



## COALITION COMBAT AND ADVISORY FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

# AFGHANISTAN ORDER OF BATTLE

BY WESLEY MORGAN JANUARY 1, 2015

This document describes the composition and placement of U.S. and other Western forces in Afghanistan down to battalion level. It includes advisory and “white” special operations units, as well as many of the units that support them: artillery, engineers, explosive ordnance disposal, aviation, but not some other categories such as logistics, medical, and intelligence units, and “black” special operations forces. Some of the organizational changes that accompanied the December 2014 transition from NATO’s International Security Assistance Force to the Resolute Support Mission and from the U.S. Operation Enduring Freedom to Operation Freedom’s Sentinel remain unclear—which U.S. units, for example, fall under Operation Freedom’s Sentinel but not under the Resolute Support Mission.

### **Resolute Support Mission / United States Forces—Afghanistan (Gen. John Campbell, USA)—Camp Resolute Support, Kabul**

Kabul Support Unit / 2 Rifles (UK)—Camp Souter, Kabul; security force supporting British personnel and facilities and ISAF headquarters<sup>1</sup>

### **Special Operations Joint Task Force—Afghanistan / NATO Special Operations Component Command—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Ed Reeder, USA)—Camp Integrity, Kabul<sup>2</sup>**

Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan / 3/3 Special Forces (USA)—Bagram Airfield; supporting Afghan Defense Ministry special operations forces

ISAF Special Operations Forces (UK/Australia)—Kabul; supporting Afghan Interior Ministry special operations forces<sup>3</sup>

### **9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. John McMullen, USAF)—Kabul International Airport; oversees U.S. Air Force units in Afghanistan<sup>4</sup>**

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 Afghanistan<sup>5</sup>

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

41st Airlift Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; transport support<sup>6</sup>

62nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Bagram, Kandahar, and Jalalabad Airfields; surveillance support<sup>7</sup>

83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; medical evacuation support<sup>8</sup>

4th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; close air support<sup>9</sup>

### **Combined Joint Task Force 3 / 3rd Infantry Division (Maj. Gen. Mike Murray, USA)—Bagram Airfield; U.S. national support element**

TF 5-5 Air Defense Artillery (USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-rocket and -mortar mission at bases countrywide<sup>10</sup>

TF Saber / 1-82 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Dan Miner, USA)—Kabul International Airport; U/I mission<sup>11</sup>

TF Volunteer / 2-162 Infantry (USA)—New Kabul Compound; security force supporting U.S. personnel and facilities and ISAF headquarters<sup>12</sup>

TF Iron Rakkasan / 3-187 Infantry (USA)—Bagram Airfield and Kandahar Airfield; U/I mission

TF EOD / 63rd EOD Battalion (Lt. Col. Bobby Sadler, USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-IED support<sup>13</sup>

51st Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia)—Bagram Airfield; base security<sup>14</sup>

1-186 Infantry (USA)—U/I location

82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. Michael Musiol, USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support countrywide<sup>15</sup>

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

Joint Task Force ODIN (Col. Mark Levine, USA)—Bagram Airfield; countrywide surveillance support<sup>16</sup>

Joint Task Force Thor (USA)—Bagram Airfield; fixed-wing surveillance support<sup>17</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command Capital (Brig. Gen. Safak Gok, Turkey)—Camp Warehouse, Kabul; supporting Afghan security forces in Kabul<sup>18</sup>**

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 Corps<sup>19</sup>**

TF Rifles / 3rd Cavalry Regiment (Col. Cameron Cantlon, USA)—Tactical Base Gamberi; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps<sup>20</sup>

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 and Tactical Base Gamberi; supporting ANA in Parwan and Laghman Provinces

TF White Eagle (Col. Wojciech Marchwica, Poland)—Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps<sup>21</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command North (Brig. Gen. Harald Gante, Germany)—Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; supporting ANA 209th Corps<sup>22</sup>**

Support Force Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; base security and support<sup>23</sup>

Expeditionary Air Wing Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; fixed- and rotary-wing aviation support for northern Afghanistan<sup>24</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command South / 1st Cavalry Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Douglas Gabram, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th and 215th Corps<sup>25</sup>**

TF Bastogne / 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Col. Robert Campbell, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th and 215th Corps

TF No Slack / 2-327 Infantry (Lt. Col. Chris Hossfeld, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA in Kandahar Province<sup>26</sup>

TF Thunder / 3/3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Brian Harthorn, USA)—Tactical Base Dwyer, Garmsir; supporting ANA in Helmand Province<sup>27</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command West / “Garibaldi” Bersaglieri Brigade (Brig. Gen. Maurizio Scardino, Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps<sup>28</sup>**

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 December 1, 2014:*

- Transformation of ISAF into Resolute Support Mission
- Inactivation of ISAF Joint Command in Kabul
- Activation of Combined Joint Task Force 3 at Bagram

**NOTES**

1. 2 Rifles relieved 1 Coldstream Guards as the Kabul Support Unit in August 2014. 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. Maj. Gen. Reeder took command of SOJTF-A in June 2014.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 451st AEG (formerly 451st AEW) operates MQ-1 and MQ-9 drones as well as E-11A piloted aircraft. See 451st AEG web site.
6. 41st AS is a C-130J squadron that deployed in September 2014.
7. 62nd ERS is an MQ-1 and MQ-9 drone squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.
8. 83rd ERQS is an HH-60G rescue helicopter squadron.
9. This F-16 squadron deployed in May 2014.
10. 5-5 ADA relieved 2-44 ADA in October 2014.
11. 2-5 Infantry relieved 1-214 Field Artillery in December 2013. See battalion Facebook page.
12. 2-162 relieved 48th BCT in early September 2014.
13. 63rd EOD Battalion relieved 242nd EOD Battalion in June 2014.
14. The 51st Battalion deployed in October 2014.
15. 82nd CAB relieved 159th CAB in September 2014. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.

16. ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The current leadership of JTF ODIN arrived in July 2014.
17. JTF Thor replaced the Air Force's 4th ERS as Afghanistan's MC-12 Liberty surveillance unit in October 2014.
18. RC-Capital transformed into TAAC-Capital in August 2014.
19. 3rd ID (Fwd) relieved 10th Mountain Division and became the first TAAC-East at the beginning of November 2014.
20. 3rd CR relieved 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain in July 2014. See brigade and battalion Facebook pages.
21. The current command team of TF White Eagle took over in November 2014.
22. RC-North transformed into TAAC-North in July 2014.
23. Unterstützungsverbandes MES replaced Partnering and Advisory Task Force MES and the Quick Reaction Unit in July 2014.
24. See RC-North Facebook page.
25. 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.
26. 2-327 Infantry relieved 4th BCT, 4th ID in late November 2014.
27. 3/3 Cavalry relieved 1/7 Marines in late September 2014.
28. The "Sassari" Brigade relieved the "Aosta" Brigade as RC-West in February 2014.