



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**

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

TF Destroyer / 3-61 Cavalry (USA)—New Kabul Compound; security force supporting Resolute Support headquarters

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

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

Resolute Support Mission Special Operations Forces (UK/USA/Australia)—U/I location; supporting Afghan Interior Ministry special operations forces countrywide

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

## **Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan (Maj. Gen. Gordon Davis, 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>3</sup>**

455th Air Expeditionary Wing (Brig. Gen. James Sears, 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>4</sup>

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

41st Airlift Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; transport support<sup>5</sup>

62nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (USAF)—Bagram, Kandahar, and Jalalabad Airfields; surveillance support<sup>6</sup>

83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; medical evacuation support<sup>7</sup>

U/I Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (USAF)—Bagram Airfield; close air support<sup>8</sup>

## **Combined Joint Task Force 10 / 10th Mountain Division (Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Bannister, USA)—Bagram Airfield; U.S. national support element**

TF Strike Fear / 2-44 Air Defense Artillery (USA)—Bagram Airfield; counter-rocket and -mortar mission at bases countrywide<sup>9</sup>

52nd Light Infantry Battalion (Georgia)—Bagram Airfield; base security<sup>10</sup>

63rd Ordnance Battalion (Lt. Col. Keith Rowsey, USA)—Bagram Airfield; explosive ordnance disposal<sup>11</sup>

TF Iron Eagle / 4th Combat Aviation Brigade (Col. Lori Robinson, USA)—Bagram Airfield; aviation support countrywide<sup>12</sup>

TF Mustang / 2-4 Aviation (USA)—Bagram Airfield; general aviation support

TF Comanche / 3-4 Aviation (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-South

TF Gambler / 4-4 Aviation (USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; aviation support for TAAC-East

Joint Task Force ODIN (USA)—Bagram Airfield; countrywide surveillance support<sup>13</sup>

Task Force Thor (Lt. Col. Bassey Bassey, USA)—Bagram Airfield; fixed-wing surveillance support<sup>14</sup>

Task Force Raven (Lt. Col. Anthony Bassey, USA)—Bagram Airfield; surveillance support<sup>15</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command Air / 438th Air Expeditionary Wing (Brig. Gen. Christopher Craige, 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. Sener Topuc, 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 / 10th Mountain Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Michael Howard, USA)—FOB Gamberi, Laghman; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps and police<sup>17</sup>**

TF Brave Rifles / 3rd Cavalry Regiment (Col. Kevin Admiral, USA)—Jalalabad Airfield; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps and police<sup>18</sup>

TF Warrior / 2-4 Infantry (Lt. Col. Christopher Fahrenbach, USA)—U/I location<sup>19</sup>

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

TF Thunder / 3-3 Cavalry (USA)—U/I location; likely supporting ANA from Jalalabad Airfield or Tactical Base Gamberi

TF Longknife / 4-3 Cavalry (Lt. Col. Ryan Howell, USA)—U/I location; likely supporting ANA from Jalalabad Airfield or Tactical Base Gamberi

TF White Eagle (Col. Dawid Kolosowski, Poland)—Bagram Airfield; supporting ANA 201st and 203rd Corps<sup>20</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command North (Brig. Gen. Hartmut Renk, Germany)—Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif; supporting ANA 209th Corps and police<sup>21</sup>**

Support Force Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; base security and support<sup>22</sup>

Expeditionary Air Wing Mazar-e-Sharif (Germany)—Camp Marmal; fixed- and rotary-wing aviation support for northern Afghanistan<sup>23</sup>

**Train, Advise, Assist Command South / 7th Infantry Division (Forward) (Brig. Gen. Tony Aguto, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th Corps and police<sup>24</sup>**

TF Warhorse / 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division (Col. Matthew Cody, USA)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA 205th Corps and police<sup>25</sup>

TF Steel Calugareni / 2-77 Field Artillery (USA) and 2nd Infantry Battalion (Romania)—Kandahar Airfield; supporting ANA in Kandahar Province

TF Cheyenne / 52nd Engineer Battalion (USA)—Kandahar Airfield; engineer support

**Task Force Forge (Brig. Gen. Andrew Rohling, USA)—Camp Shorab (former Camp Bastion), Helmand; supporting ANA 215th Corps and police<sup>26</sup>**

TF Lethal / 2-12 Infantry (USA)—Camp Dwyer, Garmsir; supporting ANA in Helmand Province

TF Catamount / 2-87 Infantry (Lt. Col. Jonathan Chung, USA)—Camp Shorab; supporting ANA in Helmand Province

## **Train, Advise, Assist Command West / “Pinerolo” Mechanized Brigade (Brig. Gen. Gianpaolo Mirra, Italy)—Camp Arena, Herat; supporting ANA 207th Corps and police<sup>27</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 June 1, 2016:*

—Relief of 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain by 3rd Cavalry Regiment in TAAC-East

## **NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> 2 RGR relieved 2 SCOTS as the Kabul Protection Unit in April 2016.

<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> 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>4</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>5</sup> 41st AS is a C-130J squadron that deployed in September 2014.

<sup>6</sup> 62nd ERS is an MQ-1 and MQ-9 drone squadron. Bagram Airfield web site.

<sup>7</sup> 83rd ERQS is an HH-60G rescue helicopter squadron.

<sup>8</sup> This F-16 squadron deployed in November 2015.

<sup>9</sup> 2-44 ADA relieved 1-265 ADA in March 2016.

<sup>10</sup> The 52nd Battalion relieved the 22nd Battalion in April 2016.

<sup>11</sup> 63rd Ordnance Battalion relieved 79th Ordnance Battalion in March 2016.

<sup>12</sup> 4th CAB relieved 101st CAB in early January 2016. See brigade Facebook page and battalion Facebook pages.

<sup>13</sup> ODIN stands for Observe-Detect-Identify-Neutralize. The most recent report confirming TF ODIN's continued existence is from December 2015.

<sup>14</sup> TF Thor operates MC-12 Liberty surveillance planes. Its current leadership arrived in October 2015.

<sup>15</sup> TF Raven's current leadership arrived in October 2015.

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

<sup>17</sup> 10th Mountain Division (Fwd) relieved 3rd ID (Fwd) as RAAC-East in October 2015.

<sup>18</sup> 3rd Cavalry Regiment relieved 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain in June 2016. See brigade and battalion Facebook pages.

<sup>19</sup> 2-4 Infantry deployed later than the rest of its parent brigade, casing its colors in mid-December 2015.

<sup>20</sup> The current command team of TF White Eagle took over in December 2015.

<sup>21</sup> The current leadership of TAAC-North arrived in December 2015.

<sup>22</sup> Unterstützungsverbandes MES replaced Partnering and Advisory Task Force MES and the Quick Reaction Unit in July 2014.

<sup>23</sup> See RC-North Facebook page.

<sup>24</sup> 7th ID (Forward) relieved 1st Cav (Forward) as TAAC-South in June 2015.

<sup>25</sup> 2nd BCT, 10th Mountain relieved 1st BCT, 101st Airborne in June 2015.

<sup>26</sup> TF Forge was established in November 2015 under Col. John Kline, whom Brig. Gen. Rohling relieved in March 2016.

<sup>27</sup> The "Pinerolo" Brigade relieved the "Aosta" Brigade as TAAC- West in late May 2015.