



COALITION COMBAT AND ADVISORY FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN ORDER OF BATTLE

BY WESLEY MORGAN DECEMBER 2014

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 and advisory (i.e. infantry, armor, and cavalry) units; artillery units; aviation units, both rotary and fixed-wing; 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.

International Security Assistance Force / United States Forces—Afghanistan (Gen. John Campbell, USA)—ISAF Headquarters, Kabul

Kabul Support Unit / 2 Rifles (UK)—Camp Souter, Kabul; security force supporting British personnel and facilities and ISAF headquarters¹

TF Volunteer / 2-162 Infantry (USA)—New Kabul Compound; security force supporting U.S. personnel and facilities and ISAF headquarters²

TF Saber / 1-82 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Dan Miner, USA)—Kabul International Airport³

1-186 Infantry (USA)—U/I location

Special Operations Joint Task Force—Afghanistan / NATO Special Operations Component Command—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Ed Reeder, USA)—Camp Integrity, Kabul⁴

Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan (USA)—Bagram Airfield; supporting Afghan Defense Ministry special operations forces⁵

Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan (USA)—Bagram Airfield; supporting Afghan Defense Ministry special operations forces

ISAF Special Operations Forces (UK/Australia)—Kabul; supporting Afghan Interior Ministry special operations forces⁶

Combined Joint Special Operations Aviation Component—Afghanistan (USAF/USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support to SOJTF-A special operations forces⁷

9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. John McMullen, USAF)—Kabul International Airport; oversees U.S. Air Force units in Afghanistan⁸

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

451st Air Expeditionary Group (Col. Rhude Cherry, USAF)—Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support in southern and western Afghanistan⁹

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

41st Airlift Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; transport support¹⁰

62nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Bagram, Kandahar, and Jalalabad Airfields; surveillance support¹¹

83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; medical evacuation support¹²

4th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; close air support¹³

ISAF Joint Command / XVIII Airborne Corps (Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, USA)—Kabul International Airport; countrywide operational headquarters¹⁴

TF EOD / 63rd EOD Battalion (Lt. Col. Bobby Sadler, USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-IED support¹⁵

TF 5-5 Air Defense Artillery (USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-rocket and -mortar mission at bases countrywide¹⁶

TF 222 / 1st (Prince Hussein) Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Jordan)—Bagram Airfield; operating in areas around the airfield¹⁷

82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. Michael Musiol, USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support countrywide¹⁸

TF Wolfpack / 1-82 Attack Aviation (USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-East

TF Corsair / 2-82 Assault Aviation (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-South

TF Talon / 3-82 General Support Aviation (USA)—Bagram Airfield; general aviation support

1-230 Air Cavalry (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; attack aviation support for TAAC-South

Joint Task Force ODIN (Col. Mark Levine, USA)—Bagram Airfield; countrywide surveillance support¹⁹

Joint Task Force Thor (USA)—Bagram Airfield; fixed-wing surveillance support²⁰

Train, Advise, Assist Command Capital (Brig. Gen. Safak Gok, Turkey)—Camp Warehouse, Kabul; supporting Afghan security forces in Kabul²¹

Battalion Motorized Task Force (Turkey)—Camp Dogan, Kabul

Train, Advise, Assist Command East / 3rd Infantry Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Christopher Bentley, USA)—FOB Gamberi, Laghman; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps²²

TF Rifles / 3rd Cavalry Regiment (Col. Cameron Cantlon, USA)—Tactical Base Gamberi; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps²³

TF Tiger / 1/3 Cavalry (USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; supporting ANA in Nangarhar Province

TF Sabre / 2/3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Mike James, USA)—Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA in Parwan Province

51st Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia)—Bagram Airfield; base security²⁴

TF White Eagle (Col. Wojciech Marchwica, Poland)—Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps²⁵

Train, Advise, Assist Command North (Brig. Gen. Harald Gante, Germany)—Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; supporting ANA 209th Corps²⁶

Support Force Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; base security and support²⁷

Expeditionary Air Wing Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; fixed- and rotary-wing aviation support for northern Afghanistan²⁸

Train, Advise, Assist Command South / 1st Cavalry Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Douglas Gabram, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th and 215th Corps²⁹

TF Bastogne / 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Col. Robert Campbell, USA)—U/I location

TF No Slack / 2-327 Infantry (Lt. Col. Chris Hossfeld, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA in Kandahar Province³⁰

TF Thunder / 3/3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Brian Harthorn, USA)—Tactical Base Dwyer, Garmsir; supporting ANA in Helmand Province³¹

Train, Advise, Assist Command West / “Garibaldi” Bersaglieri Brigade (Brig. Gen. Maurizio Scardino, Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps³²

Transition Support Unit Center / 1st Bersaglieri Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena; operating in Herat Province

TF Fenice / 5th Aviation Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena; aviation support in western Afghanistan

Major changes since November 1, 2014:

—Transformation of RC-East into TAAC-East

—Relief of 2nd BCT, 101st Airborne by 3rd Cavalry Regiment in TAAC-East

—Relief of 4th BCT, 4th ID by 1st BCT, 101st Airborne in TAAC-South

—Departure of 16th Combat Aviation Brigade from TAAC-South

—Departure of 2nd Engineer Brigade

NOTES

- ¹ 2 Rifles relieved 1 Coldstream Guards as the Kabul Support Unit in August 2014. Their exact chain of command is unclear.
- ² 2-162 relieved 48th BCT in early September 2014.
- ³ 2-5 Infantry relieved 1-214 Field Artillery in December 2013. See battalion Facebook page.
- ⁴ Established in the summer of 2012, SOJTF-A/NSOCC-A is a two-star headquarters that oversees all three allied SOF commands in Afghanistan. Maj. Gen. Reeder took command of SOJTF-A in June 2014.
- ⁵ CJSOTF-A is headquartered by troops from the 3rd Special Forces Group. At its peak, CJSOTF-A controlled six battalion-level regional special operations task forces, only one of which appears to remain.
- ⁶ ISAF SOF is a one-star headquarters that oversees most non-U.S. special operations forces in Afghanistan as well as some U.S. special operations forces. Command of ISAF SOF appears to rotate between British and Australian officers. At its peak, ISAF SOF controlled regional special operations task groups led by Britain, Australia, Germany, Italy, Poland, France, the Netherlands, and the U.S. 10th Special Forces Group, among others.
- 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 quintuple-hatted as commander, NATO Air Command—Afghanistan; deputy chief of staff (air), ISAF Joint Command; deputy commander (air), USFOR-A; and director of the Air Component Coordination Element, ISAF's link to CENTCOM's Combined Air and Space Operations Center in the Persian Gulf, which directs U.S. air missions.
- ⁹ 451st AEG (formerly 451st AEW) operates MQ-1 and MQ-9 drones as well as E-11A piloted aircraft. See 451st AEG web site.
- ¹⁰ 41st AS is a C-130J squadron that deployed in September 2014.
- ¹¹ 62nd ERS is an MQ-1 and MQ-9 drone squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.
- ¹² 83rd ERQS is an HH-60G rescue helicopter squadron.
- ¹³ This F-16 squadron deployed in May 2014.
- ¹⁴ XVIII Airborne Corps relieved III Corps as the headquarters of the IJC in February 2014.
- ¹⁵ 63rd EOD Battalion relieved 242nd EOD Battalion in June 2014.
- ¹⁶ 5-5 ADA relieved 2-44 ADA in October 2014.
- ¹⁷ TF 222/K, built around the 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion, relieved TF 222/J, built around the 3rd (Princess Basma) Mechanized Infantry Battalion, in late June 2014.
- ¹⁸ 82nd CAB relieved 159th CAB in September 2014. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.
- ¹⁹ ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The current leadership of JTF ODIN arrived in July 2014.
- ²⁰ JTF Thor replaced the Air Force's 4th ERS as Afghanistan's MC-12 Liberty surveillance unit in October 2014.
- ²¹ RC-Capital transformed into TAAC-Capital in August 2014.

22. 3rd ID (Fwd) relieved 10th Mountain Division and became the first TAAC-East at the beginning of November 2014.
23. 3rd CR relieved 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain in July 2014. See brigade and battalion Facebook pages.
24. The 51st Battalion deployed in October 2014.
25. The current command team of TF White Eagle took over in November 2014.
26. RC-North transformed into TAAC-North in July 2014.
27. Unterstützungsverbandes MES replaced Partnering and Advisory Task Force MES and the Quick Reaction Unit in July 2014.
28. See RC-North Facebook page.
29. 1st Cav relieved 4th ID as RC-South in early July 2014, and transformed into the one-star TAAC-South at the beginning of October 2014.
30. 2-327 Infantry relieved 4th BCT, 4th ID in late November 2014.
31. 3/3 Cavalry relieved 1/7 Marines in late September 2014.
32. The "Sassari" Brigade relieved the "Aosta" Brigade as RC-West in February 2014.