



NEWS RELEASE

ISAF Joint Command – Afghanistan



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For Immediate Release

Operation Moshtarak

KABUL, Afghanistan (Feb. 13)

The operation

Operation Moshtarak is an Afghan-led initiative to assert government authority in the centre of Helmand province. Afghan and ISAF partners are engaging in this counter-insurgency operation at the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Helmand provincial government.

Moshtarak is a Dari word for "together". The security forces that make up the combined force are serving side-by-side, representing partnership in strength.

Insurgents who do not accept the government's offer to reintegrate and join the political process will be met with overwhelming force. However, the strongest of measures will be taken to protect the civilian population.

Military operations in central Helmand will be followed by the swift establishment of an Afghan government presence in cleared areas. This will be supported by stabilization activity led by the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The participants

A combined force of 15,000 is involved in Operation Moshtarak. This combined force includes:

- Approximately five brigades of Afghan forces, including members of the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, Afghan Border Police and Afghan Gendarmerie (formerly Afghan National Civil Order Police).
- ISAF Regional Command (South) elements, with forces drawn from the United States, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Estonia and Canada. These elements include:
 - 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (US)
 - 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (US)

- 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines (US)
- 4th Battalion, 23rd IN Stryker (US)
- Combat Engineer Battalion (US)
- Light Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (US)
- 1 Coldstream Guards Battle Group (UK)
- 1 Grenadier Guards Battle Group (UK)
- 1 Royal Welsh Battle Group (UK)
- Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team (UK)
- Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (UK)
- Task Force Pegasus
- Task Force Kandahar

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