



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. John Campbell, USA)—Camp Resolute Support, Kabul**

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

TF Iron Rakkasan / 3-187 Infantry (USA)—Bagram Airfield and Kandahar Airfield; theater reserve force

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

Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan / U/I Special Forces battalion (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. Scott West, 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>

555th 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 EOD / 63rd EOD Battalion (Lt. Col. Bobby Sadler, USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-IED support<sup>11</sup>

43rd Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia)—Bagram Airfield; base security<sup>12</sup>

TF Destiny / 101st Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. Thomas Drew, USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support countrywide<sup>13</sup>

TF No Mercy / 1-101 Aviation (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-South

TF Eagle Assault / 5-101 Aviation (USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-East

TF Shadow / 6-101 Aviation (USA)—Bagram Airfield; general aviation support

Joint Task Force ODIN (Col. Mark Levine, USA)—Bagram Airfield; countrywide surveillance support<sup>14</sup>

Joint Task Force Thor (USA)—Bagram Airfield; fixed-wing surveillance support<sup>15</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command Air / 438th Air Expeditionary Wing (Brig. Gen. Michael Rothstein, 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. Safak Gok, Turkey)—Camp Warehouse, Kabul; supporting Afghan security forces in Kabul<sup>16</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 and police<sup>17</sup>**

TF Rakkasan / 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Col. J.B. Vowell, USA)—Tactical Base Gamberi; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps and police<sup>18</sup>

TF Leader Rakkasan / 1-187 Infantry (Lt. Col. Marc Cloutier, USA)—Tactical Base Gamberi and Jalalabad Airfield; supporting ANA in Laghman and Nangarhar Provinces

TF Solid / 21st Engineer Battalion (USA)—Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA in Parwan Province

TF White Eagle (Col. Wojciech Marchwica, Poland)—Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps<sup>19</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command North (Brig. Gen. Andreas Hannemann, Germany)—Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; supporting ANA 209th Corps and police<sup>20</sup>**

Support Force Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; base security and support<sup>21</sup>

Expeditionary Air Wing Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; fixed- and rotary-wing aviation support for northern Afghanistan<sup>22</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command South / 1st Cavalry Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Viet Luong, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th and 215th Corps and police<sup>23</sup>**

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

TF Bulldog / 1-327 Infantry (Lt. Col. Eric Beatty, USA)—Tactical Base Dwyer, Garmsir; supporting ANA in Helmand Province

TF No Slack / 2-327 Infantry (Lt. Col. Chris Hossfeld, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA in Kandahar Province<sup>24</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command West / “Julia” Alpine Brigade (Brig. Gen. Michele Risi, Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps and police<sup>25</sup>**

8th Alpine Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena; force protection and quick reaction force TF Fenice / 1st Aviation Regiment (Italy)—Camp Arena; aviation support in western Afghanistan

*Major changes since May 1, 2015:*

—Assumption of command of Special Operations Joint Task Force 34 Afghanistan by Maj. Gen. Sean Swindell

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 1 RAR relieved 2 Rifles as the Kabul Support Unit in March 2015. Their exact chain of command is unclear.

<sup>2</sup> 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. Swindell took command of SOJTF-A in June 2015.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 451st AEG (formerly 451st AEW) operates MQ-1 and MQ-9 drones as well as E-11A piloted aircraft. See 451st AEG web site.

<sup>6</sup> 41st AS is a C-130J squadron that deployed in September 2014.

<sup>7</sup> 62nd ERS is an MQ-1 and MQ-9 drone squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.

<sup>8</sup> 83rd ERQS is an HH-60G rescue helicopter squadron.

<sup>9</sup> This F-16 squadron deployed in April 2015.

<sup>10</sup> 5-5 ADA relieved 2-44 ADA in October 2014.

<sup>11</sup> 63rd EOD Battalion relieved 242nd EOD Battalion in June 2014.

<sup>12</sup> The 43rd Battalion relieved the 51st Battalion in April 2015.

<sup>13</sup> 101st CAB relieved 82nd CAB in early May 2015. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.

<sup>14</sup> ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The current leadership of JTF ODIN arrived in July 2014.

<sup>15</sup> JTF Thor replaced the Air Force's 4th ERS as Afghanistan's MC-12 Liberty surveillance unit in October 2014.

<sup>16</sup> RC-Capital transformed into TAAC-Capital in August 2014.

<sup>17</sup> 3rd ID (Fwd) relieved 10th Mountain Division and became the first TAAC-East at the beginning of November 2014.

<sup>18</sup> 3rd BCT, 101st Airborne relieved 3rd Cavalry Regiment in February 2015. See brigade and battalion Facebook pages.

<sup>19</sup> The current command team of TF White Eagle took over in November 2014.

<sup>20</sup> RC-North transformed into TAAC-North in July 2014.

<sup>21</sup> Unterstützungsverbandes MES replaced Partnering and Advisory Task Force MES and the Quick Reaction Unit in July 2014.

<sup>22</sup> See RC-North Facebook page.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> 2-327 Infantry relieved 4th BCT, 4th ID in late November 2014.

<sup>25</sup> The "Julia" Brigade relieved the "Garibaldi" Brigade as TAAC-West in March 2015.