

NZPeace
Support
Operations

NZ Army, n.d.

Afghanistan: 2003 - Present

The twenty first and final rotation of New Zealand Defence Force personnel in the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) left Afghanistan in April 2013. The final rotation's focus was on continuing to mentor and train Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), and prepare Bamyán for the NZDF's withdrawal.

More than 3,500 Defence Force personnel have deployed to Afghanistan since late 2001, with the majority serving in Bamyán, assisted by the National Support Elements in Bagram and Dubai. There have also been four separate NZSAS deployments, and contributions to ISAF headquarters and the UN mission in Afghanistan.



"The Defence Force's active engagement with the local population and strong relationship with key leaders, coupled with development projects and community involvement, has helped to minimise influence from insurgents."

The former Chief of Defence Force, LTGEN Rhys Jones said the achievements in Bamyán were possible as a result of the security provided by the NZPRT.

Bamyán remains one of the safest provinces, and was one of the first to transition in July 2011. New Zealand Army Officer Lieutenant Colonel Sholto Stephens, who was Commanding Officer of CRIB 21 said the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) showed they are capable of getting on with the job.

"Since transition, it had to be all or nothing. Their way of doing security is quite different to how we do things back in New Zealand, but in their environment it could be more successful."

Staff Sergeant Kamal Singh previously deployed on CRIB 11 and said he had seen a number of differences on CRIB 21. *"There's more schools, more girls going to school. There's a massive difference in the roads, and there's power in houses, as well as more wells and infrastructure. The NZDF has made a massive contribution."*

"I have respect for the local people, there's poverty and the surroundings are harsh especially in winter. I believe Bamyán will be in capable hands. They've got the training, it's up to them. We were always going back home eventually."



Staff Sergeant Daniel Rosewarne deployed on CRIB 5 and saw marked changes returning on CRIB 21. *"It's good to see all the positive changes, the contributions the PRT has made to the community. It's rewarding to see first hand."*

"People are going about their daily life which is good. There's a sense of normalcy which you didn't see seven years ago. Ten years is a good amount of time here, the Afghan people now have the tools to carry on the good work. It's really pleasing to see. We've built integral relationships, and it's good to see the rapport we've built up and the influence we've had. I'm convinced it's been successful here."

NSE: National Support Element

The New Zealand National Support Element (NSE) is based at Bagram Air Force Base (BAF) about an hour and a half (60km) drive north of Kabul. Their task is to provide logistical support to NZDF personnel in Afghanistan.

Support Element: Middle East

Personnel are in the Middle East to provide a support mechanism for NZDF force elements deployed to Afghanistan and to assist co-located coalition partners.

UNAMA

The NZDF contribution to the United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA) is one officer. The officer works as a Military Liaison Officer (MLO) providing the strategic interface between multi-national forces and Afghan authorities.

ISAF: Kabul

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Afghanistan. NZDF has four staff officers and a driver attached to HQ ISAF. The senior NZ officer works on policy and planning within the ISAF HQ.

Afghanistan National Army Academy

The New Zealand Army is contributing personnel to work with the Afghanistan National Army Academy to help develop officers, warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers.

Multinational Medical unit, Khandahar

The New Zealand Army contributed special medical personnel, including surgeons, radiologists and nurses to this specialist medical unit.

Combined Team Uruzgan

The New Zealand Army contributed specialist personnel to Combined Team Uruzgan which focused on providing security support and training to the Afghan National Security Forces and governance capacity building and development aid to the Afghan government.

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