This document describes the composition and placement of U.S. and other Western combat and advisory forces in Afghanistan down to battalion level. It includes the following categories of units: maneuver (i.e. infantry, armor, and cavalry) units, which in most cases are responsible for advising or partnering with Afghan troops in particular districts or provinces; artillery units; aviation units, both rotary and fixed-wing; military police units; most types of engineer and explosive ordnance disposal units; and “white” special operations forces. It does not include “black” special operations units or other units such as logistical, transportation, medical, and intelligence units or Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

International Security Assistance Force / United States Forces—Afghanistan (Gen. Joseph Dunford, USMC)—ISAF Headquarters, Kabul

  Kabul Support Unit / Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Lt. Col. Ben Cattermole, UK)—Kabul; security force supporting ISAF Headquarters and British facilities

Special Operations Joint Task Force—Afghanistan / NATO Special Operations Component Command—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, USA)—Camp Integrity, Kabul

  Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan (USA)—Bagram Airfield; village stability operations, advisors to Afghan Defense Ministry special operations forces, and other missions

  Special Operations Task Force—East (USA)—Bagram Airfield; operating in eastern Afghanistan

  Special Operations Task Force—South (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; operating in Kandahar Province

  Special Operations Task Force—South-East (USN)—U/I location; operating in Uruzgan and Zabul Provinces

  Special Operations Task Force—West (USMC)—Camp Lawton, Herat; operating in western Afghanistan and Helmand Province

  TF 1-26 Infantry (Lt. Col. William Jacobs, USA)—Camp Mike Spann, Mazar-e-Sharif; operating in northern Afghanistan

ISAF Special Operations Forces (UK/Australia)—Kabul; advisors to Afghan Interior Ministry special operations forces

Regional Special Operations Task Groups—located around Afghanistan

Combined Joint Special Operations Aviation Component—Afghanistan (USAF/USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support to SOJTF-A special operations forces


  451st Air Expeditionary Wing (USAF)—Kandahar Airfield; air support in southern and western Afghanistan

  361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support

  772nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (USAF)—Kandahar Airfield; transport support

  455th Air Expeditionary Wing (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; air support in eastern and northern Afghanistan

  4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; surveillance support
62nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Bagram, Kandahar, and Jalalabad Airfields; surveillance support

75th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; close air support

83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; medical evacuation support

457th Fighter Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; close air support

774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; transport support

Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (USMC)—Bagram Airfield; counter-IED mission

**Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 (Brig. Gen. Balan Ayyar, USAF)—Camp Phoenix, Kabul; responsible for rule-of-law and detention operations**

TF Vigilant / 18th Military Police Brigade (Col. Jan Apo, USA)—Parwan Detention Facility; detention operations

U/I Military Police Battalion (USA)—Parwan Detention Facility

**NATO Training Mission—Afghanistan / Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan (Lt. Gen. Ken Tovo, USA)—Camp Eggers, Kabul; responsible for training Afghan security forces**

U/I infantry battalion (Canada)—Camp Alamo, Kabul, and other locations; training Afghan forces and national and regional training centers

TF 2-Fury / 2-508 Parachute Infantry (USA)—Camp Eggers, Kabul; NTM-A security force

**ISAF Joint Command / III Corps (Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, USA)—Kabul International Airport; countrywide operational headquarters**

TF Paladin South / 242nd EOD Battalion (USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-IED operations in eastern and southern Afghanistan

Joint Task Force Sapper / 130th Engineer Brigade (Col. Diana Holland, USA)—Bagram Airfield; overseeing construction and deconstruction operations countrywide

TF Bayonet / 65th Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. David Acker, USA)—Camp Leatherneck; engineer operations in southern and western Afghanistan

TF Rugged / 365th Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. David Wong, USA)—Bagram Airfield; engineer operations in eastern and northern Afghanistan

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28 (USN)—Kandahar Airfield; construction support in southern Afghanistan

TF Black Diamond / 489th Engineer Battalion (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; retrograde operations in southern Afghanistan

133rd Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. Dean Preston, USA)—Bagram Airfield; withdrawal and deconstruction operations

TF ODIN (Enhanced) (Col. Neil Hersey, USA)—Bagram Airfield; surveillance support in eastern and southern Afghanistan

TF ODIN-A (USA)—Bagram Airfield and Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support

TF Condor (USA)—Bagram Airfield and Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support

TF Black Jack / 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (Col. Robert Whittle, USA)—Bagram Airfield; theater reserve force

TF Black Knight / 1-5 Cavalry (USA)—U/I location; companies spread throughout RC-East

TF Mustang / 1-8 Cavalry (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; companies spread throughout RC-South
Regional Command Capital (Brig. Gen. Ali Riza Kugu, Turkey)—Camp Warehouse, Kabul; operating in Kabul Province

1st Battalion Motorized Task Force (Turkey)—Camp Dogan, Kabul
2nd Battalion Motorized Task Force (Turkey)—Camp Gazi, Kabul

Regional Command East / 101st Airborne Division (Maj. Gen. James McConville, USA)—Bagram Airfield; operating in fourteen eastern provinces

TF Falcon / 10th Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. David Francis, USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support in eastern and northern Afghanistan

TF Tigershark / 1-10 Attack Aviation (USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; aviation support in northern RC-East
TF Knighthawk / 2-10 Assault Aviation (USA)—FOB Shank; aviation support in southern RC-East
TF Phoenix / 3-10 General Support Aviation (USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support throughout RC-East
TF Reaper / 1-13S Attack Aviation (Lt. Col. James Schreffler, USA)—Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; aviation support in RC-North

TF Patriot / 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Col. Mario Diaz, USA)—FOB Gamberi; supporting ANA 201st Corps in northern RC-East

TF Thunder / 5-25 Field Artillery (Lt. Col. Matthew Condry, USA)—FOB Mehtar Lam; operating in Laghman Province
TF 2-4 Infantry (Lt. Col. Paul Cunningham, USA)—Bagram Airfield; operating in Kapisa and Parwan Provinces
TF Dark Knight / 4-9 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Rob Smith, USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; operating in Nangarhar Province
TF Boar / 2-30 Infantry (Lt. Col. Alan Boyer, USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; operating in Nangarhar Province
TF Slugger / 3-89 Cavalry (Lt. Col. James Deore, USA)—FOB Wright, Asadabad; operating in Kunar Province

TF Spartan / 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Col. Sam Whitehurst, USA)—FOB Lightning, Gardez; supporting ANA 203rd Corps in southern RC-East

TF Wolfpack / 4-25 Field Artillery (USA)—Camp Clark, Khost; operating in Khost Province
TF Chosin / 1-32 Infantry (Lt. Col. Theo Moore, USA)—FOB Airborne, Maydan Shahr; operating in Wardak Province
TF Titan / 3-71 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Angel Mesa, USA)—FOB Rushmore, Sharana; operating in Paktika Province
TF Catamount / 2-87 Infantry (Lt. Col. Brian Beckno, USA)—FOB Shank; operating in Logar Province
TF White Eagle / 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade (Poland)—FOB Ghazni; operating in northern Ghazni Province

Battle Group Alpha (Poland)—FOB Ghazni; operating in northern Ghazni Province

Regional Command North (Maj. Gen. Jorg Vollmer, Germany)—Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; supporting ANA 209th Corps in nine northern provinces

Nordic-Baltic Transition Support Unit—Camp Northern Lights, Mazar-e-Sharif; operating in RC-North
Partnering and Advisory Task Force Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; operating in Bakh Province
Northern Reaction Unit (Germany)—Camp Marmal; division reserve
Expeditionary Air Wing Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; fixed- and rotary-wing aviation support for northern Afghanistan

TF Raider / 6-4 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Michael Zernickow, USA)—U/I location; operating in RC-North

Regional Command South / 4th Infantry Division (Maj. Gen. Paul LaCamera, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th Corps in Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul Provinces

TF Dragoon / 2nd Cavalry Regiment (Col. Douglas Sims, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; operating in Kandahar Province

TF Cougar / 2-2 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Charles Svelan, USA)—FOB Frontenac; operating in Shah Wali Kot District

TF Wolfpack / 3-2 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Eric Smith, USA)—FOB Pasab; operating in Maywand and Zhari Districts

TF 4-2 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Christopher Budihas, USA)—FOB Lindsey; operating east of Kandahar City

TF Centaur / 1-6 Field Artillery (Lt. Col. Henry McNeilly, USA)—FOB Spin Boldak; operating in Spin Boldak District

TF Hell / Fires Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment (Lt. Col. Steven Fandrich, USA)—FOB Walton; operating in Kandahar City

TF Duke / 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Col. James Crider, USA)—FOB Apache, Qalat; operating in Zabul Province

TF Ramrod / 2-2 Infantry (USA)—FOB Apache; Afghan army advisors in Zabul Province

TF 151 / 151st Infantry Battalion (Romania)—FOB Apache, Qalat; operating along Highway 1 in Zabul Province

TF Demon / 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Col. Matthew Lewis, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support in southern and western Afghanistan

TF Gunfighters / 1-1 Attack Aviation (USA)—FOB Tarin Kowt; aviation support in Uruzgan and Zabul Provinces

TF Fighting Eagle / 2-1 General Support Aviation (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support in Kandahar Province

TF Nightmares / 3-1 Assault Aviation (USA)—Shindand Airfield; aviation support in RC-West

TF Saber / 1-6 Air Cavalry (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support in Kandahar Province

Regional Command Southwest / II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) (Maj. Gen. Lee Miller, USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; supporting ANA 215th Corps in Helmand and Nimruz Provinces

3/7 Marines (USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; operating in northern Helmand Province

1/9 Marines (USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; operating in southern Helmand Province

Batumi Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia)—COP Eredvi, Musa Qala; operating in Musa Qala District

31st Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia)—Camp Leatherneck; base security

TF Helmand / 7th Armoured Brigade (Brig. James Woodham, UK)—Camp Bastion; operating in central Helmand Province

Brigade Advisory Team / 3 Mercian Regiment (UK)—Camp Tombstone; Afghan army advisors

Joint Engineer Group / 32 Engineer Regiment (UK)—U/I location; brigade engineer support

Joint Fires Group / 3 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (UK)—U/I location; brigade artillery support
Joint ISTAR Group / 9th/12th Royal Lancers (UK)—Camp Bastion; brigade surveillance and reconnaissance support

Manoeuvre Battlegroup / 4 Royal Regiment of Scotland (UK)—Camp Bastion and MOB Price, Gereshk; base security

Transition Support Unit Lashkar Gah / 2 Royal Anglian Regiment (Lt. Col. Nigel Johnson, UK)—Camp Lashkar Gah; operating in Lashkar Gah District

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) (Col. Scott Jensen, USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; aviation support in Helmand and Nimruz Provinces

Marine Attack Squadron 311 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; fixed-wing close air support

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; heavy transport aviation

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; attack aviation

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; medium transport aviation

Joint Aviation Group (UK)—Camp Leatherneck; headquarters for British aviation units

Joint Helicopter Force Afghanistan (UK)—Camp Leatherneck; aviation support for TF Helmand

617 Squadron Royal Air Force (UK)—Kandahar Airfield; close air support for TF Helmand

39 Squadron Royal Air Force (UK)—Kandahar Airfield; drone support for TF Helmand

Regional Command West / “Aosta” Mechanized Brigade (Brig. Gen. Michele Pellegrino, Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps in Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat Provinces

Transition Support Unit Badghis (Spain)—Qala-e-Naw; operating in Badghis Province

Transition Support Unit Center / 183rd Parachute Regiment (Italy)—FOB La Marmora, Shindand; operating in southern Herat Province

Transition Support Unit South / 6th Bersaglieri Regiment (Italy)—Camp El Alamein, Farah; operating in western Farah Province

TF Fenice / 1st Aviation Regiment (Italy)—Herat Airfield; aviation support in western Afghanistan

TF Genio / 4th Engineer Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; engineer support for western Afghanistan

Major changes since December 1, 2013:

—Departure of Combined Team Uruzgan from RC-South

—Departure of CJTF Paladin from Bagram Airfield
NOTES

1 The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards deployed as the first Kabul Support Unit in August 2013 (see regimental newsletter). Their exact chain of command is unclear.

2 Established in the summer of 2012, SOJTF-A/NSOCC-A is a two-star headquarters that oversees all three allied SOF commands in Afghanistan: CJSOTF-A, ISAF SOF, and the “black” special operations forces of the U.S. Joint Special Operations Command task force. See USSOCOM Fact Book 2013.

3 CJSOTF-A is headquartered by troops from the 3rd Special Forces Group. Its core tasks are to advise the Afghan National Army’s special operations forces (the Afghan commando kandaks and Special Forces) and to train and advise the local police forces associated with the Village Stability Operations program. CJSOTF-A controls six battalion-level task forces: two built around Army Special Forces battalions, two around Army infantry battalions, one around a Marine special operations battalion, and one around a Navy SEAL team. Navy Combat Camera Command Detachment 1210, “CJSOTF-A Presentation,” June 2012.

4 1-26 Infantry relieved 2-7 Infantry in June 2013. TF Balkh mixes conventional and special operations troops, and some of its companies are in southern, eastern, and western Afghanistan with other task forces. See battalion Facebook page.

5 Established in 2007, ISAF SOF is a one-star, brigade-level headquarters that oversees most non-U.S. special operations forces in Afghanistan as well as one U.S. special operations unit, TF 10. Command of ISAF SOF appears to rotate between British and Australian officers; Brig. Mark Smethurst was in command as of March 2012.

6 The ISAF SOTGs, some battalion-level and some company-level, support the various regional commands, often by advising elite Afghan Interior Ministry units like the Provincial Response Companies, the Kabul-based Crisis Response Unit, and TF 333 and TF 444, and are designated as numbered task forces. For example, press reports mention TF 10 (a company from the U.S. 10th Special Forces Group) in RC-Capital; TF 45 (Italian SOF) in RC-West; TF 47 (German SOF) in RC-North; TF 49 and TF 50 (Polish SOF) in Ghazni and other areas in RC-East; TF 42, TF 196, and TF 528 (British SOF) in Helmand; and TF 66 (Australian SOF) in Uruzgan and Kandahar(Units that have since withdrawn included France’s TF 32 and the Netherlands’ TF 637.)

7 CJSOAC-A is composed of helicopter, fixed-wing, and unmanned aviation units from the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and conventional U.S. Army aviation units.

8 9th AETF-A does not fall under ISAF command, but its commander is dual-hatted as Deputy Commander (Air) of USFOR-A. It exercises only partial control of the wings and squadrons below it; day-to-day tactical control of those units is exercised by U.S. Air Force Central’s Combined Air and Space Operations Center in the Persian Gulf.

9 361st ERS is an MC-12 squadron. Kandahar Airfield web site.

10 772nd EAS is a C-130 squadron. Kandahar Airfield web site.

11 4th ERS is an MC-12 squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.

12 62nd ERS is an MQ-1 and MQ-9 drone squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.

13 75th EFS is an A-10C squadron that deployed in October 2013. See warthognews.blogspot.com.

14 83rd ERQS is an HH-60G rescue helicopter squadron.

15 This F-16 squadron deployed in November 2013 and moved from Kandahar to Bagram in December 2013.

16 774th EAS is a C-130 squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.

17 VMAQ-3 relieved VMAQ-2 in early October 2012. It is an EA-6B squadron.

18 18th MP Brigade relieved 333rd MP Brigade in July 2013. See brigade Facebook page.

19 This battalion deployed in early 2012.


21 This Quebec-based battalion, likely from the Royal 22e Regiment, relieved 2 RCR in October 2012. See Operation Attention web site.

22 2-508 PIR relieved 1-294 Infantry in early January 2014.

23 V Corps relieved I Corps as the headquarters of the IJC in June 2012.

24 242nd EOD Battalion relieved 3rd EOD Battalion in Kandahar in July 2013 and 184th EOD Battalion at Bagram in December 2013.

25 JTF Sapper relieved JTF Triple Nickel in October 2013.

26 65th Engineer Battalion relieved 307th Engineer Battalion in October 2013.

27 365th Engineer Battalion relieved 8th Engineer Battalion and 122nd Engineer Battalion in December 2013.


29 489th Engineer Battalion relieved 92nd Engineer Battalion in October 2013. The battalion falls under the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element, not ISAF, but is listed here for clarity’s sake.

30 133rd Engineer Battalion relieved 864th Engineer Battalion in October 2013. The battalion falls under the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element, not ISAF, but is listed here for clarity’s sake.

31 ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The current leadership of TF ODIN-E arrived in July 2013.

32 TF ODIN-A operates the MQ-1C and RQ-5 UAVs and various versions of the C-12 and C-35 airplanes. The current TF ODIN-A rotation deployed in May 2013.

33 TF Condor operates the RQ-5 UAV and a version of the C-12 airplane.

34 2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division deployed in July 2013. See brigade Facebook page.
The current headquarters of RC-Capital arrived in November 2012. See RC-Capital Facebook page. 101st Airborne Division took over as RC-East in March 2013. See RC-East Facebook page. 10th CAB relieved 101st CAB in May 2013. Each of its battalion task forces combines UH-60, CH-47, AH-64, and OH-58 companies and provides direct support to a BCT. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages. 1-135 Aviation relieved 1-104 Aviation in August 2013. 4th SFAB, 10th Mountain relieved 4th SFAB, 1st Cavalry Division and 1st SFAB, 101st Airborne in July 2013. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages. 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade relieved 25th Air Cavalry Brigade as TF White Eagle in December 2013. The current headquarters of RC-North arrived in February 2013. See RC-North Facebook page. 6-4 Cavalry relieved 3-7 Cavalry in May 2013. See squadron Facebook page. 4th ID relieved 3rd ID as RC-South in early July 2013. See division Facebook page. 2nd Cavalry Regiment relieved 4th SBCT, 2nd ID in July 2013. See regimental Facebook page. 151st Infantry Battalion relieved 34th Infantry Battalion in July or August 2013. The Nordic-Baltic Transition Support Unit was established in March 2013 and comprises 450 Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, and Latvian troops. II MEF (Forward) took over as RC-Southwest in late February 2013. 3/7 Marines relieved 3/4 Marines in October 2013. The 31st and Batumi battalions relieved the 33rd and 42nd battalions in October 2013. 3 Mercians relieved 4 Rifles in early October 2013. 32 Engineer Regiment relieved 22 Engineer Regiment in October 2013. 3 Regiment RHA relieved 1 Regiment RA in October 2013. 2 RAR relieved 2 RTR in October 2013. 2nd MAW (Forward) relieved 3rd MAW (Forward) in late February 2013. VMA-311 is an AV-8B squadron that relieved VMA-231 in the spring of 2013. HMH-462 is a CH-53E squadron that relieved HMH-461 in August 2013. HMLA-369 is an AH-1W and UH-1Y squadron that relieved HMLA-167 in the late fall of 2013. VMM-165 is an MV-22B squadron that was in Afghanistan as of August 2013. JHF(A) is made up of British Army, Royal Air Force, and Royal Navy units. It operates a variety of attack and lift helicopters. 617 Squadron, a Tornado GR4 squadron, relieved 12 Squadron in November 2013. 39 Squadron is a Reaper UAV squadron. The “Aosta” Brigade relieved the “Julia” Brigade as RC-West in September 2013.