New Zealand Police in Afghanistan (Operation Highlands)

NZP, n.d.[e]

peacekeeping

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New Zealand Police

Afghanistan - Operation Highlands

The first contingent of New Zealand police deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 to help rebuild and educate the local police service reform project.

The New Zealand Police unit is part of the larger United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in Bamyan province, in central highlands of Afghanistan known as 'Operation Highlands'.

General tasks

Prior to international assistance, local police in Afghanistan were often an illegitimate force and, in some areas, a law.

NZ police are working as part of a country-wide police government to:

- Instill professionalism into the police and turn the focus to combating drug cultivation, drug processing and drug trafficking
- Assist in the training of Police recruits
- Establish the Police Academy

Currently the New Zealand police are managing the Police Training Center in Bamyan Province. They are working to upskill local trainers in all areas of general policing; improve their training techniques and ensure that all members of police adhere to the curriculum training standards developed by the US Police Training Project.

Project information

New Zealand Police are part of a multi-national group that includes police officers, advisors and contracted experts from the United States, England, Sweden, Finland, Korea and Japan to assist in police reform in Afghanistan.

The New Zealand Police are co-located with the New Zealand Defence Force's Provincial Reconstruction Team also based in Bamyan. Several Provincial Reconstruction Teams are currently located throughout Afghanistan.

Timeline

- 11 September 2001 - Two commercial planes hijacked by Islamic militants fly into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon in the United States.
- September 2003 - The New Zealand Defence Force enters Bamyan Province, in central Afghanistan as part of a NATO-led Provincial Reconstruction Team.
- March 2005 - Two New Zealand Police officers arrive in Bamyan Province as part of a German-led police reform project. The NZ project is named 'Operation Highlands'.
- December 2005 - The deployment of three New Zealand officers arrive in Bamyan Province.

Related sites

- North Atlantic Treaty Association (NATO)
- New Zealand's contribution to Peace Support Operations - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Further reading

- Afghanistan - CIA World Fact Book
- Attack on Afghanistan - US Response (Flash required)
- "The Outsiders" - a National Geographic article about the Banyan Hazara people.