



COALITION COMBAT AND ADVISORY FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN
AFGHANISTAN ORDER OF BATTLE
BY WESLEY MORGAN JUNE 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; 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 / 1 Coldstream Guards (Lt. Col. Toby Till, UK)—Kabul; security force supporting ISAF Headquarters and British facilities¹

TF 1-Fury / 1-508 Parachute Infantry (USA)—U/I location

Special Operations Joint Task Force—Afghanistan / NATO Special Operations Component Command—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, USA)—Camp Integrity, Kabul²

Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan (USA)—Bagram Airfield; village stability operations, advisors to Afghan Defense Ministry special operations forces, and other missions³

Special Operations Task Force—North-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 Zabol Provinces

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

ISAF Special Operations Forces (UK/Australia)—Kabul; advisors to Afghan Interior Ministry special operations forces⁴

Regional Special Operations Task Groups—located around Afghanistan⁵

Combined Joint Special Operations Aviation Component—Afghanistan (USAF/USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support to SOJTF-A special operations forces⁶

9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach, USAF)—Kabul International Airport; oversees U.S. Air Force units in Afghanistan⁷

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

451st Air Expeditionary Group (USAF)—Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support in southern and western Afghanistan⁸

IX (Bomber) Squadron Royal Air Force (UK)—Kandahar Airfield; close air support⁹

39 Squadron Royal Air Force (UK)—Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support¹⁰

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

4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; surveillance support¹¹

62nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Bagram, Kandahar, and Jalalabad Airfields; surveillance support¹²

75th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; close air support¹³

83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; medical evacuation support¹⁴

457th Fighter Squadron (USAF)Bagram Airfield; close air support¹⁵

774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; transport support¹⁶

Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 (Brig. Gen. Mark Inch, USA)—Camp Phoenix, Kabul; responsible for rule-of-law and detention operations

U/I Military Police Brigade (USA)—Camp Sabalu-Harrison; detention operations¹⁷

U/I Military Police Battalion (USA)—Parwan Detention Facility¹⁸

NATO Training Mission—Afghanistan / Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan (Lt. Gen. Ken Tovo, USA)—Camp Eggers, Kabul; responsible for training Afghan security forces¹⁹

TF 2-Fury / 2-508 Parachute Infantry (USA)—Camp Eggers, Kabul; NTM-A security force countrywide²⁰

ISAF Joint Command / XVIII Airborne Corps (Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, USA)—Kabul International Airport; countrywide operational headquarters²¹

TF Paladin / 242nd EOD Battalion (USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-IED operations in eastern and southern Afghanistan²²

TF 2-44 Air Defense Artillery (USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-rocket and -mortar mission at bases countrywide²³

Joint Task Force Trailblazer / 2nd Engineer Brigade (Col. Peter Andrysiak, USA)—Bagram Airfield; overseeing construction and deconstruction operations countrywide²⁴

TF Bayonet / 65th Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. David Acker, USA)—Kandahar Airfield and Camp Leatherneck; engineer operations in southern and western Afghanistan²⁵

TF Rugged / 365th Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. David Wong, USA)—Bagram Airfield; engineer operations in eastern and northern Afghanistan²⁶

TF Ultimus / Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 (USN)—Camp Phoenix, Kabul; advising ANA engineer units²⁷

TF Black Diamond / 489th Engineer Battalion (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; retrograde operations in southern Afghanistan²⁸

133rd Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. Dean Preston, USA)—Bagram Airfield; withdrawal and deconstruction operations²⁹

TF ODIN (Enhanced) (Col. Neil Hersey, USA)—Bagram Airfield; surveillance support in eastern and southern Afghanistan³⁰

Regional Command Capital (Brig. Gen. Ali Riza Kugu, Turkey)—Camp Warehouse, Kabul; operating in Kabul Province³¹

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

Regional Command East / 10th Mountain Division (Maj. Gen. Steve Townsend, USA)—Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps in fourteen eastern provinces³²

TF Red Devils / 1-504 Parachute Infantry (USA)—Bagram Airfield; theater reserve force for eastern and northern Afghanistan

TF Spartan / 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Col. Sam Whitehurst, USA)—FOB Lightning, Gardez; supporting ANA 203rd Corps in southern RC-East³³

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 Strike / 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Col. Peter Benchoff, USA)—FOB Gamberi; supporting ANA 201st Corps in northern RC-East³⁴

TF Widowmaker / 1-75 Cavalry (Lt. Col. John Kilbride, USA)—FOB Wright, Asadabad; operating in Kunar Province

TF Top Guns / 1-320 Field Artillery (Lt. Col. Mark Sherkey, USA)—Bagram Airfield; operating in Kapisa and Parwan Provinces

TF 2-502 Infantry (Lt. Col. John Lubas, USA)—FOB Mehtar Lam; operating in Laghman Province

TF First Strike / 1-502 Infantry (Lt. Col. Arie Richards, USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; operating in Nangarhar Province

TF Thunder / 159th Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. Jimmy Blackmon, USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support in eastern and northern Afghanistan³⁵

TF Attack / 3-101 Attack Aviation (USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; aviation support in northern RC-East

TF Wings / 4-101 Assault Aviation (USA)—FOB Shank; aviation support in southern RC-East

TF Lift / 7-101 General Support Aviation (USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support throughout RC-East

TF Attack / 1-227 Attack Aviation (Lt. Col. Cain Baker, USA)—Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; aviation support in RC-North³⁶

TF White Eagle / 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade (Poland)—FOB Ghazni; operating in northern Ghazni Province³⁷

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

Regional Command North (Maj. Gen. Bernd Schutt, 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-North³⁸

Partnering and Advisory Task Force Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; operating in Balkh 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 Afghanistan³⁹

TF Stalwart / 1-41 Infantry (Lt. Col. Kendall Clarke, USA)—Camp Marmal; operating in RC-North⁴⁰

TF 2-121 Infantry (USA)—Camp Marmal; retrograde operations in RC-North⁴¹

Regional Command South / 4th Infantry Division (Maj. Gen. Paul LaCamera, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th Corps in Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul Provinces⁴²

TF White Devils / 2-504 Parachute Infantry (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; theater reserve force for southern and western Afghanistan

Special Mountain Battalion (Georgia)—Kandahar Airfield; force protection at various ISAF bases

812th Infantry Battalion (Romania)—Kandahar Airfield; base defense⁴³

TF Mountain Warrior / 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division (Col. Brian Pearl, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; operating in Kandahar Province⁴⁴

TF Red Warrior / 1-12 Infantry (Lt. Col. Dave Voorhies, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; operating in eastern Kandahar Province

TF Lethal / 2-12 Infantry (Lt. Col. Rich Garey, USA)—FOB Apache, Qalat; operating in Zabul Province⁴⁵

TF Destroyer / 3-61 Cavalry (USA)—FOB Pasab, Zhari; operating in western Kandahar Province

TF Steel / 2-77 Field Artillery (USA)—FOB Walton; operating in Kandahar City

TF Black Scorpion / 20th Infantry Battalion (Romania)—FOB Apache, Qalat; operating along Highway 1 in Zabul Province⁴⁶

TF Raptor / 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Col. Paul Mele, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support in southern and western Afghanistan⁴⁷

TF Flying Dragons / 1-52 General Support Aviation (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; transport aviation

TF Warhawks / 2-158 Assault Aviation (USA)—Shindand Airfield; aviation support in RC-West

TF Tigershark / 1-229 Attack Aviation (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; attack aviation

1-230 Air Cavalry (USA)—U/I location

Regional Command Southwest / Marine Expeditionary Brigade—Afghanistan (Brig. Gen. Daniel Yoo, USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; supporting ANA 215th Corps in Helmand and Nimruz Provinces⁴⁸

1/7 Marines (USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; operating in northern Helmand Province⁴⁹

2nd Combat Engineer Battalion (USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; route clearance operations⁵⁰

Engineer Regimental Group / 32 Engineer Regiment (UK)—Camp Bastion; engineer support⁵¹

Joint Fires Group / 26 Regiment Royal Artillery (UK)—Camp Bastion; artillery support⁵²

Manoeuvre Battlegroup / 5 Rifles (UK)—Camp Bastion; reserve force⁵³

1 Queen's Dragoon Guards (Lt. Col. Will Davies, UK)Camp Bastion; reconnaissance and Afghan army advising missions⁵⁴

TF Belleau Wood / 1st Marine Regiment (Col. Peter Baumgarten, USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; base security⁵⁵

1/2 Marines (USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; operating in west-central Helmand Province⁵⁶

23rd Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia)—Camp Leatherneck; base security

Marine Aircraft Group 26 (Col. Patrick Gramuglia, USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; aviation support in Helmand and Nimruz Provinces⁵⁷

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; heavy transport aviation⁵⁸

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; attack aviation⁵⁹

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; long-range medevac⁶⁰

Regional Command West / “Sassari” Mechanized Brigade (Brig. Gen. Manlio Scopigno, Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps in Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat Provinces⁶¹

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

Transition Support Unit Center / 152nd Infantry Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena; operating in Herat Province

TF Fenice / 7th Aviation Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena; aviation support in western Afghanistan

TF Genio / 5th Engineer Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena; engineer support for western Afghanistan

TF Bobcat / 2-5 Infantry (USA)—Shindand Airfield; operating in western Afghanistan⁶²

Major changes since May 1, 2014:

—Turnover of British battalions in RC-Southwest

—Relief of 130th Engineer Brigade by 2nd Engineer Brigade in Kabul

NOTES

¹ 1 Coldstream Guards relieved The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as the Kabul Support Unit in February 2014 (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 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.

⁵ 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.)

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 451st AEG (formerly 451st AEW) operates MQ-1 and MQ-9 drones as well as E-11A and MC-12W piloted aircraft. See 451st AEG web site.

⁹ IX (B) Squadron, a Tornado GR4 squadron, relieved II (AC) Squadron in May 2014.

¹⁰ 39 Squadron is a Reaper UAV squadron.

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-130J squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.

¹⁷ 18th MP Brigade relieved 333rd MP Brigade in July 2013. See brigade Facebook page.

¹⁸ This battalion deployed in early 2012.

¹⁹ Lt. Gen. Ken Tovo took command of NTM-A/CSTC-A in April 2013.

²⁰ 2-508 PIR relieved 1-294 Infantry in early January 2014.

²¹ XVIII Airborne Corps relieved III Corps as the headquarters of the IJC in February 2014.

²² 242nd EOD Battalion relieved 3rd EOD Battalion in Kandahar in July 2013 and 184th EOD Battalion at Bagram in December 2013.

²³ 2-44 ADA deployed in February 2014.

²⁴ JTF Trailblazer relieved JTF Sapper at the end of May 2014.

²⁵ 65th Engineer Battalion relieved 307th Engineer Battalion in October 2013.

²⁶ 365th Engineer Battalion relieved 8th Engineer Battalion and 122nd Engineer Battalion in December 2013.

²⁷ NMCB-25 relieved NMCB-28 in April 2014.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The current leadership of TF ODIN-E arrived in July 2013.

³¹ The current headquarters of RC-Capital arrived in November 2012. ISAF.NATO.int, "Subordinate Commands | RC-Capital."

³² 10th Mountain Division relieved 101st Airborne Division as RC-East in February 2014.

³³ 3rd SFAB, 10th Mountain relieved 4th SFAB, 3rd ID and 4th SFAB, 101st Airborne in November 2013. See brigade and battalion Facebook pages.

³⁴ 2nd BCT, 101st Airborne relieved 4th SFAB, 10th Mountain in late February 2014. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.

³⁵ 159th CAB relieved 10th CAB in January 2014. 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.

³⁶ 1-227 Aviation relieved 1-135 Aviation in January 2014.

³⁷ 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade relieved 25th Air Cavalry Brigade as TF White Eagle in December 2013.

³⁸ The Nordic-Baltic Transition Support Unit was established in March 2013 and comprises 450 Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, and Latvian troops.

³⁹ See RC-North Facebook page.

⁴⁰ 1-41 Infantry relieved 6-4 Cavalry in January 2014. See battalion Facebook page.

⁴¹ 2-121 Infantry deployed in January 2014.

⁴² 4th ID relieved 3rd ID as RC-South in early July 2013. See division Facebook page.

⁴³ The 812th Infantry Battalion relieved the 26th Infantry Battalion at the end of May 2014.

⁴⁴ 4/4 ID relieved 2nd Cavalry Regiment in early April 2014. See brigade Facebook page.

⁴⁵ 2-12 Infantry relieved 3rd BCT, 1st ID at the end of February 2014. See 3/1 BCT Facebook page.

⁴⁶ 20th Infantry Battalion relieved 151st Infantry Battalion in February 2014.

⁴⁷ 16th CAB relieved 1st CAB, 1st ID in April 2014.

⁴⁸ I MEF (Forward), also known as Marine Expeditionary Brigade—Afghanistan, relieved II MEF (Forward) as RC-Southwest in early February 2014; also in the spring of 2014, the British brigade-level headquarters TF Helmand merged into RC-Southwest.

⁴⁹ 1/7 Marines relieved 3/7 Marines in March 2014.

⁵⁰ 2nd CEB relieved 1st CEB in late April 2014.

⁵¹ 32 Engineer Regiment relieved 22 Engineer Regiment in October 2013.

⁵² 26 Regiment RA relieved 3 Regiment RHA in May 2014.

⁵³ 5 Rifles relieved 4 Scots at the end of May 2014.

⁵⁴ 1 QDR relieved 3 Mercians and 9th/12th Royal Lancers at the end of May 2014.

⁵⁵ 1st Marine Regiment replaced 2nd Marine Regiment as TF Belleau Wood in late February 2014.

⁵⁶ 1/2 Marines relieved 1/9 Marines in May 2014.

⁵⁷ 3rd MAW (Forward) relieved 2nd MAW (Forward) in early February 2014.

⁵⁸ HMH-466 is a CH-53E squadron that relieved HMH-462 in March 2014.

⁵⁹ HMLA-467 is an AH-1W and UH-1Y squadron that relieved HMLA-369 in May 2014.

⁶⁰ VMM-261 is an MV-22B squadron that deployed in January 2014.

⁶¹ The "Sassari" Brigade relieved the "Aosta" Brigade as RC-West in February 2014.

⁶² 2-5 Infantry relieved 1-214 Field Artillery in December 2013. See battalion Facebook page.