#### Afghan National Security Forces Order of Battle Published at *The Long War Journal* Written by CJ Radin email: <u>billroggio@gmail.com</u>

Afghan National Army (ANA)
Afghan Army National HQ – Kabul
Afghan National Army Logistics Command Headquarters
Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC)
Infantry basic training
Engineering
Communications
Medical
Intelligence
Command and Staff College
Afghan National Army Training Command
National Military Academy
Commando school (opened Spring 2007, US lead, Iraqi trainers)
Explosive ordnance disposal school, Camp Shaheen (opened October 2007)
201st Corps (Shelab/Flood) – Kabul, Major General Mangal, fully staffed
Regional logistics depot
Infantry basic training school
1st Brigade – Pulialam, Logar. Major General Qadam Shah. Area of Responsibility (AOR) Central Zone:
Logar, Maydan/Wardek, Kapisa provinces
1st Infantry Battalion
2nd Infantry Battalion
3rd Infantry Battalion
4th Combat Support Battalion
5th Combat Service Support Battalion
2nd Brigade – Pol-e-Charki. Moves to Eastern Zone by early 2008
1st Infantry Battalion
2nd Infantry Battalion
3rd Infantry Battalion
4th Combat Support Battalion
5th Combat Service Support Battalion – Nangrahar
3rd Quick Reaction Force Brigade – Jalalabad, Nangrahar. National Quick Reaction Force. Brigadier
General Zamarai. AOR Eastern Zone: Nangahar, Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman provinces
1st Commando Battalion
2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion (APC: M113, BMP1) – Nanghalem Village, Kunar
3rd Armored Battalion (T-62 tanks) – Jalalabad, Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Naseem. Operating in
Kunar.
4th Combat Support Battalion – engineering company, field artillery company,
5th Combat Service Support Battalion - Pol-e-Charki, Lieutenant Colonel Shamsuddine
4th Brigade – Operational by spring 2008

Brigade base built in Kunar

Brigade base built in Jalalabad

Dec. 5, 2007: Another base being built in Jalalabad; to be complete by Oct. 13, 2009.

**203rd Corps (Tandar/Thunder) – Gardez, Ghazni province, Major General Abdul Khaliq** Regional logistics depot

Infantry basic training school
203rd Commando Battalion – Operational Jan. 18, 2008
1st Brigade – Camp Clark, Khost
1st Infantry Battalion – Khost, Paktya
2nd Infantry Battalion – Ghazni
3rd Infantry Battalion – Gardez, Paktya
4th Combat Support Battalion
5th Combat Service Support Battalion – Paktika
2nd Brigade – Forward Operating Base Rushmore, Sharana, Paktika Province
1st Infantry Battalion
2nd Infantry Battalion – Khost/Gardez, Paktya
3rd Infantry Battalion
4th Combat Support Battalion – Khost/Gardez, Paktya
5th Combat Service Support Battalion
3rd Brigade – Operational December 2007
4th Brigade – Operational by spring 2008

Brigade base built in Paktika

# 205th Corps (Atal/Hero) – Forward Operating Base Lindsey, Camp ShirZai, Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar, Major General Rahmatullah Raufi

Regional logistics depot
Infantry basic training school
205th Commando Battalion – Operational by Jan. 31, 2008. Formerly 2/2/205th
1st Brigade – Tarin Kowt, Oruzgan
1st Infantry Battalion – Tarin Kowt, Oruzgan
2nd Infantry Battalion – Operating in Kandahar, Kandahar
3rd Infantry Battalion (Night fighters) – Tarin Kowt, Oruzgan
4th Combat Support Battalion – Tarin Kowt, Oruzgan
5th Combat Service Support Battalion
2nd Brigade – Qalat, Zabol, Brigadier General Abdul Rafik (former Muhajadeen)
1st Infantry Battalion – Zabol
2nd Infantry Battalion
3rd Infantry Battalion
4th Combat Support Battalion - Qalat, Zabol, artillery platoon (3x D30 122mm howitzers)
5th Combat Service Support Battalion
3rd Brigade – Camp Sharabak, Helmand, Brigadier General Muhayadin Ghori
1st Infantry Battalion
2nd Infantry Battalion – Camp Sharabak, Helmand
3rd Infantry Battalion – Operating in Sherwan Gar, Panjva'I district/Kandahar
4th Combat Support Battalion – Helmand (3x D30 122mm howitzers)
5th Combat Service Support Battalion
4th Brigade – Tarin Kowt, Oruzgan
4x battalions. Types unknown.
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Brigade base built in Qalat, Zabol Brigade base built in Camp Sharabak/Helmand

**207th Corps (Zabar/Victory) – Camp Zafar, Herat, Major General Jalandar Benam Shah** Regional logistics depot

Infantry basic training school

Two new battalions started training February 2008
207th Commando Battalion – Operational by April 2008
1st Brigade - Herat
1st Infantry Battalion
2nd Infantry Battalion
3rd Infantry Battalion
4th Combat Support – Ghurian
5th Combat Service Support – Farah
2nd Brigade – Farah. Starts forming early 2008. One year to fill out and train.

#### 209th Corps (Shakeen/Falcon) – Mazar-e-Sharif, Major General Marad Ali

Regional logistics depot

Infantry basic training school

A sixth battalion started training August 25, 2007

1st Brigade

1st Infantry Battalion - Kunduz. Three-month rotations to Kandahar province.

2nd Infantry Battalion - Kunduz. Three-month rotations to Kandahar province

3rd Infantry Battalion - Kunduz. Three-month rotations to Kandahar province.

4th Combat Support Battalion - Currently an HQ company with infantry and artillery; Meymana

5th Combat Service Support Battalion – Mazar-e-Sharif

March 6, 2008: Started building \$30 million base in Kunduz. To be completed by January 29, 2009

#### Organization status

61,000 - 65,000 soldiers (Spring 2008)

Ministry of Defense 2,300 (April 2007)

Sustaining Institutions 1,300 (April 2007)

Intermediate commands 6,400 (April 2007)

ANA combat forces 20,200 (April 2007)

900 NCOs (March 2008)

12 brigades formed

52 battalions (May 2008)

There are plans to add medical, evacuation, intelligence for targeting, artillery, fixed-wing attack, engineers, MP companies, and intelligence companies.

The battalion cycle for a brigade of three battalions is one on leave, one in training or available for surge operations, and one on operations.

Logistics and medical are weak.

Goal by September 2009
Units
5 corps headquarters
13 light infantry brigades
1 mechanized brigade
1 commando brigade
1 headquarters and support brigade
78 battalions
1 tank, 1 mechanized infantry, 70 infantry/combat support/combat service support
6 commando (3,900 troops) by September 2008
1 battalion per corps, 1 battalion for National Quick Reaction Force (3rd Brigade/201st
Corps)
80,000 soldiers including 9,000 officers
Kabul corps: 10,000

4 provincial corps: 50,000 Joint staff and Ministry of Defense: 10,000 Military schools: 10,000

"Standard" ANA Corps: This is the organizational goal for the ANA corps.

Commando battalion

Regional logistics depot

Military intelligence company

Engineering brigade – explosive ordnance disposal, communications

4x Light infantry Brigades – Brigade base

1st Infantry Battalion

2nd Infantry Battalion

3rd Infantry Battalion

4th Combat Support: recon company (armored vehicles), artillery battery, engineering company (force protection, demolition, mine clearance, counter mobility)

5th Combat Service Support Battalion (logistics and supply)

#### Training

### **Basic Soldier Training**

Individual training is seven weeks

Kabul Military Training Center. Each corps also has its own basic training school where recruits go for individual training before being sent to Kabul.

Further NCO courses are offered to promising students

British forces provide trainers and mentors

Advanced individual training is six weeks

Romanian forces provide trainers and mentors

Unit tactical training (collective training for squad and platoon level tactics) is two weeks

Canadians provide trainers and mentors

It is difficult to get NCOs to Kabul training facility. Therefore, Afghan-led mobile training teams are going to corps for team and squad leader training (two weeks)

#### **Officer training**

French assist in the officer training.

Officer cadet training is six months modeled on British Sandhurst College

Twelve Indian army officers and some 30 soldiers provide language skills, map reading, and basic weapon handling to the Afghan Army officers.

#### Specialist training

Germans provide trainers and mentors for armor (tanks).

Mongolians provide trainers and mentors for field artillery.

#### Mentoring in the field

Once units have competed basic training, mentoring by coalition forces is provided at their respective Corps Area of Operations.

Operational Mentor Liaison Teams (OMLTs) are equivalent to the US Embedded Training Team (ETTs). The ETTs and OMLTs mentor the ANA in leadership, staff, and support functions; planning, assessing, supporting, and execution of operations; and training doctrine, tactics,

techniques, and procedures. In addition to training and mentoring the ANA the ETTs and OMLTs provide the ANA access to combat enablers such as close air support/fires, medical evacuation, and quick reaction forces.

The following coalition partners provide OMLTs: France, Germany, Romania, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Canada, Croatia, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Slovenia, and Poland.

US forces represented by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines mentor the ANA from MoD to company level. There are 600 embedded US advisers.

80 percent of the soldiers are illiterate, 50 percent of the officers are illiterate. Only 20 percent of the soldiers have a professional knowledge of how to serve in an army; the rest are former militia fighters or young recruits.

Training 3,000 soldiers per month.

Nov. 6, 2006: Noncommissioned officer trainers for commando school started training in Jordan. April 20, 2007: 1st Military Police Company in training.

# Equipment

Transportation

5,000 Ford F 350 SORV (severe off-road vehicle) pickup trucks

2,781 trucks

#### Armored vehicles

Salvaged T55 and T62 tanks, BMP1 infantry fighting vehicles, BDRM scout vehicles 45 M113 APC and 16 M577 command vehicles

500 up-armored HUMVEEs. Goal is 5,000

## Indirect fire

58 mortars

Salvaged D-30 122mm towed howitzers

#### Small arms

M16 rifles. 5,000 U.S. M16 rifles arrive December 2007. An additional 10,000 each month after that, for a total of 60,000.

C7 rifles. Canada donating 2,500 C7 rifles (similar to M16) for the brigade in Kandahar (1st Brigade/205th Corps). The first battalion began using the weapon in the field the in February 2008.