

Transition to Afghan lead: *Inteqal*

As of April 2012, over 50 percent of the Afghan population lives in areas under Afghan security lead. By mid-2013, it is expected that all areas of the country will have entered the transition process and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) will assume security lead across the whole country. Completion of the transition process is scheduled for end-2014, at which time the ANSF will assume full responsibility for the security of their country.

Transition Process Explained

Inteqal - the Dari and Pashtu word for *Transition* - is the process by which security responsibility for Afghanistan is gradually transitioned from NATO/ISAF to Afghan leadership.

Inteqal follows a joint decision-making process under the auspices of the joint Afghan NATO *Inteqal* Board. The decision to start transition in any given area is based on a thorough and regular assessment of the security, governance and development situation on the ground. Formal announcement of individual tranches for transition is made by President Karzai.

The following elements are taken into consideration as part of the decision-making process:

- The capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to shoulder additional security tasks with less assistance from ISAF;
- The level of security allowing the population to pursue routine daily activities;
- The degree of development of local governance, so that security will not be undermined as ISAF assistance is reduced; and
- Whether ISAF is postured properly to thin out as ANSF capabilities increase and threat levels diminish.

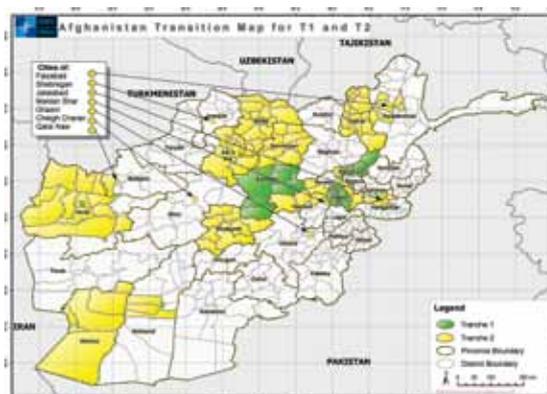
Transition Tranche 1

On 22 March 2011, based on the joint decision-making process, President Karzai announced the first set of Afghan provinces, districts and cities to start transition. These first areas accounted for between 20-25% of the Afghan population.



Transition Tranche 2

On 27 November 2011, based on the joint decision-making process, President Karzai announced the second set of Afghan provinces, districts and cities to start transition. With this new step, Afghan security lead expanded to cover more than 50% of the Afghan population.



The Commander of Task Force Helmand shakes hands with Helmand's Chief of Police at the Lashkar Gah official handover ceremony.

“Afghanistan’s future is clear: a country led by Afghans, defended by Afghans and working for the benefit of Afghans.”

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen



An Afghan flag is handed over during the transition ceremony in Ghor Province.

ISAF's gradual shift to a supporting role

As the Afghan National Security Forces move to the fore, the ISAF mission evolves gradually to a supporting role. As agreed at the NATO Lisbon Summit in November 2010, the principles guiding that shift include:

- Ensuring a better alignment of NATO/ISAF assistance with Afghan national priority programmes;
- Working through increasingly capable Afghan institutions;
- Adjusting ISAF's troop profile and configuration by reinvesting some of the transition dividend, where appropriate, to meet critical security, training and mentoring needs;
- Further strengthening Afghan National Security Forces capacity; and
- Supporting the evolution of the international civilian effort, including that of the ISAF Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), to enable greater Afghan capacity and leadership.

Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Evolution

In June 2011, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Nations¹ agreed a set of principles for the evolution and ultimate dissolution of their PRTs. Many PRTs are already evolving, shifting their focus from direct delivery to enhancing the effectiveness of Afghan national and provincial government structures. By the time each province with a PRT completes transition, the PRT will have handed over its functions to the Afghan Government, traditional development actors, non-governmental organisations and the private sector, and will have phased out.

Successful transition

Successful transition requires that Afghan National Security Forces, under effective Afghan civilian control, are fully capable of tackling security challenges on a sustainable and irreversible basis. Until such time, NATO, together with its ISAF partners and as part of the broader International Community's effort, will continue to provide support to the Afghan forces beyond transition completion.



Dr Ashraf Ghani, head of the Transition Commission, speaks to guests and media at the transition ceremony in Panjshir.

“Afghanistan will one day stand on its own, but it will not be standing alone.”

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

¹ Nations either leading or contributing to PRTs, directly or indirectly: Australia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States. France does not participate in any PRT but does have a civilian “Pôle de Stabilité” serving Kapisa Province and the Sarobi district of Kabul Province.

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