



COALITION COMBAT AND ADVISORY FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

# AFGHANISTAN ORDER OF BATTLE

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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. Mick Nicholson, USA) - Camp Resolute Support, Kabul**

TF Red Warrior / 1-187 Infantry (Lt. Col. Josh Bookout, USA) - Bagram Airfield; Theater Reserve Force<sup>1</sup>

Kabul Security Force (Brigadier Ian Thomas, UK) - Camp Souter, Kabul; force protection for Resolute Support facilities and personnel in Kabul<sup>2</sup>

1 Royal Irish Regiment (UK) - Camp Souter, Kabul; British element of Kabul Protection Unit<sup>3</sup>

TF White Currahee / 2-506 Infantry (USA) - New Kabul Compound; U.S. element of Kabul Protection Unit<sup>4</sup>

## **Special Operations Joint Task Force - Afghanistan / NATO Special Operations Component Command - Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Scott Howell, USAF) - Camp Integrity, Kabul<sup>5</sup>**

Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan / U/I Special Forces battalion (USA) - Bagram Airfield; supporting Afghan military special operations forces countrywide

Ktah Khas Special Operations Advisory Group (SOAG) (USA) - U/I location; supporting Ktah Khas special mission unit headquarters

ANA Special Operations Command SOAG (USA) - Kabul; supporting ANA Commando and Special Forces headquarters

Afghan Local Police SOAG (USA) - Kabul; supporting Afghan Local Police program

Special Mission Wing SOAG (USA) - Kabul and Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANASOC Special Mission Wing helicopter transport and fixed-wing surveillance unit

Resolute Support Mission Special Operations Forces / General Command of Police Special Units SOAG (UK/USA/Australia) - Kabul; supporting Afghan Interior Ministry special operations forces

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

## **Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Richard Kaiser, USA) - Kabul; U.S. institutional support to Afghan security forces**

## **NATO Air Command - Afghanistan / 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force - Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Jeff Taliaferro, USAF) - Kabul International Airport; oversees U.S. Air Force units in Afghanistan<sup>6</sup>**

455th Air Expeditionary Wing (Brig. Gen. James Sears, USAF) - Bagram Airfield; air support in eastern and northern Afghanistan

451st Air Expeditionary Group (USAF) - Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support in southern and western Afghanistan<sup>7</sup>

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

41st Airlift Squadron (USAF) - Bagram Airfield; transport support<sup>8</sup>

62nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF) - Bagram, Kandahar, and Jalalabad Airfields; surveillance support<sup>9</sup>

83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (USAF) - Bagram Airfield; medical evacuation support<sup>10</sup>

457th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (USAF) - Bagram Airfield; close air support<sup>11</sup>

## **Joint Task Force 1 / 1st Cavalry Division (Maj. Gen. J.T. Thomson, USA) - Bagram Airfield; U.S. national support element**

TF Dragon Slayer / 5-5 Air Defense Artillery (USA) - Bagram Airfield; counter-rocket and -mortar mission at bases countrywide<sup>12</sup>

32nd Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia) - Bagram Airfield and Kabul; base security<sup>13</sup>

63rd Ordnance Battalion (Lt. Col. Keith Rowsey, USA) - Bagram Airfield; explosive ordnance disposal<sup>14</sup>

TF Victory / 1st Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. John Cyrulik, USA) - Bagram Airfield; aviation support countrywide<sup>15</sup>

TF Gunfighters / 1-1 Aviation (USA) - Jalalabad Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-East

TF Fighting Eagles / 2-1 Aviation (USA) - Bagram Airfield; general aviation support

TF Nightmare / 3-1 Aviation (USA) - Kandahar Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-South

Joint Task Force ODIN (USA) - Bagram Airfield; countrywide surveillance support<sup>16</sup>

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

Task Force Raven (Lt. Col. Anthony Bassey, USA) - Bagram Airfield; surveillance support<sup>18</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command Air / 438th Air Expeditionary Wing (Brig. Gen. David Hicks, USAF) - Camp Oqab, Kabul; supporting Afghan Air Force**

438th Air Expeditionary Advisor Group (USAF) - Kabul International Airport; supporting Afghan Air Force units in eastern Afghanistan

738th Air Expeditionary Advisor Group (USAF) - Kandahar Airfield; supporting Afghan Air Force units in southern Afghanistan

**Train, Advise, Assist Command Capital (Brig. Gen. Ayhan Saygin, Turkey) - Camp Warehouse, Kabul; supporting Afghan security forces in Kabul<sup>19</sup>**

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

**Train, Advise, Assist Command East / 1st Cavalry Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Paul Calvert, USA) - FOB Gamberi, Laghman; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps and police<sup>20</sup>**

TF Brave Rifles / 3rd Cavalry Regiment (Col. Kevin Admiral, USA) - Jalalabad Airfield; supporting ANA 201st Corps and police<sup>21</sup>

TF Tiger / 1/3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Jason Davis, USA) - Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA and providing force protection

TF Sabre / 2/3 Cavalry (USA) - U/I location (elements at Camp Lightning, Gardez); previously at Camp Shorab<sup>22</sup>

TF Thunder / 3/3 Cavalry (USA) - U/I location, TAAC-East; likely supporting ANA from Tactical Base Gamberi

TF Longknife / 4/3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Ryan Howell, USA) - Jalalabad Airfield; supporting ANA in Nangarhar Province

TF White Eagle (Col. Dawiusz Kolosowski, Poland) - Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps<sup>23</sup>

Advise-and-Assist Cell Southeast (USA) - U/I location; supporting ANA 203rd Corps and police in Paktika-Paktya-Khost region

**Train, Advise, Assist Command North (Brig. Gen. Andre Modemann, Germany) - Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; supporting ANA 209th Corps and police<sup>24</sup>**

Support Force Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany) - Camp Marmal; base security and support<sup>25</sup>

Expeditionary Air Wing Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany) - Camp Marmal; fixed- and rotary-wing aviation support for northern Afghanistan<sup>26</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command South / 36th Infantry Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Lee Henry, USA) - Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th Corps and police<sup>27</sup>**

TF Rakkasan / 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Col. Larry Burris, USA) - Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th Corps and police<sup>28</sup>

TF Solid / 21st Brigade Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. Stephen Douglas, USA) - Kandahar Airfield; engineer support and force protection

TF White Sharks / 341st Infantry Battalion (Romania) - Kandahar Airfield; force protection<sup>29</sup>

**Task Force Forge (Brig. Gen. Douglas Sims, USA) - Camp Shorab (former Camp Bastion), Helmand; supporting ANA 215th Corps and police<sup>30</sup>**

TF Iron / 3-187 Infantry (Lt. Col. Hank Barnes, USA) - Camp Dwyer, Garmsir; supporting ANA in Helmand Province<sup>31</sup>

TF Red Knight / 3-320 Field Artillery (Lt. Col. Bryan Schott, USA) - Camp Shorab; supporting ANA in Helmand Province<sup>32</sup>

Advise-and-Assist Cell Southwest (USA) - Camp Shorab; re-training and equipping ANA 215th Corps forces<sup>33</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command West / "Pinerolo" Mechanized Brigade (Brig. Gen. Gianpaolo Mirra, Italy) - Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps and police<sup>34</sup>**

TF Arena (Italy) - Camp Arena; force protection and quick reaction force

## TF Fenice (Italy) - Camp Arena; aviation support in western Afghanistan

*Major changes since December 1, 2016:*

- No changes at brigade level or above

### NOTES

- 1 1-187 Infantry relieved 1-12 Infantry as the Theater Reserve Force in November 2016.
- 2 Relieved Brigadier Gerhard Wheeler as commander of the 800-strong Kabul Security Force in January 2016.
- 3 1 Royal Irish relieved 2 Royal Gurkha Rifles in December 2016.
- 4 2-506 Infantry relieved 3-61 Cavalry at the end of August 2016.
- 5 Established in the summer of 2012, SOJTF-A/NSOCC-A is a two-star headquarters that oversees all three allied SOF commands in Afghanistan.
- 6 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.
- 7 451st AEG (formerly 451st AEW) operates MQ-1 and MQ-9 drones as well as E-11A piloted aircraft. See 451st AEG web site.
- 8 41st AS is a C-130J squadron that deployed in September 2014.
- 9 62nd ERS is an MQ-1 and MQ-9 drone squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.
- 10 83rd ERQS is an HH-60G rescue helicopter squadron.
- 11 This F-16 squadron deployed in April 2016.
- 12 5-5 ADA relieved 2-44 ADA in November 2016.
- 13 The 32nd Battalion relieved the 52nd Battalion in October 2016.
- 14 63rd Ordnance Battalion relieved 79th Ordnance Battalion in March 2016.
- 15 1st CAB relieved 4th CAB in September 2016. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.
- 16 ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The most recent report confirming TF ODIN's continued existence is from December 2015.
- 17 TF Thor operates MC-12 Liberty surveillance planes. Its current leadership arrived in October 2015.
- 18 TF Raven's current leadership arrived in October 2015.
- 19 RC-Capital transformed into TAAC-Capital in August 2014.
- 20 1st Cavalry Division (Fwd) relieved 10th Mountain Division (Fwd) as TAAC-East in September 2016.
- 21 3rd Cavalry Regiment relieved 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain in June 2016. See brigade and battalion Facebook pages.
- 22 2/3 CR relieved 2-87 Infantry in September 2016 and was itself relieved by 3-320 FA in November 2016.
- 23 The current command team of TF White Eagle took over in December 2015.
- 24 The current leadership of TAAC-North arrived in November 2016.
- 25 Unterstützungsverbandes MES replaced Partnering and Advisory Task Force MES and the Quick Reaction Unit in July 2014.
- 26 See RC-North Facebook page.
- 27 36th ID (Forward) relieved 7th ID (Forward) as TAAC-South at the end of June 2016.
- 28 3rd BCT, 101st Airborne relieved 2nd BCT, 4th ID in November 2016.
- 29 341st Infantry Battalion deployed in late July 2016.
- 30 Col. Douglas Sims and a team from 1st Cavalry Division relieved Brig. Gen. Andrew Rohling's team as TF Forge in September 2016.
- 31 3-187 Infantry relieved 2-12 Infantry in November 2016.
- 32 3-320 FA relieved 2/3 Cavalry in November 2016.
- 33 AAC-SW deployed to Helmand from Kabul in December 2015.
- 34 The "Pinerolo" Brigade relieved the "Aosta" Brigade as TAAC-West in late May 2016.