

Transition to Afghan lead: *Inteqal*

With the announcement of the latest set of areas to enter the transition process, 75 percent of the Afghan population will soon live in areas under Afghan security lead. In 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 have full responsibility for security throughout Afghanistan.

Transition Process Explained

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

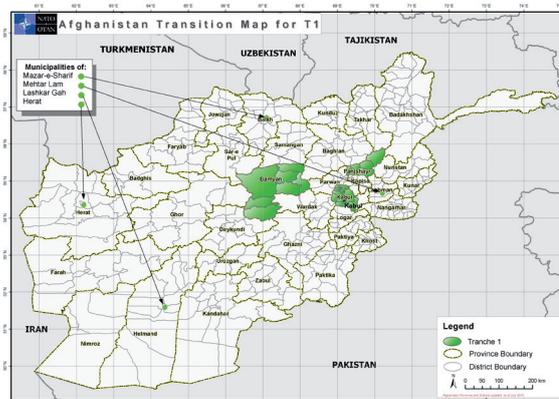
Inteqal follows a joint decision-making process under the auspices of the Joint Afghan NATO *Inteqal* Board (JANIB). The decision to start transition in any given area is based on a thorough and regular assessment of the security, governance and development situation on the ground. Formal announcement 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.

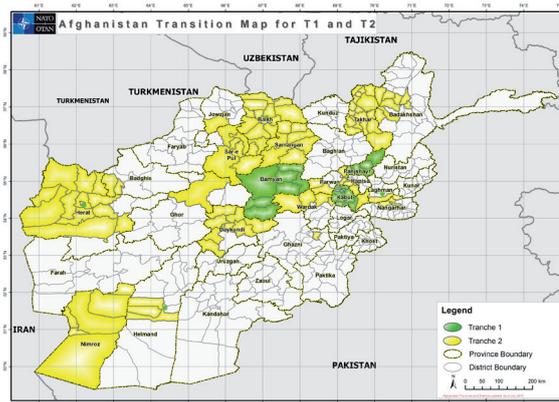
Transition Tranche 1

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.



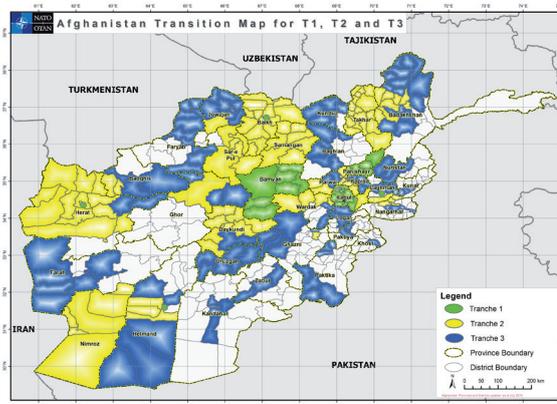
The Commander of Task Force Helmand shakes hands with Helmand's Chief of Police at the Lashkar Gah official handover ceremony.

“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

Transition Tranche 3

On 13 May 2012, President Karzai announced the third set of areas to enter the transition process, covering 75% of the Afghan population.



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

ISAF's gradual shift to a supporting role

The transition process, which can take up to 18 months in each area to complete, sees the Afghan forces gradually taking on more and more combat responsibility from ISAF. As the Afghan National Security Forces move to the fore, the ISAF mission evolves gradually from leading combat operations to providing training, advice and assistance. Once transition in a given area is complete, the Afghan forces will have taken full security responsibility there, with ISAF's role having evolved to a support mission. NATO has pledged its continued commitment to Afghanistan beyond 2014. This will include training, advising, assisting and contributing funds to sustain the ANSF.

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 transition is complete, all PRTs will have handed over their 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.

**“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 Surobi district of Kabul Province.

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Public Diplomacy Division (PDD) - Press & Media Section Media Operations Centre (MOC)

Tel.: +32(0)2 707 1010/1002

E-mail: mailbox.moc@hq.nato.int

www.isaf.nato.int