



09 July 2004

Flashpoints

Kabul (in particular, care should be taken in the vicinity of facilities associated with the election process and ISAF). The Kart-e-Parwan district of Kabul, the Khogyani district of Nangarhar province, the Dai Chopan District of Zabul Province, Mazar-e Sharif, Deh Rawood district of Uruzgan province. Also the Borjak and Chakab area of Farah Province, the Shindand District to Herat Province and the Mirdawud security belt on the Herat-Kandahar highway

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 traveling along Afghanistan's main highways, as well as small-scale terrorist strikes against Afghan civilians. Such attacks are increasingly utilizing roadside 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.

It is clear from events of the last few weeks that the general threat profile for the western and central areas of Afghanistan is deteriorating. To reflect this, AKE has raised its risk rating for both areas.

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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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