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Primary Role

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ISAF's primary role is to support the Government of Afghanistan (GOA) in providing and maintaining a secure environment in order to facilitate the re-building of Afghanistan.

ISAF is in Afghanistan to assist the Government of Afghanistan in ensuring a safe and secure environment that will be conducive to establishing democratic structures, to facilitate the reconstruction of the country and to assist in expanding the influence of the central government.

ISAF is here at the request of the Government of Afghanistan and operates under UN mandate with the full support of the international community. ISAF integrates its efforts with the highest levels of authority at the Government of Afghanistan, with the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), with the Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, the US-led Coalition, and with other actors of the international community.

ISAF will not depart until the mission is accomplished. This is NATO's priority mission and as such our resolve reflects the commitment of NATO to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. We will remain until the people of Afghanistan have developed government structures and security forces that are sustainable and capable of ensuring the security of all Afghans without outside support.

Provincial Reconstruction Teams

The role of PRTs is to assist the local authorities in the reconstruction and maintenance of security in the area. These are run via five Regional Commands (RCs), RC Capital located in Kabul, RC North located in Mazar-e Sharif, RC West located in Herat, RC South located in Kandahar and RC East located in Bagram. These in turn have Provincial Reconstruction Teams that report to them, 5 in the North (Kunduz, Meymaneh, Pol-e Khomri, Mazar-e Sharif and Feyzabad); 4 in the West (Herat, Farah, Qaleh-ye Now and Chaghcharan); 4 in the South (Kandahar, Lashkar Gah, Tarin Kowt and Qalat) and 12 in the East (Bagram, Bamyan, Sharan, Ghazni, Gardez, Asadabad, Jalalabad, Panjshir, Mitharlam, Khowst, Nurestan and Wardak). They are supported by Forward Support Bases (FSB) - one in Mazar-e Sharif, one in Herat, one in Kandahar and one in Bagram. There are no PRTs in RC Capital.

