



16 July 2004

Flashpoints

Kabul (in particular, care should be taken in the vicinity of facilities associated with the election process and ISAF). In particular, the Deh Araban area of Qargha District has been the scene of militant action over the last week. Khost, the Nazian and Khogyani Districts of Nangarhar Province, Kunduz City (Kunduz) Province, the Miana Shien and Arghandab Districts of Kandahar Province. Uruzgan Province. Also Chaghcharan in Ghor 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 somewhat greater risk to those in the increasingly destabilized North and West.

Projections

Attacks by Taliban insurgents and al-Qaeda elements are likely to continue to escalate during the registration and polling process, taking place in advance of the presidential elections now scheduled for October. 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 also increasingly in the northern and western regions where instability is growing. 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 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) – most recently involving remote detonation devices. Particular care should thus be taken when in transit throughout the country. It is likely that attacks will occur against ISAF forces – the predominant supplier of stability in the capital – ahead of October'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. Attacks over the last week have also specifically targeted sites and personnel associated with the election process, including the UN body in charge of the poll in both Ghor and Kandahar provinces.

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.











Over the last week the US military announced a new operation to protect the forthcoming presidential elections, now planned to take place on 9 October. The operation is likely to focus on providing support for the United Nations, the body organising the elections. Operation "Lightning Resolve," as it has been dubbed, would begin almost immediately and is likely to be read by many as a tacit admittance that security remains an issue ahead of the poll.

Following the confirmation of the planned date for presidential elections, it has also been announced that parliamentary elections will take place in April or May 2005. To date some 6.6 million people in Afghanistan have been registered to vote, with women making up more than 39 percent of all voters registered.

This is an abridged version of AKE's Afghanistan Security Briefing. The full version is sent out on Fridays and is available to subscribers. For a free 14-day trial please contact intel@akegroup.com

This email is intended for the sole use of the subscriber, who has agreed to abide by the terms and conditions of subscription, as specified [here](#).

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.

AKE provides:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Risk management services | Hostile regions training | Medical services | IT services | Legal services | Insurance services |

We also provide training and intelligence to assist with ISPS code compliance. For further details please telephone: +44 (0)20 7816 5454

If you are experiencing any problems accessing Global Intake or have any comments with the site please email globalintake@globalintake.com. Please note Global Intake is only available to subscribers.

This communication contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the intended recipient(s) and is not intended to be relied upon by any person without subsequent written confirmation of its contents. Furthermore, the content of this e-mail is the personal

view of the sender and does not represent the advice, views or opinion of AKE Ltd. Accordingly AKE Ltd disclaim all responsibility and accept no liability (including in negligence) for the consequences of any person acting, or refraining from acting, on such information prior to the receipt by those persons of subsequent written confirmation. In particular (but not by way of limitation) AKE Ltd disclaims all responsibility and accepts no liability for any e-mails which are defamatory, offensive, racist or in any other way are in breach of any third party's rights, including breach of confidence, privacy or other rights. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the security administrator immediately by e-mail to security@akegroup.com. Please also destroy and delete the message from your computer. Any form of reproduction, dissemination, copying, disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this e-mail message is strictly prohibited. AKE Ltd (Company Number 2558662) trading address is Mortimer House, Holmer Road, Hereford, HR4 9TA, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1432 267111

Copyright © AKE Ltd 2004