



28 May 2004

### Flashpoints

Kabul (in particular, care should be taken in the vicinity of facilities associated with the election process). Also the Seventh Ward and the road to Jalalabad in the city. Lashkargah in Helmand Province, Qalat in Zabul Province, the Arghistan district of Kandahar province and Waza Khwa in Paktika province. Taloqan in Takhar Province, Deh Rawood and Tirin Kot in Uruzgan Province. Chaghcharan (Ghor Province) and areas of Farah Province. Finally, the Karokh, Pashtun Zarghun, Enjil and Gozara districts of Herat 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 country-wide 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, 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











Over the past few weeks the general threat profile has increased across the country, with attacks against security forces in the south and east accompanied by attacks in the north and central provinces, tensions in the west and the killing of an ISAF soldier in the capital. Attacks against Ministry of Defence and Afghan National Army troops continue, particularly on outlying stations and checkpoints. Adding to this, there are signs that tension and violence between local warlords in the north of the country is increasing.

A specified threat persists against international aid organisations, particularly in the southern provinces of Nangarhar, Khost and Kandahar. Between 15 and 20 NGO employees have been killed in Afghanistan this year alone. All except were locally-employed Afghans since aid organisations are unwilling in the majority of cases to risk their international employees.

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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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