

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF): Training and Development



Afghan National Army soldiers parade during the Transition ceremony in Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province

ANSF capacity growth in numbers

Force Level

- ANSF currently stand as 176,350 Afghan National Army (ANA) and over 143,000 Afghan National Police (ANP).
- ANSF growth target is 352,000 by the end of 2012. Both the police and the army are well on track to reach this goal ahead of schedule.

Conduct of operations

- Afghan forces lead nearly 40% of conventional and Special Forces missions.
- Since end-January 2012, the ANSF have lead security responsibility for over 50% of the Afghan population and therefore assume leadership for both the planning and executing of operations, with a clearly reduced level of ISAF involvement. The ANSF exercise provincial-level leadership of security lines of operations and coordinates between ANSF units at the local level with limited ISAF assistance.

Training and Leadership

- 2,760 ANA instructors and 1,000 ANP instructors have been trained and certified to date.
- 68 % of ANSF had achieved first grade literacy in January 2012 from only 14% in 2009.

Women in the Armed Forces

- There are approximately 1,500 women in uniformed positions across the Afghan National Security Forces, including 215 Army officers, 1,299 police officers and five female pilots. Women currently represent approximately 3% of new ANA recruits and the numbers continue to increase steadily.

Afghan National Army and Air Force

The Afghan National Army is comprised of six Corps Headquarters and one Capital Division and more than 11,000 highly-trained Afghan Special Forces. Development of the of the ANA has moved from an infantry-centric force to a fully-fledged army composed of both fighting elements and enabling capabilities - such as military police, intelligence, route clearance, combat support, medical, aviation, and logistics.

Created in 2007, the Afghan Air Force is part of the Afghan Army and currently numbers nearly 5,240 personnel. Its 86 aircraft include gunship, attack and transport helicopters and light aircraft. The Afghan Air Force has established an airborne medical evacuation capability, providing specialised emergency medical care in remote areas. It is on its way to becoming a professional, operationally capable and sustainable force of 145 aircraft and more than 8,000 personnel by 2016.

Afghan National Police

There are several branches of Afghan National Police, including:

- **The Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP):** provides basic law and order to people in villages and districts, and includes Traffic Police, Fire and Rescue and a United Nations Protective Force.
- **The Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP):** a nationally deployable police force that works closely with the Army as part of its counter-insurgency mission. It maintains law and order utilising proportionate armed capabilities
- **The Afghan Border Police (ABP):** provides the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) with a general law enforcement capability at international borders, entry points and in the Border Security Zone, which extends approximately 50 km into Afghan territory. It is also responsible for airport security at five international airports
- **The Afghan Anti-Crime Police (AACP):** Facilitates to the regions investigative and police intelligence capabilities from the MoI. This includes Counter-Terrorism, Counter-Narcotics, Police Intelligence, Criminal Investigations, Major Crimes Task Force, Police Special Units and Forensics.

Recruitment and Vetting

Recruitment follows an eight-step vetting process, which includes endorsement by local elders, biometric data checking and medical (including drug) screening. The nation-wide programme to screen and re-validate every ANSF member already in service is on track to be completed by spring 2012.



Afghan National Police

NATO's Training, Mentoring and Advising Role in Afghanistan

NATO's Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A) was established on 21 November 2009, bringing together NATO and national training efforts under one umbrella. It works in close partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior, as well as in collaboration with the European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) and the European Gendarmerie Force. There are currently 37 nations contributing to NTM-A.

Under NTM-A's command, training and mentoring of Afghan National Security Forces is carried out by NATO's Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLTs) and Police OMLTs (POMLTs).

OMLTs consist of 11-28 personnel (depending on the type and function of the ANA unit with which it is partnered) from one or several countries. Nations contributing full OMLTs, as of 20 January 2012, are:

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|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--|
| • Albania: 1 | • Denmark: 1 | • Latvia: 1 | • Slovenia: 1 |
| • Australia: 7 | • France: 7 | • Norway: 1 | • Spain: 5 |
| • Belgium: 1 | • Germany: 8 | • Poland: 5 | • Sweden: 1 |
| • Bulgaria: 4 | • Greece: 1 | • Portugal: 2 | • Turkey: 6 |
| • Croatia: 3 | • Hungary: 1 | • Romania: 3 | • United Kingdom: 7 |
| • Czech Republic: 1 | • Italy: 9 | • Slovakia: 1 | • United States (ETTs ¹): 77 |
| | | | • Multinational: 5 ² |

Police OMLTs coach, teach, mentor, and when necessary, support the operational planning and employment of the ANP unit to which they are partnered. POMLTs are composed of 15-20 personnel from one or several countries. Nations contributing full POMLTs, as of 20 January 2012, are:

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|--------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| • Croatia: 2 | • Germany (PMTs): 2 ³ | • Netherlands: 6 | • Spain: 3 |
| • Denmark: 1 | • Italy: 4 | • Norway: 1 | • Turkey: 1 |
| • France: 5 | • Lithuania: 1 | • Poland: 8 | • United Kingdom: 12 |
| | | | • United States (PMTs): 279 ⁴ |

As transition progresses, NATO's role will continue to shift gradually from combat to a more supporting, advising and assisting function. It is expected that the ANSF will be capable of assuming full security responsibility by the end of 2014 and therefore conduct the planning, execution and synchronization of operations and combat-related tasks in an independent fashion across the country.

NATO supporting initiatives

The NATO-ANA Trust Fund

Created in 2007, the NATO-ANA Trust Fund provides a mechanism for the broader international community to support the following activities:

- The long-term sustainment of the ANA,
- ANSF long-term literacy, English language training and professional military education,
- Transportation and installation costs for equipment donations by ISAF nations to the ANA, purchase of ANA equipment and services for engineering infrastructure projects, in- and out-of-country training.

The NATO-ANA Trust Fund acts in complement of other bilateral and multinational trust funds which support the ANSF financially and with equipment donations. The US Afghan Security Forces Funding represents the most significant bilateral financial initiative. The Law and Order Trust Fund established by the United Nations Development Programme supports the Afghan Police, whereas the NATO ANA Trust Fund allows the broader international community to support the capacity and capability development of the Afghan National Army.

As of January 2012, national contributions and pledges made to the NATO-ANA Trust Fund total 461,111,106 Euros.

The NATO Equipment Donation Programme

Created in 2006, the NATO Equipment Donation Programme provides a mechanism through which Allies donate essential equipment, from uniforms and medical equipment to ammunition and helicopters.

The NATO-Russia Council (NRC) Helicopter Maintenance Trust Fund

Launched in March 2011, the NRC Trust Fund provides vitally-needed maintenance and repair capacity, including the provision of spare parts and technician training, to the Afghan Air Force helicopter fleet.

1 US Embedded Training Teams perform the same functions as OMLTs

2 Armenia, Netherlands, Finland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name) contribute to multinational OMLTs.

3 For legal reasons, the German Police Mentoring Teams (PMTs) cooperate with ISAF but are not under ISAF's command.

4 US provides Police Mentoring either through PMTs or via partnering units

February 2012

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