

Peace Support operations

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NZP, n.d.[e]

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## New Zealand Police

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### Afghanistan - Operation Highlands

The first contingent of New Zealand police officers arrived in Afghanistan in 2005 to help rebuild and educate the local police service as part of a reform project.

The New Zealand Police unit is part of larger NATO-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Bamyan province, in central highlands of Afghanistan, known as 'Operation Highlands'.

#### General tasks

Prior to international assistance, local police in Afghanistan had a large proportion of the police force was illiterate and, in some areas, very low.

NZ police are working as part of a country-wide police reform project funded by the New Zealand 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 up-skill 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 is 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.
- **7 October 2001** - The US-led 'Operation Enduring Freedom' commences in Afghanistan.
- **September 2003** - The New Zealand Defence Force enters Bayman Province, in central Afghanistan as part of a NATO-led Provincial Reconstruction Team.
- **March 2005** - Two New Zealand Police officers arrive in Bayman 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 Bayman Province.

#### Related sites

- [New Zealand Defence Force in Afghanistan](#) - Wikipedia
- [North Atlantic Treaty Association \(NATO\)](#)
- [New Zealand's contributions to Peace Support Operations](#) Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### Further reading

- [Operation Enduring Freedom](#) - Wikipedia
- [Afghanistan](#) - CIA World Fact Book

# peacekeeping

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