



COALITION COMBAT AND ADVISORY FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN ORDER OF BATTLE

BY WESLEY MORGAN OCTOBER 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. 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

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, Kabul³

Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan (USA)—Bagram Airfield; village stability operations, advisors to Afghan Defense Ministry special operations forces, and other missions⁴

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 Zabul 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 forces⁵

Regional Special Operations Task Groups—located around Afghanistan⁶

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

31 Squadron Royal Air Force (UK)—Kandahar Airfield; close air support¹⁰

39 Squadron Royal Air Force (UK)—Kandahar Airfield; surveillance support¹¹

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

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

83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; medical evacuation support¹³

100th Fighter Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; close air support¹⁴

303rd 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

ISAF Joint Command / XVIII Airborne Corps (Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, USA)—Kabul International Airport; countrywide operational headquarters¹⁹

TF EOD / 63rd EOD Battalion (Lt. Col. Bobby Sadler, USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-IED operations in eastern and southern Afghanistan²⁰

TF 2-44 Air Defense Artillery (USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-rocket and -mortar mission at bases countrywide²¹

Joint Task Force Trailblazer / 2nd Engineer Brigade (Col. Peter Andrysiak, USA)—Bagram Airfield; overseeing construction and deconstruction operations countrywide²²

TF Rugged / 365th Engineer Battalion (Lt. Col. David Wong, USA)—Bagram Airfield; engineer operations in eastern and northern Afghanistan²³

TF Ultimus / Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 (USN)—Camp Phoenix, Kabul; advising ANA engineer units²⁴

TF Black Diamond / 489th Engineer Battalion (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; retrograde operations in southern Afghanistan²⁵

877th Engineer Battalion (USA)—Bagram Airfield; withdrawal and deconstruction operations in eastern and northern Afghanistan²⁶

TF ODIN (Enhanced) (Col. Neil Hersey, USA)—Bagram Airfield; surveillance support in eastern and southern Afghanistan²⁷

Train, Advise, Assist Command Capital (Brig. Gen. Erhan Uzun, Turkey)—Camp Warehouse, Kabul; operating in Kabul Province²⁸

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 provinces²⁹

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

TF 222 (Jordan)—Bagram Airfield; operating in areas around the airfield³⁰

Train, Advise, Assist Command Southeast / 3rd Cavalry Regiment (Col. Cameron Cantlon, USA)—FOB Lightning, Gardez; supporting ANA 203rd Corps in southern RC-East³¹

TF Tiger / 1-3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Eric Strong, USA)—FOB Lightning; operating in Paktya Province

TF Sabre / 2-3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Mike James, USA)—FOB Shank; operating in Logar Province

TF Steel / Fires Squadron, 3rd Cavalry (USA)—Camp Clark, Khost; operating in Khost Province

Train, Advise, Assist Command Northeast / 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Col. Peter Benchhoff, USA) FOB Gamberi; supporting ANA 201st Corps in northern RC-East³²

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

82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. Michael Musiol, USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support in eastern and northern Afghanistan³³

TF Saber / 1-17 Air Cavalry (USA)—FOB Shank; aviation support in southern RC-East

TF Wolfpack / 1-82 Attack Aviation (USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; aviation support in northern RC-East

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

Train, Advise, Assist Command North (Brig. Gen. Harald Gante, 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-North³⁴

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 Afghanistan³⁵

TF Stalwart / 1-41 Infantry (Lt. Col. Kendall Clarke, USA)—Camp Marmal; operating in RC-North³⁶

Regional Command South / 1st Cavalry Division (Maj. Gen. Michael Bills, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th Corps in Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul Provinces³⁷

TF White Devil / 2-504 Parachute Infantry (Lt. Col. Paul Larsen, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; theater reserve force for southern and western Afghanistan

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

TF Mountain Warrior / 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division (Col. Brian Pearl, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; operating in Kandahar Province³⁸

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)—Kandahar Airfield; retrograding

TF Destroyer / 3-61 Cavalry (USA) Kandahar Airfield; retrograding

TF Steel / 2-77 Field Artillery (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; force protection and artillery support

TF Raptor / 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Col. Paul Mele, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support in southern and western Afghanistan³⁹

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

TF Warhawk / 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)—Kandahar Airfield; attack aviation

Regional Command Southwest / Marine Expeditionary Brigade—Afghanistan (Brig. Gen. Daniel Yoo, USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; supporting ANA 215th Corps in Helmand and Nimruz Provinces⁴⁰

1/2 Marines (USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; base and area security⁴¹

TF Thunder / 3/3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Brian Harthorn, USA)—Camp Dwyer, Garmsir; operating throughout Helmand province⁴²

Joint Fires Group / 26 Regiment Royal Artillery (UK)—Camp Bastion; artillery support⁴³

Manoeuvre Battlegroup / 5 Rifles (UK)—Camp Bastion; reserve force⁴⁴

1 Queen's Dragoon Guards (Lt. Col. Will Davies, UK) Camp Bastion; reconnaissance and Afghan army advising missions⁴⁵

Marine Aircraft Group 26 (Col. Patrick Gramuglia, USMC)—Camp Leatherneck; aviation support in Helmand and Nimruz Provinces⁴⁶

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; heavy transport aviation⁴⁷

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 (USMC)—Camp Bastion; attack aviation⁴⁸

Train, Advise, Assist Command West / “Garibaldi” Bersaglieri Brigade (Brig. Gen. Maurizio Scardino, Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps in Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat Provinces⁴⁹

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

1-82 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Dan Miner, USA)—Shindand Airfield; operating in western Afghanistan⁵⁰

Major changes since September 1, 2014:

—Absorption of NTM-A into ISAF Headquarters

—Relief of 159th CAB by 82nd CAB in RC-East

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. See 48th BCT Facebook page.
3. 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 (not included on this order of battle). See USSOCOM Fact Book 2013. Maj. Gen. Reeder took command of SOJTF-A in June 2014.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.)
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 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.
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. 31 Squadron, a Tornado GR4 squadron, relieved IX(B) Squadron in September 2014.
11. 39 Squadron is a Reaper UAV squadron.
12. 62nd ERS is an MQ-1 and MQ-9 drone squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.
13. 83rd ERQS is an HH-60G rescue helicopter squadron.
14. This F-16 squadron deployed in May 2014.
15. 75th EFS is an A-10C squadron that deployed in October 2013. See warthognews.blogspot.com.
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. XVIII Airborne Corps relieved III Corps as the headquarters of the IJC in February 2014.
20. 63rd EOD Battalion relieved 242nd EOD Battalion in June 2014.
21. 2-44 ADA deployed in February 2014.
22. JTF Trailblazer relieved JTF Sapper at the end of May 2014.
23. 365th Engineer Battalion relieved 8th Engineer Battalion and 122nd Engineer Battalion in December 2013.
24. NMCB-25 relieved NMCB-28 in April 2014.
25. 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.
26. 877th Engineer Battalion relieved 133rd Engineer Battalion in June 2014. The battalion falls under the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element, not ISAF, but is listed here for clarity's sake.
27. ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The current leadership of TF ODIN-E arrived in July 2013.
28. The current headquarters of RC-Capital arrived in November 2012. ISAF.NATO.int, "Subordinate Commands | RC-Capital."
29. 10th Mountain Division relieved 101st Airborne Division as RC-East in February 2014.
30. 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.
31. 3rd CR relieved 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain in July 2014. See brigade and battalion Facebook pages.
32. 2nd BCT, 101st Airborne relieved 4th SFAB, 10th Mountain in late February 2014. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.
33. 82nd CAB relieved 159th CAB in September 2014. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.
34. The Nordic-Baltic Transition Support Unit was established in March 2013 and comprises 450 Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, and Latvian troops.
35. See RC-North Facebook page.
36. 1-41 Infantry relieved 6-4 Cavalry in January 2014. See battalion Facebook page.
37. 1st Cav relieved 4th ID as RC-South in early July 2014. See division Facebook page.
38. 4/4 ID relieved 2nd Cavalry Regiment in early April 2014. See brigade Facebook page.
39. 16th CAB relieved 1st CAB, 1st ID in April 2014.
40. 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.

41. 1/2 Marines relieved 1/9 Marines in May 2014.
42. 3/3 Cavalry relieved 1/7 Marines in late September 2014.
43. 26 Regiment RA relieved 3 Regiment RHA in May 2014.
44. 5 Rifles relieved 4 Scots at the end of May 2014.
45. 1 QDR relieved 3 Mercians and 9th/12th Royal Lancers at the end of May 2014.
46. 3rd MAW (Forward) relieved 2nd MAW (Forward) in early February 2014.
47. HMH-366 is a CH-53E squadron that relieved HMH-466 in August 2014.
48. HMLA-467 is an AH-1W and UH-1Y squadron that relieved HMLA-369 in May 2014.
49. The “Sassari” Brigade relieved the “Aosta” Brigade as RC-West in February 2014.
50. 2-5 Infantry relieved 1-214 Field Artillery in December 2013. See battalion Facebook page.