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Flashpoints

Kabul (in particular, care should be taken in the vicinity of facilities associated with the election process and ISAF). Kandahar City, Jalalabad city (Nangarhar Province), Zabul Province and Konar Province. The Dai Chopan and Deh Rawood districts of Uruzgan Province. The Kusht District of Herat Province, the Del Khak area of Farah province

Areas of continued concern

The southern provinces bordering Pakistan including Paktika, Nangarhar, Zabul and Kandahar provinces. Also ISAF, United Nations and NGO facilities throughout the country, though the greatest risk is to those located in Pashtun areas.

The roads from Kabul to Kandahar and Herat (both northern and southern routes, as well as checkpoints on routes throughout the country, continue to be a serious security hazard).

There is a countrywide threat to voter registration stations, although those in the Pashtun heartland should be considered at greater risk.

Projections

Attacks by Taliban insurgents and al-Qaeda elements are likely to continue to escalate during the registration process, taking place in advance of the presidential and parliamentary elections now scheduled for September. Militants are likely to continue to target government facilities and aid organizations in order to disrupt reconstruction and development efforts, specifically in the Pashtun heartland but increasingly in the northern region. Personnel and facilities associated with the reconstruction effort will increasingly be at risk.

Small-scale attacks and ambushes are likely to continue against vehicles travelling along Afghanistan's main highways, as well as small-scale terrorist strikes against Afghan civilians. Such attacks are increasingly utilizing road-side IEDs – most recently involving remote detonation devices. It is likely that attacks will occur against ISAF forces – the predominant supplier of stability in the capital – ahead of September's election.

Summary

Militant elements are now attacking isolated Afghan government posts at least twice a week, resulting in a high number of casualties among Afghan soldiers and police officers.

While Islamic and Taliban associated militancy continues countrywide and is set to escalate over the coming months, it should be remembered that acts of violence are not solely attributable to such groups. Factional and tribal conflict is a feature across Afghanistan and can result in small scale engagements and escalations of violence.











There are increasing concerns among the Afghan government that the already delayed polls scheduled for September may be delayed yet again according to security concerns and differences of their timing. While Foreign Ministry spokesman Omar Samad insisted the vote would be held as promised, he acknowledged that Friday's legal deadline of 90 days notice for a September date was unlikely to be met. His comments adhere to fears expressed by the head of Afghanistan's Joint Electoral Management Body, Faruq Wardak. If their fears are realised, it is unlikely that the delay will be any longer than two weeks, but any longer could be disastrous as the winter, setting in around mid-October, would inhibit turnout.

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	1-9	Generally stable and secure
	10-19	Instability
	20-29	Hostile
	30-39	Highly unstable
	40-49	Widespread militancy
	50-59	Low intensity conflict
	60-69	Advanced guerrilla war/civil war
	70-79	Limited conventional war
	80-89	Regional war
	90-100	Total war (sub-nuclear)

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