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Flashpoints

Kabul (in particular, care should be taken in the vicinity of facilities associated with the election process). the Miana Shien district of Kandahar province, Lwara and Shkin in Paktika Province, the Khogiani and Chaprahar Districts of Nangarhar, Jalalabad, and the Shahjoy and Shinkay Districts of Zabul Province. Also the road between Khairkhana and Qala-I-Naw in Badghis province and Musa Qala in Helmand 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 Heart (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 organisations in order to disrupt reconstruction and development efforts, specifically in the Pashtun heartland but increasingly in the northern region.

Small-scale attacks are likely to continue against vehicles traveling 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.

It is also possible that over the summer tensions will increase between rival commanders throughout the country under pressure to disarm their supporters, escalating into armed clashes.

Summary











Militant elements are now attacking isolated Afghan government posts at least twice a week, resulting in an high number of casualties among Afghan soldiers and police officers. The death of four US Special Forces operatives over the last week has shown the intensity of some of the clashes. Six US soldiers were killed in action in May alone.

The death this week of 5 aid workers again underlines the specified threat to NGO personnel in Afghanistan. The threat has repeatedly been reported in previous *AKE Afghanistan Security Briefings*. While previous attacks have taken place in Nangarhar, Khost and Kandahar, this week's attack worryingly took place in the relatively quite north-east of the country. Some 20 NGO employees, including four international staff, have been killed in Afghanistan this year alone

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AKE risk ratings

	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)

For more in-depth analysis of the security situation in Afghanistan as well as other world hot spots see [Global Intake](#), AKE's online strategic information and intelligence tool.

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