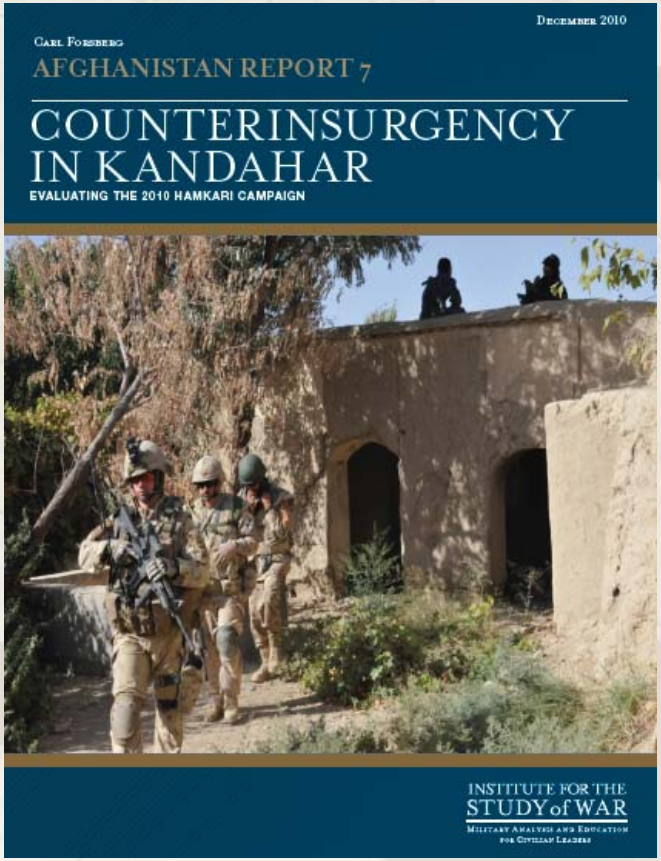
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

Counterinsurgency in Kandahar



Carl W. Forsberg

Afghanistan Scholar, ISW

• Author of the first report in a two-part new series on ISAF operations in Southern Afghanistan: *Counterinsurgency in Kandahar – Evaluating the 2010 Hamkari Campaign.*

• Forsberg was invited to Afghanistan in July 2010 to join a team conducting research for General David Petraeus following his assumption of command.

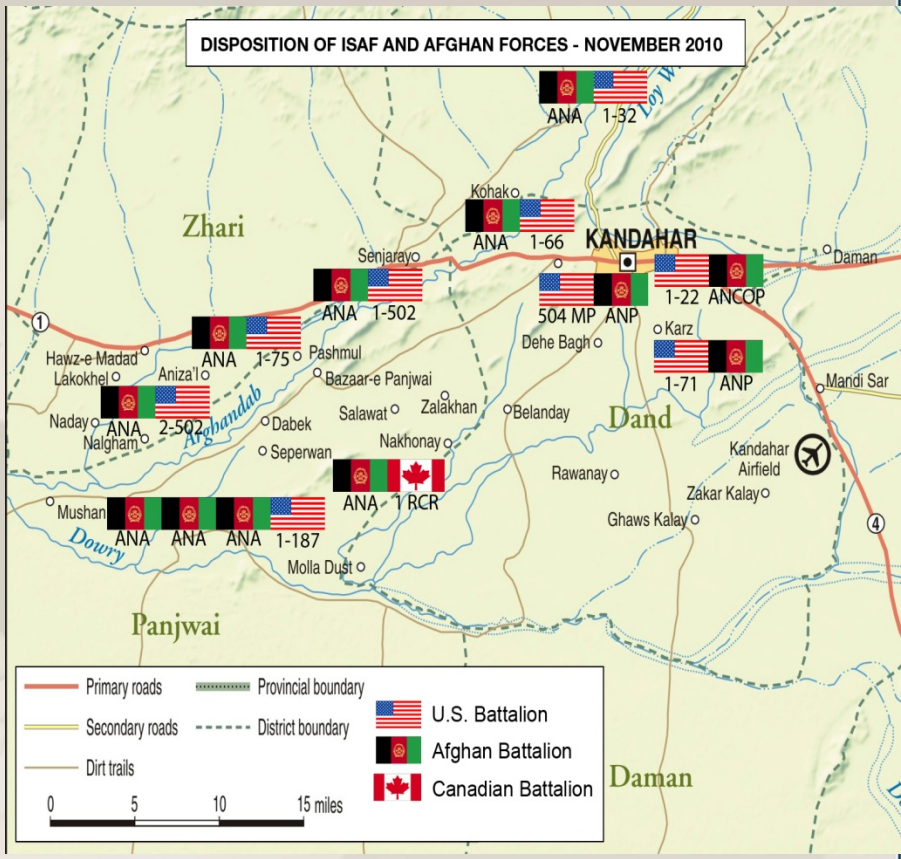
• Forsberg is the author of two prior reports on Kandahar province, *The Taliban's Campaign for Kandahar* and *Politics and Power in Kandahar*. Mr. Forsberg has presented his findings on Kandahar in congressional testimony, at a weekly Pentagon forum attended by high-level experts and military officials, and at the U.S. Special Operations Command.

• Forsberg has commented on Afghanistan for both print and radio journalism in the U.S., the U.K., Canada, and Italy. He has been featured in numerous media outlets, including The Economist, The Financial Times, McClatchy News, NPR, and BBC.

• Before coming to ISW, Mr. Forsberg worked at the Marine Corps Intelligence Headquarters and for the Ugandan State Minister for Disaster Relief and Refugees in Kampala, Uganda. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in history from Yale University and has studied the Persian language.

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

2010 Troop Surge In Kandahar



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

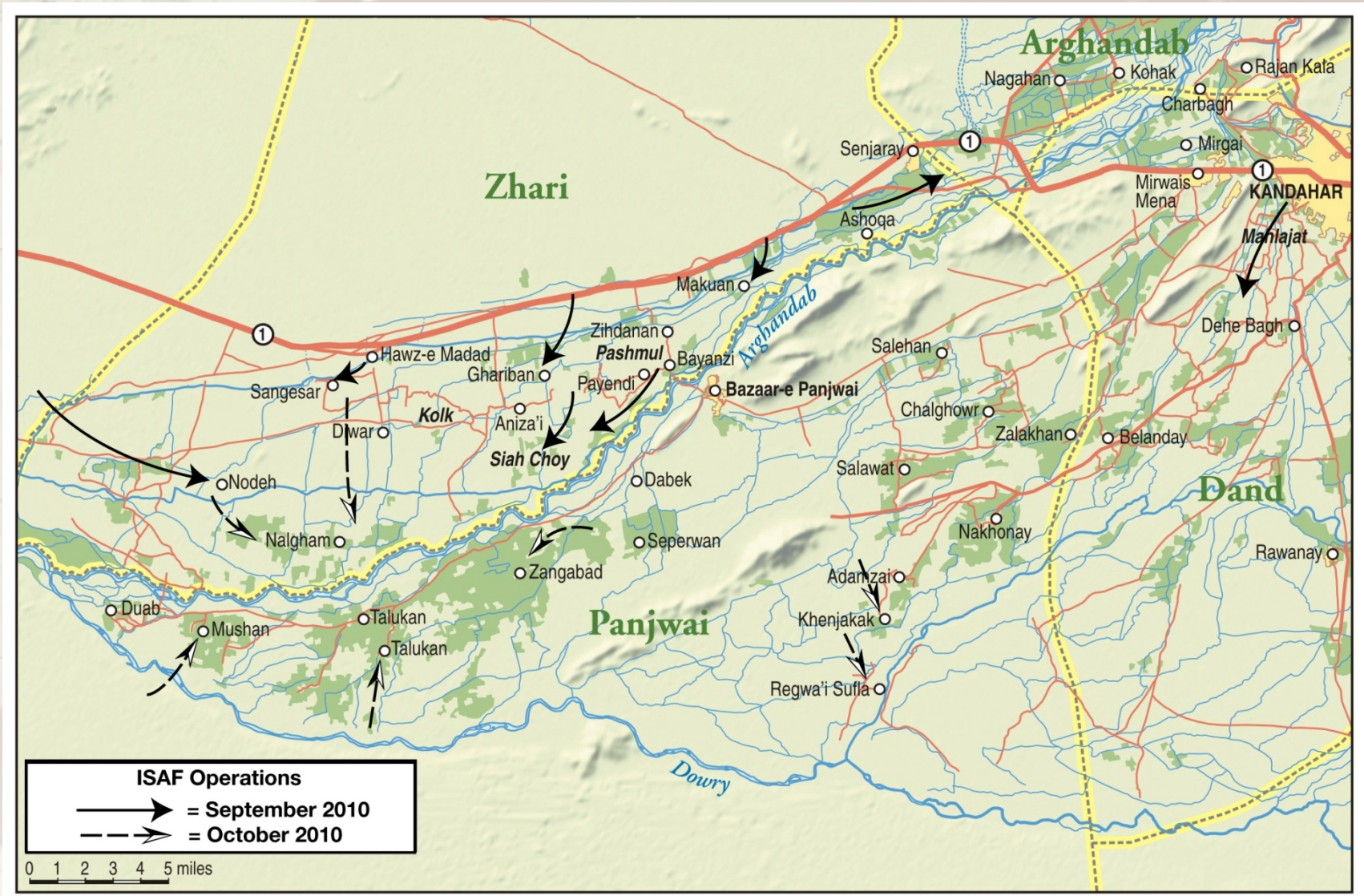
Timeline of Coalition Operations

Coalition Operations in Kandahar
June 2010 - November 2010

	Kandahar City and Suburbs	Arghandab	Zhari	Panjwai
June	Special Forces target Taliban leadership; ISAF develops security perimeter	ISAF conducts shaping operations in Arghandab	ISAF conducts shaping operations in Zhari	
July	Afghan-Canadian operation in Malajat			
August		ISAF clearing operations in west-central Arghandab	U.S. and Afghan force inflow to Zhari complete	
	Second clearing operation in Malajat			
September			ISAF launches Operation Dragon Strike to clear Zhari	Supporting operations in eastern Panjwai
October	Taliban forces withdraw into Kandahar City	Clearing operations conclude in Arghandab	Clearing operations conclude in east and central Zhari	ISAF and ANSF clearing operations in the Horn of Panjwai
November			Operations continue in western Zhari	

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

Hamkari Operations in Zhari



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

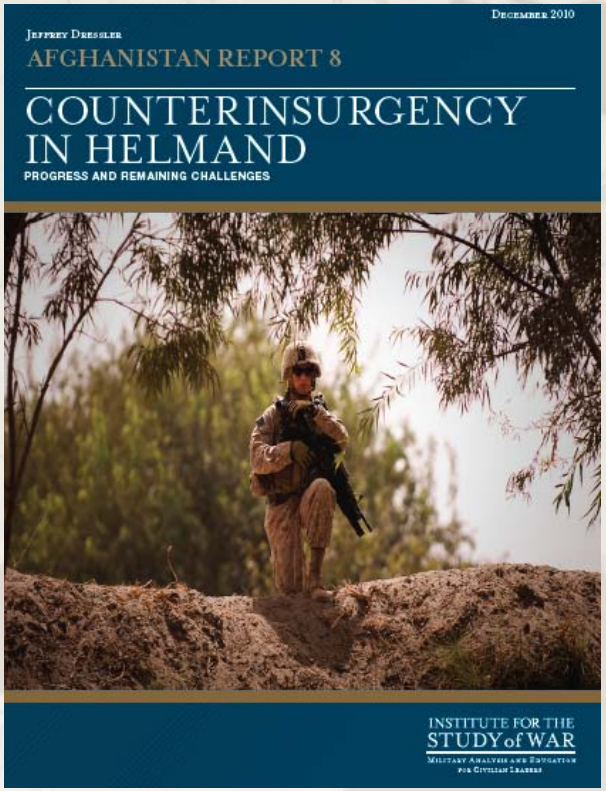
Arghandab District – Topographical Map

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

Zhari and Panjwai Districts

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

Counterinsurgency in Helmand



Jeffrey A. Dressler

Afghanistan Scholar, ISW

• Author of the second report in a two-part new series on ISAF operations in Southern Afghanistan: *Counterinsurgency in Helmand – Progress and Remaining Challenges .*

• Dressler was invited to Afghanistan in July 2010 to join a team conducting research for General David Petraeus following his assumption of command.

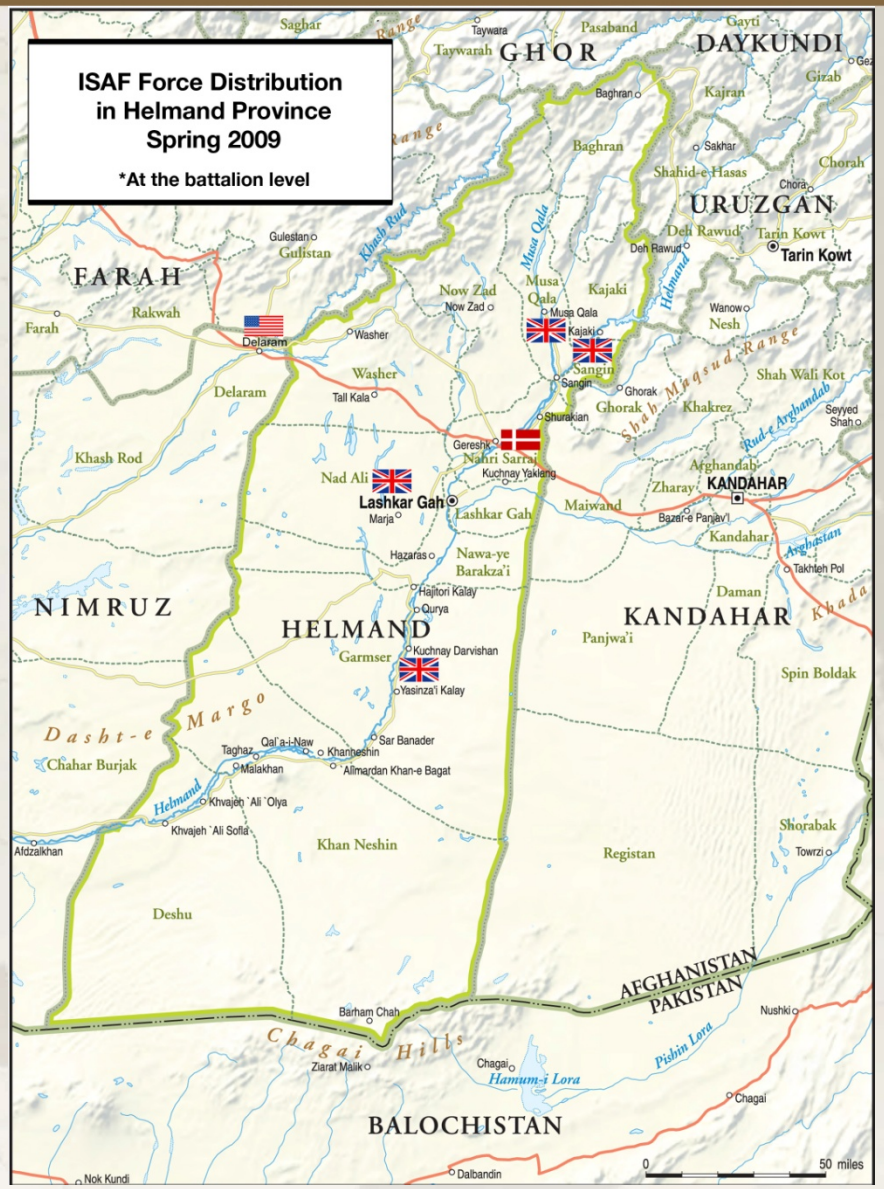
• Dressler is the author of a prior report on Helmand province, *Securing Helmand: Understanding and Responding to the Enemy* (October 2009). His work has drawn praise from members of the Marine Corps and the intelligence community for its understanding of the enemy network in southern Afghanistan and analysis of the military campaign in Helmand province over the past several years.

• Dressler has briefed wide audiences on topics related to the war in Afghanistan. He was invited to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to brief a Marine Battalion prior to their deployment to Afghanistan, and has held similar pre-deployment briefings for civilians headed to Afghanistan.

•Dressler has also conducted briefings for Congressional audiences and members of the press, including correspondents from *The New York Times*, Fox News, CNN, and MSNBC. Additionally, Mr. Dressler's commentary, articles and opinion editorials have been featured by numerous outlets, including Real Clear World and Small Wars Journal.

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

2010 Troop Surge In Helmand



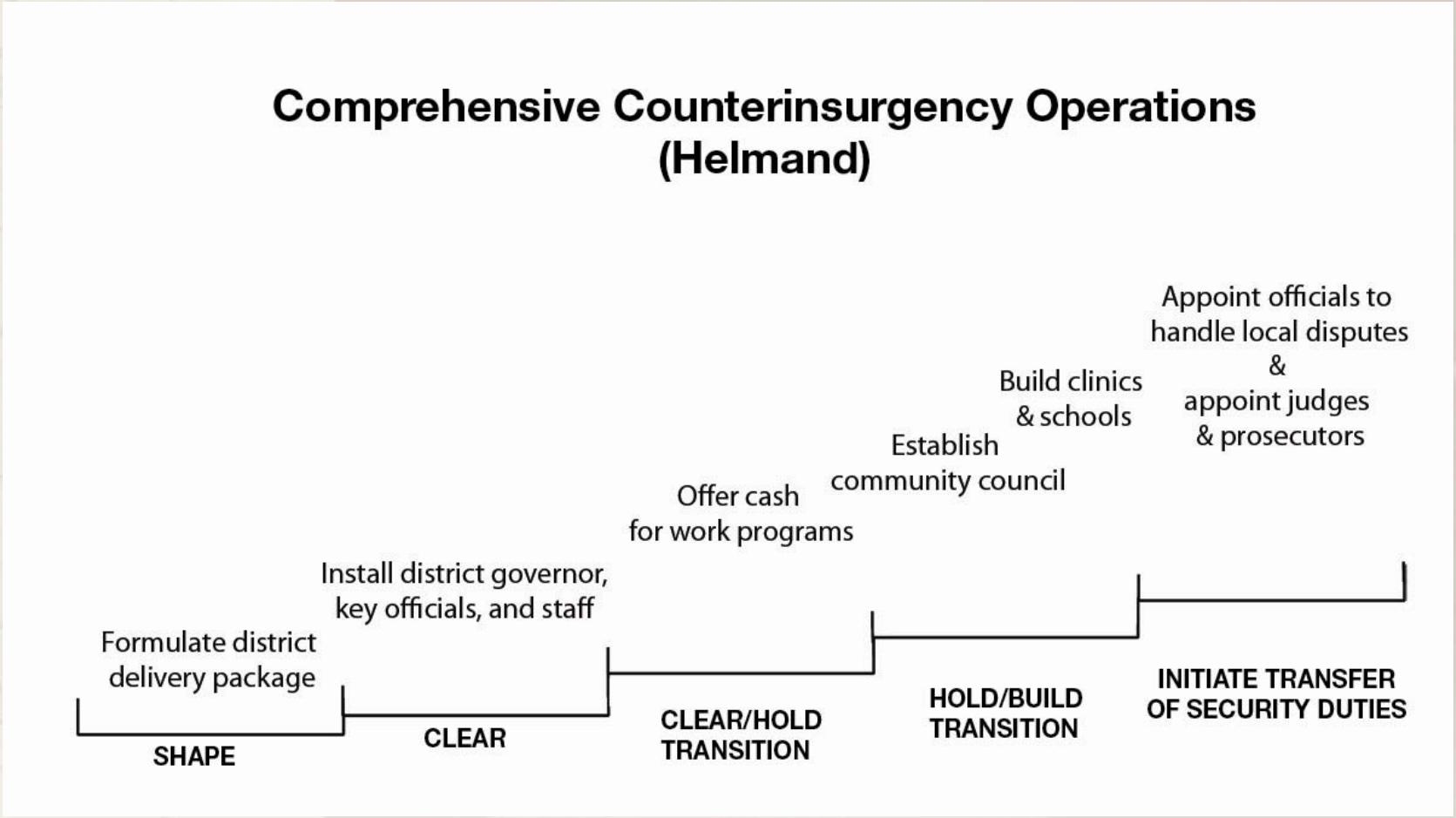
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

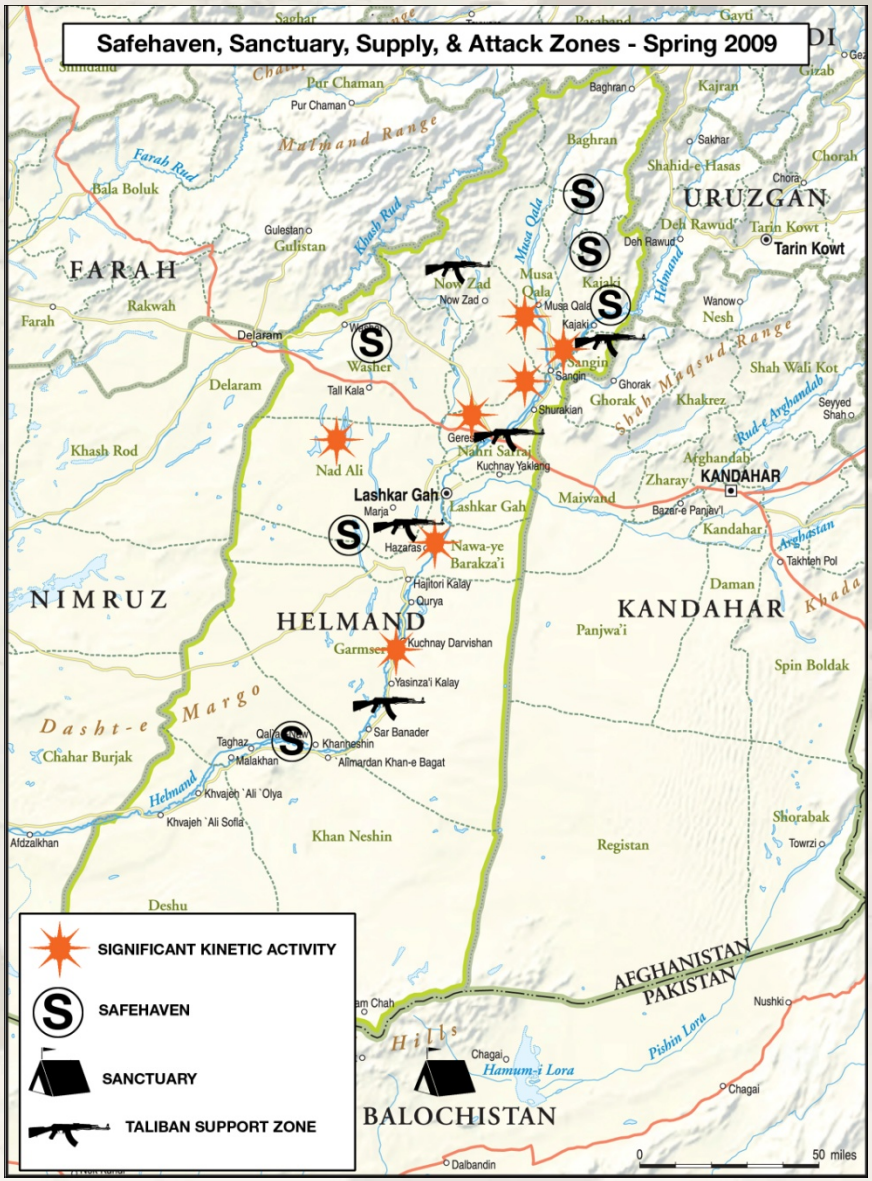
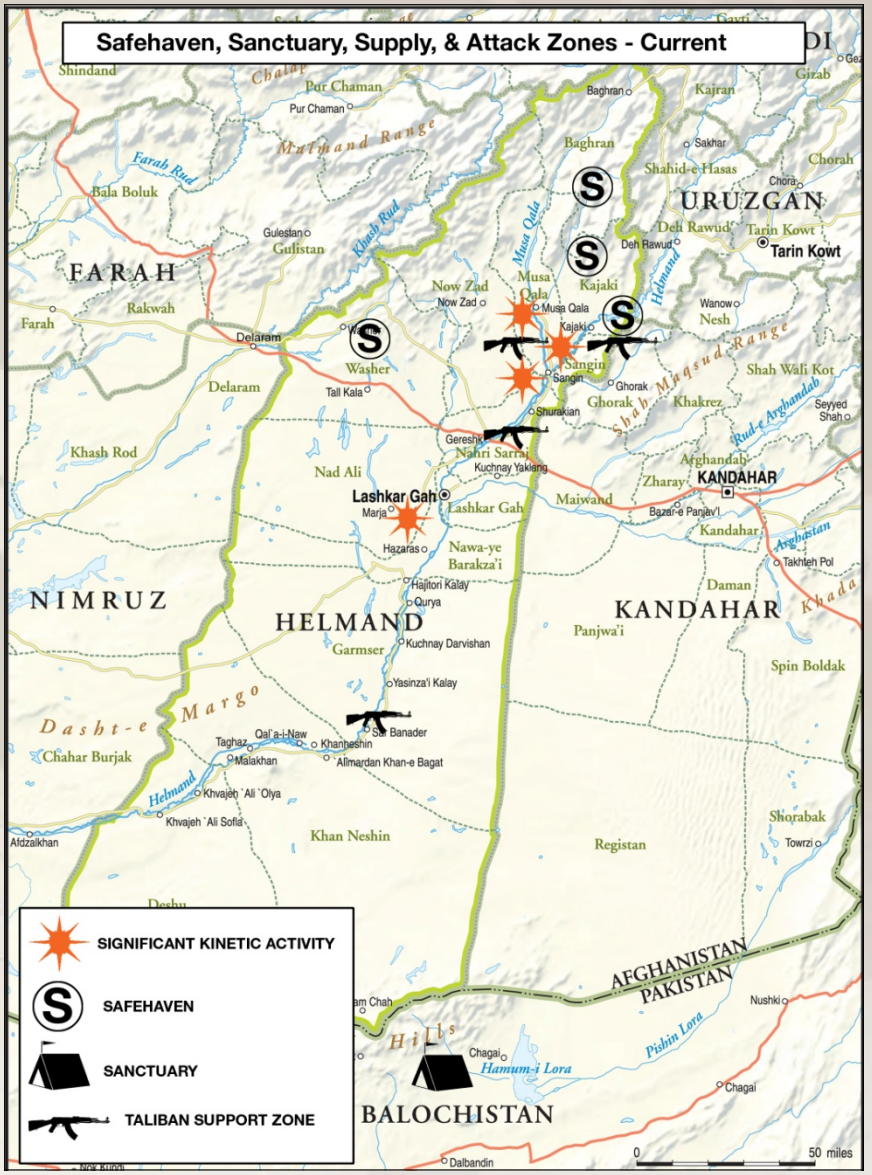
Phase of Coalition Operations

DISTRICT COIN IN HELMAND

MILITARY OPERATION PHASE	SITUATION IN DISTRICT
SHAPE	Enemy: Insurgents enjoy freedom of movement and operational flexibility. Friendly: No freedom of movement for Afghan, PRT, NGO officials. Majority of population unwilling to challenge insurgency.
CLEAR	Enemy: Insurgents engaged in parts of district. Nighttime freedom of movement. Friendly: No freedom of movement for Afghan, PRT, NGO officials in areas not secured by military. Population hesitant to engage with international military or civilian officials.
CLEAR/HOLD	Enemy: Insurgent freedom of movement severely disrupted, decreased engagements with friendly forces. Increased intimidation of population. Friendly: Limited freedom of movement in wider security zone. Road freedom of movement with military assistance. Engagement with local population.
HOLD	Enemy: Enemy activity restricted to perimeters of security zone. Do not threaten coalition or ANSF monopoly of force. Occasional kinetic activity possible. Friendly: Limited freedom of movement in district center and additional security pockets. Freedom of movement within secured zone and with military assistance outside of secured zone. Population willing and able to participate in Afghan governance, development, and reconstruction.
HOLD/BUILD	Enemy: Enemy activity limited to isolated, infrequent attacks that do not deter active participation of the population in Afghan governance, development, and reconstruction. Friendly: Freedom of movement throughout the district. Road freedom of movement to neighboring districts. Majority of population support Afghan governance rather than insurgency.

Full Spectrum COIN



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY of WAR
Military Analysis and Education for Civilian Leaders

Maps of Enemy Force Distribution