornerstones of ANA development.

Created in 2008, the Afghan Air Force (AAF) currently numbers more than 4,000 personnel and 56 aircraft, including 35 Mi-17 and 9 Mi-35 helicopters. It is on its way to becoming a professional, operationally capable and sustainable force of 140 aircraft and more than 8,000 personnel by 2016. Airlift and air power are essential elements of the Afghan counterinsurgency, while combined helicopter gunship and eventually light fixed attack capability will allow Afghan security forces to launch largely independent operations. The Afghan Air Force has also established an airborne medical evacuation capability, providing specialised emergency medical care in remote areas. In addition, search and rescue operations allow life-saving help to reach victims of natural disasters, such as following the Salang Pass avalanche and during recent floods in Kandahar. Meanwhile, the airlift of government leaders into remote provinces provides a valuable link to rural communities while giving the population a chance to have their voices heard.

“Quantity is important, but quality is imperative.”

Over the course of the past year, NTM-A has placed a greater emphasis on quality. Four areas of particular qualitative improvement have been ANSF leader development, training the Afghan trainers, marksmanship and literacy.

Leader training: ANA Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) form the backbone of a professional military. Through leadership development courses, NTM-A was able to help accelerate the number of trained NCOs from 1,950 in November 2009 to about 16,000 today, as well as to further improve NCOs level of training and education.

Training the Trainers: When NATO's Training Mission in Afghanistan began, it had two nations and 30 trainers; it now boasts 33 nations and more than 1,400 trainers.

Improved ANSF marksmanship: In November 2009, the number of ANA soldiers achieving a weapon qualification was just 35%. The goal was to achieve a 95% qualification attainment rate by November 2010. However, by July 2010, that goal had already been achieved, and surpassed – 97% of ANA soldiers have now attained their marksmanship qualification.

Literacy: In 2009, 86% of the new recruits were illiterate. A mandatory literacy programme has since been developed for all recruits throughout their training with 2,200 Afghan instructors recruited. It is expected that by the end of 2011, 50% of the entire ANSF will have a first grade level of literacy.

The NTM-A mission also supports the development of self-sustaining institutions. The MoI opened the Afghan Border Police School and is working to open a National Police Staff College, for which EUPOL provided vital oversight and trainers. Additionally a National Police Training Centre will open in Wardak and the ANP Academy will reopen in Kabul for a 3-year programme, in March 2012.

Recruitment and Vetting

“The goal of the vetting process is to deny the insurgents the anonymity they need”

– Lt Gen Caldwell, Commander NTM-A

Recruitment is now following an 8-step vetting process. Upon signing the enlistment contract agreement, the recruit must get two individuals (village elder, Mullah, or other local government representative) to sign and vouch for the recruit. These individuals are held responsible if any discrepancy in the contract is found. The recruit's paperwork and government ID is reviewed and basic biometric information (retinal scan, fingerprints, height, age, and weight) is collected, added to the recruit's personnel file and accompanies the recruit to training. The biometric data is then checked to see if the individual has any known criminal or insurgent links. Approximately 6% of applicants are screened out for either drug use or medical conditions. Also currently ongoing is a nationwide programme to screen and re-validate every single ANSF member already in service. It is envisaged that this screening will be completed by Spring 2012.

NTM-A has also been conducting an Afghan-initiated counter-intelligence training programme with the ANSF for the past 16 months. So far, over 200 counter-intelligence officers have been trained and fielded in the Afghan National Army, and by the end of the year there will be nearly 450 throughout the Afghan Security Forces.

Retention and Attrition

Reducing attrition is essential for the long-term viability of the ANSF, especially with respect to retaining quality personnel. High attrition is not compatible with growth or sustainment. Currently, for every ten ANA soldiers, NTM-A must train twenty-three recruits in order to maintain total overall strength. However, the ANSF has added 85,000 to its ranks since July, and consistently gets 6,000-9,000 recruits every month.

The MoI implemented significant pay reforms in December 2009 resulting in improved retention of ANP. Annual ANCOF attrition was at an annual rate of 52.9% in November 2009; based on trajectories, the annual rate was almost cut in half, to 24% in November 2010. Attrition within ANCOF was down to as little as 1.3% in April 2011, the lowest in the ANSF. The goal for NTM-A and the MoI is to reduce attrition to 1.4% per month across the Afghan National Security Forces.

A Representative Force

There are approximately 1,400 women in uniformed positions across the Afghan National Security Forces, which comprises less than 1% of Afghan army and police personnel strength. However, this remains a historic milestone for the Afghan women who up until just 10 years ago had been deprived of their basic rights. The Afghan Ministry of Interior has stated its goal of adding 1,333 women to the police ranks every year. Considerable efforts have also been invested in building an inclusive army that provides a cadre of women soldiers and reflects the overall ethnic make-up of the country. Currently there are 320 women in the ANA, of which 215 are officers, and five female pilots in the Afghan Air Force. While the ANA ethnic composition is largely balanced, the Ministry of Defence has developed special recruitment drive to increase the level southern Pashtun participation.

This has been on a constant rise, representing approximately 3% of new ANA recruits since April 2010.

Training Continues in the Field

While the NTM-A Commander focuses on training the initial recruit and building ANSF institutional training capability, development of Afghan soldiers and policemen continues in the field. The ISAF Joint Command (IJC) Commander is responsible for developing fielded ANSF through Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLTs) and Police OMLTs (POMLTs). Maintaining the same chain of command for manoeuvre and mentoring forces reduces overall risk as ISAF forces can more effectively respond to emergency situations involving mentoring teams and ANSF.

NATO's Mentoring Teams

OMLTs and POMLTs are an important part of NATO-ISAF's contribution towards the development of the ANSF. Each POMLT and OMLT is normally deployed with an Afghan unit for a minimum of six months.

POMLTs coach, teach, mentor, and when necessary, support the operational planning and employment of the ANP unit to which they are partnered. POMLTs are composed of 15-20 personnel from one or several countries. Nations contributing POMLTs, as of 27 May 2011, are:

- Canada: 2
- Croatia: 2
- Denmark: 1
- France: 5
- Germany (PMTs): 12¹
- Italy: 3
- Lithuania: 1
- Norway: 1
- Poland: 8
- Spain: 2
- Turkey: 1
- United Kingdom: 6
- United States(PMTs): 279

OMLTs provide a bridge from the collective training received at the Kabul Military Training Centre to field training. OMLTs consist of 11-28 personnel (depending on the type and function of the ANA unit with which it is partnered) from one or several countries. Nations contributing OMLTs, as of 27 May 2011, are:

- Australia: 5
- Belgium: 1
- Bulgaria: 4
- Canada: 6
- Croatia: 3
- Czech Republic: 1
- Denmark: 1
- France: 7
- Germany: 5
- Greece: 1
- Hungary: 1
- Italy: 8
- Norway: 1

- Poland: 5
- Portugal: 2
- Romania: 4
- Slovakia: 1
- Slovenia: 1
- Spain: 5
- Sweden: 1
- Turkey: 5
- United Kingdom: 7
- United States: (ETTs²): 76
- Multinational: 5

Embedded Partnering

Under Embedded Partnering, International Forces and Afghans live together; train together; and plan and execute missions together, sharing the risks and responsibilities. Combining ANSF and international force capabilities creates a synergy that develops ANSF capability and combats the insurgency.

Embedded Partnering occurs at every echelon from the ministry to unit. At the Regional Command level this means all operations that are jointly planned and commanded by combined staff incorporates Regional Police, Border Zone and ANCOP brigade headquarters. For manoeuvre elements, ISAF and ANSF brigades and battalions integrate staffs. In addition to conducting joint missions, mentor teams co-locate with their assigned battalions. Police mentor teams embed with their assigned ANP units 24/7.

NATO-ANA Trust Fund

Created in 2007 and its scope expanded in 2008 and 2009, the NATO-ANA Trust Fund provides now a mechanism for ISAF nations to support the following activities:

- the long-term sustainment of the ANA;
- transportation and installation costs for equipment donations by ISAF nations to the ANA, purchase of ANA equipment and services for engineering infrastructure projects, in-and out-of-country training.

The sustainment requirement for the ANA in 2011 is assessed at 2.99 billion USD. The Fund helps pay for salaries and other costs, complementing separate support from the United States, which concentrates on initial build-up of the Afghan National Security Forces (ammunition, uniforms, training, as well as the construction and maintenance of security infrastructures). The US-led efforts in 2011 are expected to total over 11 billion USD.

Contributions and pledges as of June 2011 (€)

• Bulgaria	160,000
• Czech Republic	354,404
• Denmark	4,250,000
• Estonia	210,000
• Finland	1,700,000
• Germany	90,000,000
• Italy	4,100,000
• Japan	25,829,177
• Lithuania	40,000
• Luxembourg	12,126,000

¹ Germany currently provides Police Mentoring Teams (PMTs), which cooperate with ISAF, but for legal reasons are not under ISAF's command.

² US Embedded Training Teams perform the same functions as OMLTs: providing ANA units with comprehensive mentoring.

• Netherlands	37,600,000
• Norway	23,720,674
• Slovenia	230,000
• Spain	4,000,000
• Sweden	3,226,783
• Turkey	1,500,000
• United Kingdom	4,540,006
• Australia	150,000,000
• Switzerland	131,118
• UAE	7,078,143
• Other	412,200
• TOTAL:	371,208,505 Euro

• Poland	uniforms; 4 million rounds of ammunition, weapon spare parts
• Slovenia	60 mortars, ~10,000 small arms and ~2.2 million rounds of ammunition Compact 200 Bridge, tools, equipment & training including TPT
• Switzerland	3 fire trucks, spares, medical equipment
• Turkey	24 howitzers, ammunition, clothing equipment and academy supplies 950 mortars, 144 machine guns, boots

Transportation for the above equipment donations was facilitated by the following countries: Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Additional support was provided by NATO, members of the Strategic Airlift Interim Solution (SALIS)³ and through the ANA Trust Fund. Further offers of equipment are under consideration.

NATO Equipment Donation Support Programme

The NATO Equipment Donation Programme in support of the Afghan National Security Forces was created in 2006. NATO's Allied Command Operations (ACO) coordinates equipment donations on behalf of ISAF contributing nations.

Completed equipment donations since 2006:

• Bulgaria	50 mortars, ~21 million rounds of small arms ammunition (of different types) and 500 binoculars
• Canada	2,500 small arms, ~ 6 million rounds of ammunition and equipment
• Czech Republic	12 helicopters (attack and utility)
• Estonia	~ 4,300 small arms and ~ 5 million rounds of ammunition
• Finland	~1,400 field telephones and ~ 60 generators
• France	personal equipment
• Germany	clothing and equipment
• Hungary	~ 21,000 small arms and 150,000 rounds of ammunition
• Lithuania	~ 4 million rounds of small arms ammunition
• Luxembourg	~ 2,000 body armour kits, ~ 2,000 helmets
• Montenegro	~ 1,600 small arms and 250,000 rounds of ammunition, heaters, cargo nets
• Norway	100 field weapons, 100 mortars and ~ 400,000 rounds of ammunition (of different types)

History

At the April 2009 Strasbourg-Kehl Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government decided to expand the ISAF mission to oversee higher-level training for the ANA, and training and mentoring for the ANP. To meet this goal, NATO established the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) on 21 November 2009.

NTM-A draws together enhanced NATO and national efforts to train ANA and ANP to increase coherence and effectiveness. It works in close partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior, as well as in collaboration with the European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) and the European Gendarmerie Force.

³ The following SALIS members contributed with their SALIS flying hours: Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, and Slovenia

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