

# COALITION, ANSF, AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN THE AFGHAN CONFLICT

FROM 2001 THROUGH AUGUST 2012

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It is hard to put the current focus on green on blue casualties into perspective. There are no reliable estimates of green on blue, ANSF, and Afghan civilian casualties, and serious definitional problems in deciding what to report. The only reliable, regularly updated public data on US and Coalition killed and wounded comes from the US Department of Defense – although reliable data seem to be available on total Coalition killed.

Nevertheless, enough data are available from a range of sources to provide a broad perspective on current reporting green on blue casualties, and how they relate to the trends in other forms of casualties in the war.

### **Green on Blue Casualties vs. Green on Green and Total Coalition Casualties**

A statistical analysis of Coalition casualties based on iCasualty and DoD data -- and available data on Afghan casualties -- is attached. It shows that Green on blue casualties are important, but it is important to note that IEDs -- while attack and death numbers are dropping -- remain the key source of deaths. Green on blue deaths in August were only 15 out of 53, or 28%. The analysis also shows the trend in total Coalition deaths is dropping: The total of 53 casualties for August 2012 is the highest in 2012 -- but is typical of the patterns during the campaign season and compares with 82 in 2011 and 79 in 2010.

Unclassified estimates are not available green on green casualties, and the unclassified data on the scale and intensity of the war by area only go through 2011.

### **The Misleading Nature of Focusing on “Killed,” Versus Killed and Wounded and Other Forms of Casualties**

It should also be stressed that while ISAF, the media, and NGO counts only include killed in the total of casualties, the dictionary defines casualties as including wounded. The UN counts of casualties shown later show that wounded or injured are a critical measure of the impact of the war and trends in the fighting.

The Department of Defense estimates show that the US wounded in the Afghan conflict totaled 17,382 as of August 31, 2012, or more than 10 times the number of US killed in combat (1,650) and eight times the total US dead (1,980). To put these totals in perspective, the DoD count for Iraq as of the same data was 31,926 as of August 31, 2012, or about 9 times the number of US killed in combat (3,488) and seven times the total US dead (4,422). Iraq casualties were roughly twice the totals for Afghanistan.

The US, UN, and NGO various counts of killed and wounded by month show a weak correlation between the monthly totals for killed versus wounded, which makes the total killed a poor measure of the intensity of the fighting. Moreover, such counts do not really serve as useful measures for the ANSF or Afghan people. ANSF forces that do not engage actively or have limited patrol activity do not have high casualties, but limit their activity to avoid them.

Civilians – as is discussed in more detail later – may also have limited numbers of killed and wounded in given areas, but be subject to insurgent control, intimidation, kidnappings, displacement, and unreported killings and violence of other kinds. ISAF's failure to report on such areas of activity, metrics, and even narrative trends makes it almost impossible to put civilian casualties in perspective or relate them to the overall trends in the insurgency.

### **Weak and Uncertain Data on Casualty Trends by Area and on the Shifting Intensity of the Fighting**

Casualties data indicate that the totals for killed by province for 2001-2011 are highest in the south. Helmand has the highest total at 887, followed by Kandahar at 497. Konar in the East is next at 177, followed by Kabul at 165. The next four highest are all in the central-southeast: 116 for Zabol, 104 for Ghazni, 102 for Zabol, and 136 for Paktikia, Oruzgan in the south-center has 68. Casualties in the north are still low, but Herat in the West has 52, and Farah has 49. Nimroz in the southwest has only 6. The total in Wardak is rising: 54 in 2011 out of a total of 111.

It should be noted that other reports that state only three to four provinces dominate deaths are technically accurate, but misleading. The two provinces in the south contribute to high levels of casualties, but counting three provinces country wide understates the spread of the conflict and the seriousness of the fighting in the East -- even if one ignores Afghan casualties. Six provinces in the east have over 100 deaths, and the spread between them is not great enough to justify a top three count that only includes one.

In fact, the total casualties in the four medium-sized provinces in the central southeast total 458, and the two highest in the northeast total 342. Maps of total casualties by province and district -- and trend counts on this basis -- do show very real differences, but top province counts are inaccurate analytic spin designed to minimize the scale of the fighting.

### **Uncertain Counts of Afghan Forces and Insurgent Casualties**

The lack of reliable official analyses of the total and trend data on killed and wounded in Afghan and insurgent forces is a key issue in measuring the success of Transition. However, no meaningful public data are available on insurgent casualties. The ANSF casualty data shown in the attached analysis indicate the total deaths are now well over 4,000, and it seems likely they are growing faster than those of ISAF.

An unofficial estimate by Wahid Mujid in the Pakistan *Daily Times* for July 30, 2012 estimates that,

According to latest figures, Afghan security forces have been dying at five times the rate of NATO soldiers, as Taliban insurgents stepped up the attacks ahead of the withdrawal of foreign troops in 2014. Government figures showed that compared to 165 NATO troops, 853 Afghan soldiers and police were killed in the past four months. President Hamid Karzai had already warned in May that the Afghan death toll would rise, as the US-led troops would start withdrawing. ISAF and Afghanistan's interior ministry have noted a surge of 11 percent in attacks in recent months. Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Seddiqi said that there had been a surge in casualties suffered by police in the past four months with 635 killed and 1,246 wounded. He said that 1,730 insurgents had also been killed over the same period.

Given the data in other estimates, it seems likely that the number of Afghan forces with serious wounds is roughly twice the total of ANSF killed. No meaningful wounded data included lighter ANSF wounds and allow comparison with US and ISAF wound data.

## **Afghan Civilian Casualties**

The UN issued a report on August 8, 2012 stating that,

“The United Nations welcomes the reduction in civilian casualties, but we must remember that Afghan children, women and men continue to be killed and injured at alarmingly high levels,” the Secretary-General’s Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan...during the first half of the year, conflict-related violence led to 1,145 civilian deaths and 1,954 injuries. While these figures represent a 15 per cent decrease compared to last year, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan ([UNAMA](#)) stressed that more needs to be done protect civilians.

The 3,099 civilian casualties documented in this report were ordinary Afghans struggling to go about their daily lives in the midst of an armed conflict,” said Mr. Haysom, adding that out of the 3,099 casualties, 925 were women and children. “I call on all parties to the conflict to increase their efforts to protect civilians from harm and to respect the sanctity of human life.”

... anti-Government elements were responsible for 80 per cent of civilian casualties, down 15 per cent from the same time period in 2011. UNAMA documented that Pro-Government forces were responsible for 10 per cent of the civilian casualties, down 25 per cent on the previous year, while the remaining 10 per cent of the casualty total could not be attributed to any party in the conflict.

The report also notes that while overall casualties have decreased, attacks against schools have increased and the Taliban’s interference in the running of schools has impact on children’s access to education, especially girls...During the first six months of the year, UNAMA verified 34 attacks, including cases of burnings of school buildings, targeted killings and intimidation of teachers and school officials, armed attacks against and occupation of schools and closures, particularly of girls’ schools.

“It is extremely worrying that attacks against schools have increased so dramatically,” said acting head of UNAMA’s Human Rights Unit, James Rodehaver. “These attacks not only put children at risk of harm, but also seriously impede their access to education, which is a fundamental human right.”

The report also states that improvised explosive devices (IEDs) continue to be one of the biggest threats to civilians. They account for 33 per cent of all casualties, higher than any other cause. This figure goes up to 53 per cent when taking into account suicide and complex attacks which used IEDs.

“Victim-activated improvised explosive devices are illegal, as they fail to distinguish between civilians and combatants...This heinous weapon has killed or maimed the greatest number of Afghan civilians during the conflict and I call on the Taliban to cease their use.”

The report also documents human rights abuses against civilians in seven provinces across the country, many of which were not investigated or prosecuted by the Afghan local police. Local residents also raised with UNAMA their concerns over human rights abusers being recruited into the police force....”Impunity for human rights abuses only emboldens the perpetrators,” said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay. “Violations must be duly investigated, perpetrators brought to justice and the victims granted remedies. Holding violators accountable is a crucial step towards improving security for Afghan women, men and children.”

ISAF’s steady tightening of its rule of engagement, and an insurgent’s shift to a more political struggle with less focus on tactical combat does seem to have cut civilian casualties during the first half of 2012. At the same time, however, while the UN estimates a decline in civilian casualties during the first half of the year, the 1,145 for 2012 still compares with a peak of 1,510 in 2011 – during the most intense fighting in the surge. The total of 1,145 also compares with a nearly similar 1,267 during the beginning of the surge. It also is higher than the 684 to 1,054 recorded during 2007-2009. Moreover, the UN estimates of total civilian wounded show a much lower rate of decline in spite of shifts in insurgent tactics and insurgent claims to be seeking to limit civilian casualties other than Afghan officials.

These data also need to be kept in careful perspective. The UN estimates are uncertain, and systematic reporting only goes back to 2007. There are no meaningful estimates of total civilians killed during the entire course of the war, only similarly limited estimates of civilians hurt or wounded, and no unclassified estimates of the numbers of civilians affected by extortion and corruption, and no credible estimates of civilians kidnapped.

## **The Full Range of Casualties: The Need to Focusing on the Overall Impact of the Insurgency and Failures in Afghan Governance and Forces -- Rather than Just Killed And Injured**

These are not minor issues. The focus on civilians killed may favor ISAF, but is disguises critical problems in official reporting on the impact of the war, and the trends in the insurgency. For example, the UN report of August 8, 2012 states that, "As of 30 June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that conflict-related violence had displaced approximately 114,900 people in Afghanistan of which 17,079 were newly displaced in the first half of 2012. Conflict-induced displacement in the first six months of 2012 is 14 percent higher than in the same period last year." This means that the human impact of the fighting displaced some 15 times as many Afghans – most living at or below the poverty level – as it killed.

There is an almost total lack of detailed public US or ISAF methodology for making such estimates, and their consistent failure to provide any meaningful public estimates of insurgent attacks and intimidation by area or trend, and recent efforts to map the shifts in insurgent influence in useful detail.

The UN addresses these issues in a far more frank and realistic way than any official US and ISAF reporting, as do many NGO and media reports (See the work of ANSO). Ironically, it is only official military reporting that makes no meaningful public attempt to report on the real-world patterns that dominate the overall course of the insurgency.

The UN report on Casualties of August 8, 2012 – which is summarized in the charts provided later in this report – provides an overview of just how important such reporting really is to any understanding of the fighting and the real-world prospects for Transition:

UNAMA's discussions with Afghans in rural communities across the country reflected a common perception that Anti-Government elements exercise de facto control of areas or entire districts in many regions of Afghanistan. Despite the Government of Afghanistan control over the majority of the country, communities consistently expressed that Anti-Government Elements present themselves to the local population as an alternative to the Government. People informed UNAMA consistently that Anti-Government Elements abused human rights with impunity, including killings, amputations, abductions and beatings, which served to impede the enjoyment of human rights such as freedom of movement, access to education, freedom of expression and the right to effective remedy in areas where there was limited government control or presence.

As many of those areas have been under the partial control of Anti-Government Elements, including the Taliban, in recent years, the human rights and protection issues reviewed in this section do not necessarily reflect new trends. Rather the views expressed may present a picture of the conditions under which those local communities interviewed have lived over an extended period.

Many community members interviewed by UNAMA reported a direct correlation between insecurity and the absence of a government in their communities. Communities from the more insecure areas, particularly those under the effective control of Anti-Government Elements, reported a lack of Pro-Government Forces in their villages. In many districts, interviewees noted that the ANSF presence primarily focused on protecting district centers.

... In the southern, southeast and eastern regions of Afghanistan, entire districts and in some cases, almost entire provinces are, to varying extents, controlled Anti-Government Elements. Local residents informed UNAMA that large portions of Paktika and Khost provinces in the south-east are considered by as being almost completely controlled by Anti-Government Elements, with the exception of the district and provincial capitals. In the northern provinces of Balkh, Sari Pul, Faryab and Jawzjan communities described pockets or areas within specific districts. A similar situation was noted in specific districts in the central region provinces of Kabul (only in Surobi district), Kapisa, Parwan and in large areas of Logar and Maidan Wardak. Communities in the western provinces of Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah reported that Anti-Government Elements maintain a presence in some areas outside of the district centres. Interlocutors reported the presence of Anti-Government Elements in the northeastern provinces of Baghlan, Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar. In the central highlands region, there are no areas under the control of Anti-Government Elements. Civilians living in border areas with other provinces, however, are impacted by the presence of Anti-Government Elements along those borders.

As the presence of ANSF and government authorities in many places is limited to district centres, Anti-Government Elements continue to move within areas either in order to assume effective control of communities or to harass and intimidate local residents into supporting them. Many members of these affected communities also consistently voiced dissatisfaction with the Government and in some areas expressed ideological support to Anti-Government Elements groups who they viewed as an alternative to the government which they often characterized as corrupt.

Communities interviewed also noted that ISAF and ANSF often conduct operations in known Anti-Government Elements controlled areas, and then immediately withdraw back to district centres, thus allowing Anti-Government Elements to maintain a presence. UNAMA has received numerous reports of night patrols and mobile checkpoints set up by Anti-Government Elements on rural roads. UNAMA has also received reports that in some areas controlled by Anti-Government Elements, operations by Pro-Government Forces have decreased in the last six months, such as Jawand district of Badghis province. In Passaband district, Ghor province, the community reported that no international military or ANSF operations have taken place in the last six months, raising concerns within the community that the resulting security vacuum will eventually be exploited by Anti-Government Elements.

In locations where the Taliban or other Anti-Government groups have been unable to win public support, harassment and punishment of local population has often followed. For example in Andar district of Ghazni province, following local communities' opposition to Taliban actions, on 20 and 23 June, 2012, Taliban forces burned down four local houses.

Areas under the effective control of Anti-Government Elements often have very limited access to governmental justice mechanisms or services. Anti-Government Elements are taking advantage of this rule of law vacuum to enforce their own parallel judicial structures in many affected areas to take decisions in criminal cases, disputes and, in some cases, to try and/ or punish persons suspected of collaborating with Pro-Government Forces. These judicial structures are illegal and have no legitimacy under the laws of Afghanistan. The severe punishments meted out by these structures amount to criminal acts under the laws of Afghanistan, and in some circumstances, war crimes. Due to the inherent illegality of these mechanisms, UNAMA views the existence of these structures and resulting punishments as abuses of human rights. Thus UNAMA's analysis does not evaluate the procedural elements reported by communities according to recognized international human rights standards, for example, fair trial standards. UNAMA has documented many cases of Anti-Government Elements murdering or mutilating persons suspected of collaborating with Pro-Government Forces after carrying out a 'public hearing'.<sup>51</sup> Compounding the absence of functioning and transparent lawful judicial proceedings is the absence of government redress mechanisms for victims of human rights abuses carried out by parallel judicial structures run by Anti-Government Elements.



Government-appointed judges and prosecutors are often unable to remain in communities described by local residents as under the effective control of the Taliban, due to insecurity. Such officials are at a particular risk of being assassinated by Anti-Government Elements....For example in the eastern region, UNAMA documented targeted killings of judges in Bishud district of Nangarhar province and Qarghayi district of Laghman province and the abduction of a district prosecutor in Dara-i-Pech, Kunar province. In many districts in Uruzgan province, there are currently no officially appointed judges and prosecutors present in their districts largely due to insecurity and threats.<sup>53</sup> Targeted killings, abduction and intimidations have created a climate of fear among officials and deter them from taking up positions and working in these areas. Access to justice is further impeded by large gaps in the rule of law. Anti-Government Elements have been able to exert influence most readily in remote areas of districts where communities are not able to easily access the official justice institutions in the district centres. Many community members interviewed by UNAMA also expressed reservations about the ability of the official justice system to resolve cases in a fair, timely or transparent manner, citing corruption and incompetence as key factors for their doubts. Moreover, many interviewees reported that Anti-Government Elements exert significant pressure and intimidation on local populations to force them to comply with their parallel judicial structures.

UNAMA has reviewed the proceedings from several hearings and observed a few common factors. Whereas some judicial mechanisms are convened on an ad hoc basis when members of the Taliban attend local *shurah* and jirga meetings and intervene in those proceedings, other structures are more regular and functional.<sup>56</sup> Even when a more regular parallel structure is in place, however, it is usually mobile. In some areas, communities reported that more serious criminal cases are handled by a Taliban operated court in Quetta, Pakistan. For example, community members in Ghazni province reported that the local Taliban judicial commissions deal with smaller criminal cases, but refer more serious cases (that involve death penalties) to Quetta. Similarly, in Uruzgan province, a local primary court judge and a Provincial Council member reported that a Taliban judicial structure is in place and adjudicates criminal cases locally, while serious cases are referred to a Taliban court in Quetta.<sup>57</sup> In practice, parallel judicial structures sometimes operate in a 'complementary' manner to local informal judicial mechanisms led by tribal elders and local *shurahs*. Communities in certain parts of Jawzjan province reported that the Taliban allows the local informal judicial mechanisms to resolve social and family disputes, but reserves the right to resolve criminal cases through their own courts. In other areas, Anti-Government Elements appoint shadow prosecutors and judges to deal with criminal cases. These shadow officials maintain a regular presence, adjudicate cases and pass verdicts. For example, in Tirin Kot district of Uruzgan province, ANP and NDS sources confirmed that a Taliban shadow judge actively adjudicates cases.

UNAMA documented procedural details of a Taliban parallel judicial structure in Paktika province, following the arrest of a suspected Taliban judge by ANSF and International Military on 8 March, 2012. The ANSF investigation and subsequent NDS indictment indicated that the suspect had been appointed by the Taliban to lead a local Taliban judicial commission.<sup>58</sup> The commission was composed of five persons led by the suspect, with criminal and civil proceeding being adjudicated in a village madrassa. The suspect was accused of murdering four persons, through sentencing them to death, including a past governor of Ghazni province... .. Anti-Government Elements routinely limit the freedom of movement of civilians in areas they operate and effectively control, either through controlling mobile or permanent checkpoints, enforcing explicit restrictions on movement, or imposing taxes on travelers. Additionally, many community members expressed that they do not move freely due to fears of being targeted or attacked by Anti-Government Elements operating along public roads or due to the prominent planting of IEDs on access roads. Individuals interviewed from most regions complained of harassment at ad hoc checkpoints by groups of armed men stopping vehicles, interrogating passengers, confiscating property and in some cases checking mobile phones<sup>67</sup> in order to find evidence of links with Pro-Government Forces.<sup>68</sup> Since very often the roads controlled by Anti-Government Elements are the only means to access district centres, the existence of mobile or permanent checkpoints infringes the right to freedom of movement, considerably impacting on civilian livelihoods and their right to employment. This impacts farmers in particular when they cannot travel to the district centres to sell their produce. For example, in a district in Balkh province, community members reported that due to the existence of Taliban checkpoints and insecurity on the roads to the district capital, many farmers have been forced to sell their produce in the local villages. This has resulted in loss of income and rise in poverty especially among farmers.

... UNAMA received reports of Anti-Government Elements imposing illegal taxes in almost all areas under their partial or full control. Most commonly, Anti-Government Elements operated checkpoints to extort money from civilian travelers. Many interviewees throughout the country told UNAMA that Anti-Government Elements justified the taxes as necessary to apply and pay for permits to travel out of the region. UNAMA also received reports in some areas that Anti-Government Elements imposed taxes on teachers in local schools.

In some parts of the eastern region, Anti-Government Elements extort ushar (10 percent on agriculture produce) and Zakat (2.5 percent on savings) from community members.<sup>70</sup> In the eastern region, these taxes are largely collected in practice through the village Imam, who acts as a proxy for the Taliban for these purposes.

UNAMA also received reports, particularly from areas where the local population relies on poppy cultivation, that Anti-Government Elements specifically imposed taxes on poppy farmers, sometimes in exchange for protection services against drug eradication campaigns. This was reported to be the case in Shindand district of Herat province and with poppy farmers in eastern Afghanistan.

The ability of Anti-Government Elements to freely extort taxes from local populations reflects the limited degree of governance over these areas. Contrary to the aims of a government run system of tax collection, however, these illegal taxes are not intended to fund public services or other forms of benefit to local communities, and are most likely used to support self-sustainability of Anti-Government Elements and insurgency operations.

... Some community residents interviewed indicated that Anti-Government Elements expect them to house fighters or to allow them to use their property for their operations. Housing fighters can extend to providing either accommodation for a few nights or shelter from Pro-Government Forces during clearing or search operations. In areas of Baghlan province controlled by Anti-Government Elements, locals received night letters ordering them to keep the doors to their houses open at night to accommodate members of the Taliban. In some areas of Nangarhar province, Anti-Government Elements used local farm lands as hiding places or bases to launch attacks against Pro-Government Forces.

Communities in Faryab province reported to UNAMA that during the day, Anti-Government Elements confiscate motorcycles from the communities, using them to 'patrol' the area, and often hide inside local houses for protection from Afghan National Security Forces.

Use of civilian houses and farms for protection of Anti-Government Elements, or as staging grounds for their attacks, heightens the vulnerability of civilians and clearly risks implicating them in anti-government activities in the eyes of international military forces and Afghan National Security Forces. Contrary to international humanitarian law, which explicitly prohibits the use of civilians as human shields, such actions are intended to blur the distinction between combatants and non-combatants, broadening the scope for civilian casualties.

The UN also reports insurgent pressure on freedom of expression, education, and access to medical services. It is difficult to see how ISAF governments and military forces fighting an insurgency -- and dealing with a war of political attrition -- can credibly talk about patterns in the war, its momentum, and plans for Transition without explicitly addressing these issues in detail.



### Operation Iraqi Freedom

#### Iraq Coalition Military Fatalities By Year

Year	US	UK	Other	Total
2003	486	53	41	580
2004	849	22	35	906
2005	846	23	28	897
2006	823	29	21	873
2007	904	47	10	961
2008	314	4	4	322
2009	149	1	0	150
2010	60	0	0	60
2011	54	0	0	54
2012	1	0	0	1
Total	4486	179	139	4804



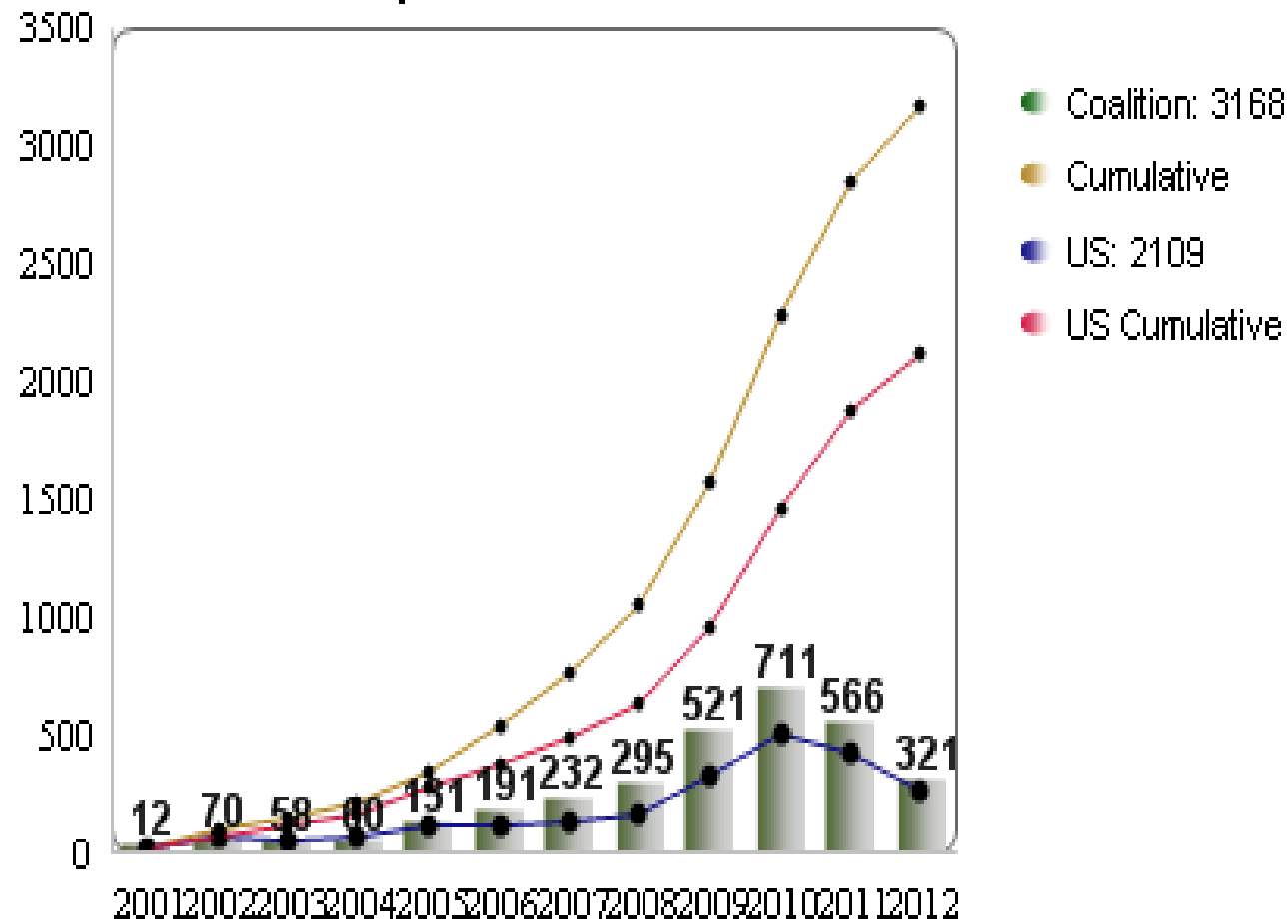
### Operation Enduring Freedom/Afghanistan

#### Afghanistan Coalition Military Fatalities By Year

Year	US	UK	Other	Total
2001	12	0	0	12
2002	49	3	18	70
2003	48	0	10	58
2004	52	1	7	60
2005	99	1	31	131
2006	98	39	54	191
2007	117	42	73	232
2008	155	51	89	295
2009	317	108	96	521
2010	499	103	109	711
2011	418	46	102	566
2012	245	31	45	321
Total	2109	425	634	3168

Source: <http://icasualties.org/OEF/ByYear.aspx>, September 2, 2102

## Coalition Deaths by Year



Source: <http://icasualties.org/OEF/ByYear.aspx>, September 2, 2102

## Coalition Military Fatalities By Year and Month

Coalition U.S.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	4	12
2002	10	13	15	10	1	3	0	3	1	5	1	8	70
2003	4	7	12	2	3	7	2	4	2	6	8	1	58
2004	11	2	3	3	9	5	2	4	4	8	7	2	60
2005	2	3	6	19	4	29	2	33	12	10	7	4	131
2006	1	17	13	5	17	22	19	29	38	17	9	4	191
2007	2	18	10	20	25	24	29	34	24	15	22	9	232
2008	14	7	20	14	23	46	30	46	37	19	12	27	295
2009	25	25	28	14	27	38	76	77	70	74	32	35	521
2010	43	53	39	34	51	103	88	79	57	65	58	41	711
2011	32	38	39	51	56	66	53	82	53	42	27	27	566
2012	34	24	39	39	45	39	46	53	2	0	0	0	321

Source: <http://icasualties.org/OEF/ByYear.aspx>, September 2, 2102



Source: <http://icasualties.org/OEF/ByYear.aspx>, September 2, 2102

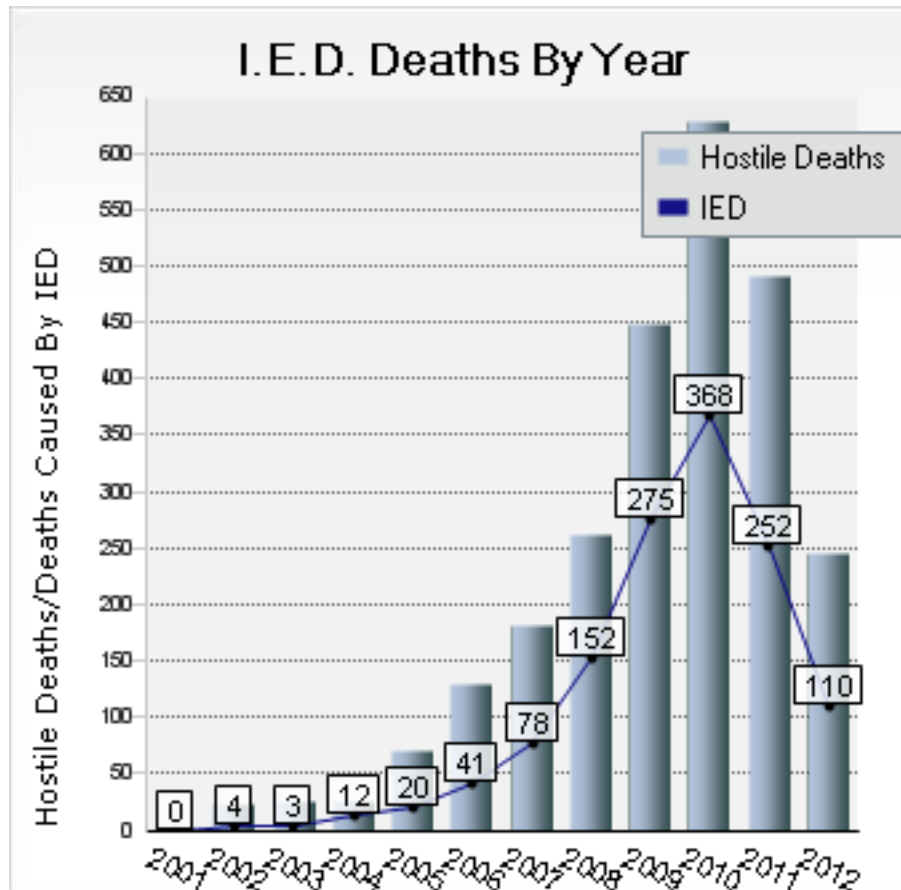
Period	Albania	Australia	Belgium	Canada	Czech	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Georgia	Germany	Hungary	Italy	Jordan	Latvia	Lithuania	NATO	Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Romania	South Korea	Spain	Sweden	Turkey	United Kingdom	United States	Total
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
2002	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	49	70
2003	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	48	58
2004	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	52	60
2005	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	18	2	0	1	99	131
2006	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	39	98	191
2007	0	3	0	30	1	6	2	1	3	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	0	2	1	1	1	1	4	0	0	42	117	232
2008	0	3	0	32	2	13	1	0	11	0	3	2	2	0	1	1	0	6	0	0	7	0	3	0	2	0	0	51	155	295
2009	0	4	1	32	0	7	4	0	11	0	7	0	9	1	2	0	0	3	0	1	8	0	3	0	1	0	2	108	317	521
2010	0	10	0	16	0	9	1	0	16	5	9	2	12	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	6	0	6	0	4	3	0	103	499	711
2011	0	11	0	4	2	3	1	1	26	5	7	3	8	1	0	0	6	0	4	1	13	0	2	0	4	0	0	46	418	566
2012	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	31	245	321
	1	38	1	158	5	42	9	2	86	11	53	7	47	2	3	1	12	25	11	10	35	2	19	1	34	5	14	425	2109	3168

### U.S. Fatalities in and around Afghanistan

Country of Death	Fatalities
Afghanistan	1934
Bahrain	2
Germany (from wounds in theatre)	29
Indonesia	1
Kuwait	2
Pakistan	15
Qatar	1
Southwest Asia	1
USA (from wounds in theatre)	33
Uzbekistan	1
Total	2019

Source: <http://icasualties.org/OEF/ByYear.aspx>, September 2, 2102





## IED Fatalities

<b>Period</b>	<b>IED</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pct</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16.00</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11.54</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>44.44</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>27.40</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>31.54</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>42.39</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>57.79</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>60.98</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>58.41</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>51.22</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>44.35</b>

Totals for casualties by province are highest in the south. Helmand has the highest total at 887, followed by Kandahar at 497. Konar in the East is next at 177, followed by Kabul at 165. The next four highest are all in the central-southeast: 116 for Zabol, for, 104 for Ghazni , 102 for Zabol, and 136 for Paktikia , Oruzgan in the south-center has 68. Casualties in the north are still low, but Herat in the West has 52, and Farah has 49. Nimroz in the southwest has only 6. The total in Wardak is rising: 54 in 2011 out of a total of 111.

It should be noted that count that state three provinces dominate deaths are accurate, but almost totally misleading. The two provinces in the south do amount to high levels of casualties, but six provinces in the east have over 100, and the spread between them is not great enough to justify a top three count. In fact, the total casualties in the four medium-sized provinces in the central southeast total 458, and the two highest in the northeast total 342. Maps of total casualties by province and district – and trend counts on this basis -- do show very real differences, but top province counts are inaccurate analytic spin designed to minimize the scale of the fighting.

**Fatalities by Province**

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Total</b>
Albania	1	Badghis	35
Australia	38	Baghlan	17
Canada	158	Bamyan	10
Czech	5	Farah	49
Denmark	42	Faryab	16
Estonia	9	Ghazni	104
Finland	2	Ghowr	2
France	86	Helmand	887
Georgia	11	Herat	52
Germany	53	Kabul	165
Hungary	7	Kapisa	61
Italy	47	Lowgar	55
Jordan	2	Nangarhar	46
Latvia	3	Nimruz	6
Lithuania	1	Kandahar	497
NATO	12	Kondoz	29
Netherlands	25	Takhar	3
New Zealand	11	Wardak	116
Norway	10	Zabol	102
Poland	35	Paktika	136
Portugal	2	Balkh	22
Romania	19	Jowzjan	4
South Korea	1	Samangan	1
Spain	34	Konar	177
Sweden	5	Laghman	25
Turkey	14	Paktia	18
UK	422	Khost	47
US	2019	Nurestan	36
		Oruzgan	68
		Parvan	61
		Panjshir	3

## Coalition Fatalities by Year and Province

Province	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Afghanistan	0	2	0	1	1	1	3	2	3	4	1	23
Badghis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	12	8	35
Baghlan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	7	16
Balkh	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	4	7	1	20
Bamiyan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bamyan	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	10
Eastern Afghanistan	0	9	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	3	23
Farah	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	14	15	9	4	48
Faryab	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	7	3	16
Ghanzi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Ghazni	0	0	6	11	15	3	3	8	7	11	24	102
Ghowr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Helmand	0	0	3	1	1	31	62	79	172	290	141	857
Herat	0	0	0	0	21	0	5	3	6	4	9	52
Jowzjan	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Kabul	0	16	9	10	4	10	13	19	21	18	22	161
Kandahar	3	9	2	1	15	40	24	52	76	105	91	484
Kapisa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	12	12	25	60
Khost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10
Khowst	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	9	9	10	9	45
Konar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Kunar	0	0	1	2	27	25	11	21	18	38	22	174
Kunduz	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	9	10	3	28
Laghman	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	2	3	2	9	24
Logar	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	1	4	14	15	51
NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Nangarhar	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	8	2	10	7	41
Nimroz	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	6
Northern Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Not reported yet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nuristan	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	2	12	1	0	35
Oruzgan	0	0	0	6	3	12	11	11	11	8	4	68
Paktia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	18
Paktika	0	3	8	4	9	7	21	20	16	18	16	129
Panjshir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Parwan	0	1	11	3	2	2	8	7	9	5	6	58
Samangan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Southern Afghanistan	0	1	0	0	0	16	12	0	11	11	6	64
Tachar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Takhar	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Unknown	0	2	0	2	1	5	4	7	4	0	0	25
Uruzgan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	19
Wardak	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	27	9	54	111
Western Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6
Zabul	0	0	1	5	13	2	10	2	22	37	7	101

<b>OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) U.S. CASUALTY STATUS *</b> <b>FATALITIES AS OF: August 31, 2012, 10 a.m. EDT</b>				
	Total Deaths	KIA	Non-Hostile	WIA
OIF U. S. Military Casualties	4,409	3,479	930	31,926
OIF U.S. DoD Civilian Casualties	13	9	4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,422</b>	<b>3,488</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>31,926</b>
<b>OPERATION NEW DAWN (OND) U.S. CASUALTY STATUS **</b> <b>FATALITIES AS OF: August 31, 2012, 2012, 10 a.m. EDT</b>				
	Total Deaths	KIA	Non-Hostile	WIA
OND U. S. Military Casualties	66	38	28	301
OND U.S. DoD Civilian Casualties	0	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>301</b>

<b>OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) U.S. CASUALTY STATUS FATALITIES AS OF: August 31, 2012, 10 a.m. EDT</b>				
OEF U.S. Military Casualties	Total Deaths	KIA	Non-Hostile	WIA
Afghanistan Only***	1,980	1,650	330	17,382
Other Locations****	118	12	106	
OEF U.S. DoD Civilian Casualties	3	1	2	
<b>Worldwide Total</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>17,382</b>

\* OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM includes casualties that occurred between March 19, 2003, and August 31, 2010, in the Arabian Sea, Bahrain, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Persian Gulf, Qatar, Red Sea, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates. Prior to March 19, 2003, casualties in these countries were considered OEF. Personnel injured in OIF who die after 1 September 2010 will be included in OIF statistics.

\*\* OPERATION NEW DAWN includes casualties that occurred between September 1, 2010, and December 31, 2011, in the Arabian Sea, Bahrain, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Persian Gulf, Qatar, Red Sea, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates. Personnel injured in OND who die after 31 December 2011 will be included in OND statistics.

\*\*\* OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (Afghanistan only), includes casualties that occurred in Afghanistan only.

\*\*\*\* OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (Other Locations), includes casualties that occurred in Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

## Wikipedia Data on Yearly totals per the Afghan Defense and Interior Ministry

*Note, these annual numbers are per the Afghan calendar which starts on March 21 of the Gregorian calendar.*

### Police fatalities (per specific time periods reported)

Period	Number of killed			
August 1, 2011-August 31, 2011	40 <sup>[5]</sup>			
July 1, 2011-July 31, 2011	176 <sup>[6]</sup>			
June 1, 2011-June 30, 2011	246 <sup>[6]</sup>			
May 1, 2011-May 31, 2011	115 <sup>[7]</sup>			
April 1, 2011-April 30, 2011	110 <sup>[7]</sup>			
March 21, 2010-March 20, 2011	1,360 <sup>[8]</sup>			
March 21, 2009-March 20, 2010	1,410 <sup>[9]</sup>			
March 21, 2008-March 20, 2009	1,290 <sup>[10]</sup>			
March 21, 2007-March 20, 2008	1,119 <sup>[11]</sup>			
March 21, 2006-March 20, 2007	630 <sup>[12]</sup>			
June 1, 2005-July 31, 2005	50 <sup>[13]</sup>			
December 7, 2004-May 16, 2005	600 <sup>[14]</sup>			
July 1, 2003-August 31, 2003	32 <sup>[15]</sup>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,178</b>			

**Military fatalities (per specific time periods reported)**

Period	Number of killed			
October 22, 2011-November 22, 2011	65 <sup>[16]</sup>			
September 22, 2011-October 12, 2011	31 <sup>[17]</sup>			
July 23, 2011-August 10, 2011	62 <sup>[18]</sup>			
June 22, 2011-July 22, 2011	109 <sup>[19]</sup>			
May 22, 2011-June 21, 2011	68 <sup>[20]</sup>			
March 16, 2011-May 17, 2011	100 <sup>[21]</sup>			
March 21, 2010-March 15, 2011	726 <sup>[22]</sup>			
March 21, 2009-March 20, 2010	635 <sup>[23]</sup>			
March 21, 2008-March 20, 2009	368 <sup>[2]</sup>			
March 21, 2005-March 20, 2008	600 <sup>[11]</sup>			
December 1, 2002-March 20, 2005	215 <sup>[24]</sup>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,979</b>			

[\[edit\]](#)



## Yearly totals per SIGAR

*Note, these numbers are only from January 2007, as provided by the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction.*

### Police fatalities (per specific time periods reported)

Period	Number of killed	Number of wounded		
April 1, 2010-September 26, 2010	595[25]	1,345[25]		
December 28, 2009-March 31, 2010	157[26]	319[26]		
January 1, 2009-December 27, 2009	639[27]	1,145[27]		
January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008	724[28]	1,209[28]		
January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007	688[28]	1,036[28]		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>5,054</b>		

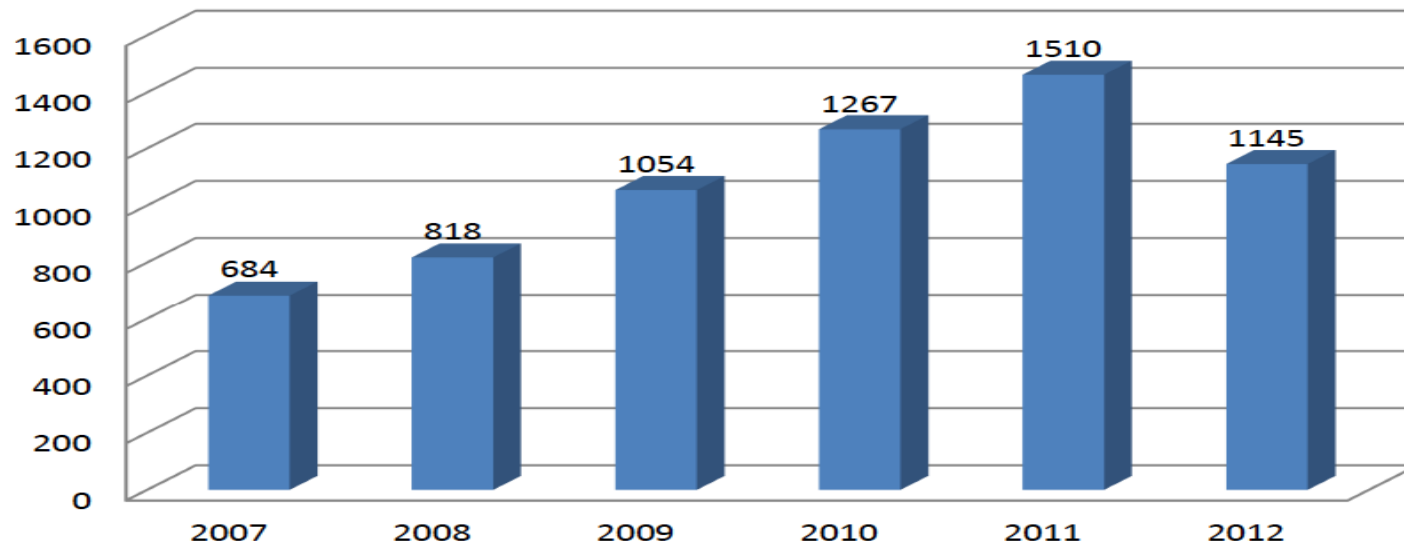
### Military fatalities (per specific time periods reported)

Period	Number of killed	Number of wounded		
December 28, 2009-August 31, 2010	309[29]	234 (up to March 31)[30]		
January 1, 2009-December 27, 2009	292[27]	859[27]		
January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008	259[31]	875[31]		

<b>January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007</b>	278 <sup>[31]</sup>	750 <sup>[31]</sup>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>2,718</b>		

## UN Estimates of Civilian Casualties Through Mid-2012<sup>1</sup>

January to June civilian deaths by year: 2007 - 2012



Source: All material is excerpted from Afghanistan Mid-year Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2012, August 8, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42646&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>.

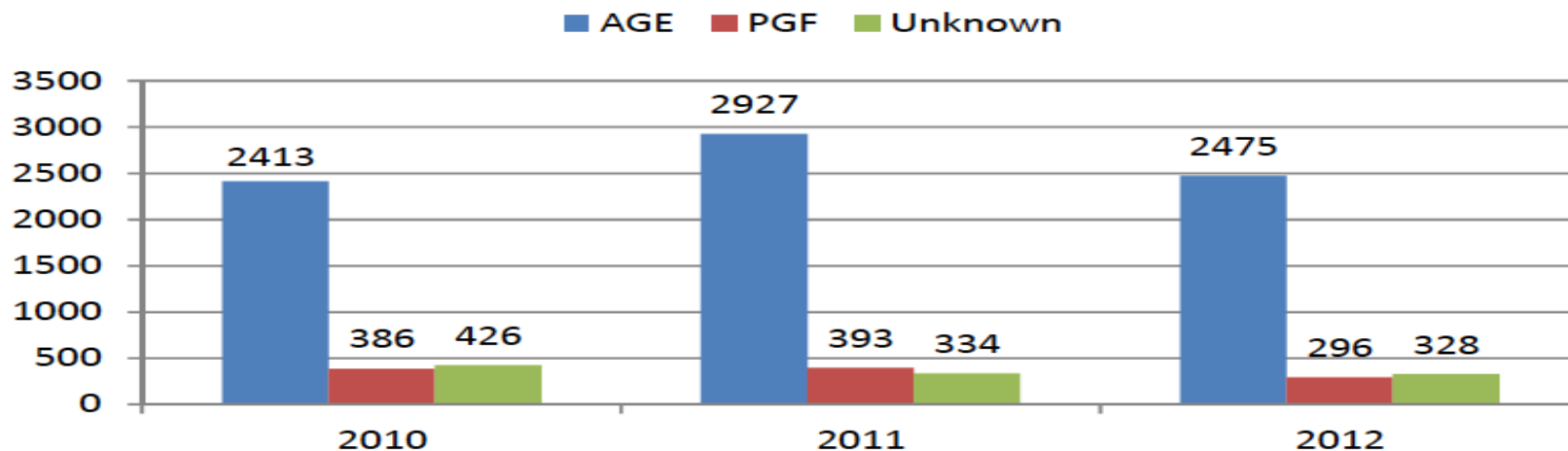
In the first six months of 2012, the armed conflict in Afghanistan continued to take a devastating toll on civilians. Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, conflict-related violence resulted in 3,099 civilian casualties or 1,145 civilians killed and 1,954 others injured, a 15 percent decrease in overall civilian casualties compared with the same period in 2011 when UNAMA documented 3,654 civilian casualties (1,510 killed and 2,144 injured)....This reduction of civilian casualties reverses the trend in which civilian casualties had increased steadily over the previous five years. UNAMA remains concerned, however, that the number of civilian deaths and injuries remains at a high level, comparable with 2010, when UNAMA documented 3,268 (1,271 civilian deaths and 1,997 civilian injuries) civilian casualties.

<sup>1</sup> Source: All material is excerpted from Afghanistan Mid-year Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2012, August 8, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42646&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, UNAMA documented a total of 925 women and children killed or wounded, representing 30 percent of all civilian casualties... This represents a one percent increase in the ratio of women and children civilians killed or injured in comparison to the same period of 2011.<sup>21</sup> Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) remained the leading cause of conflict-related deaths of women and children followed by ground engagements.

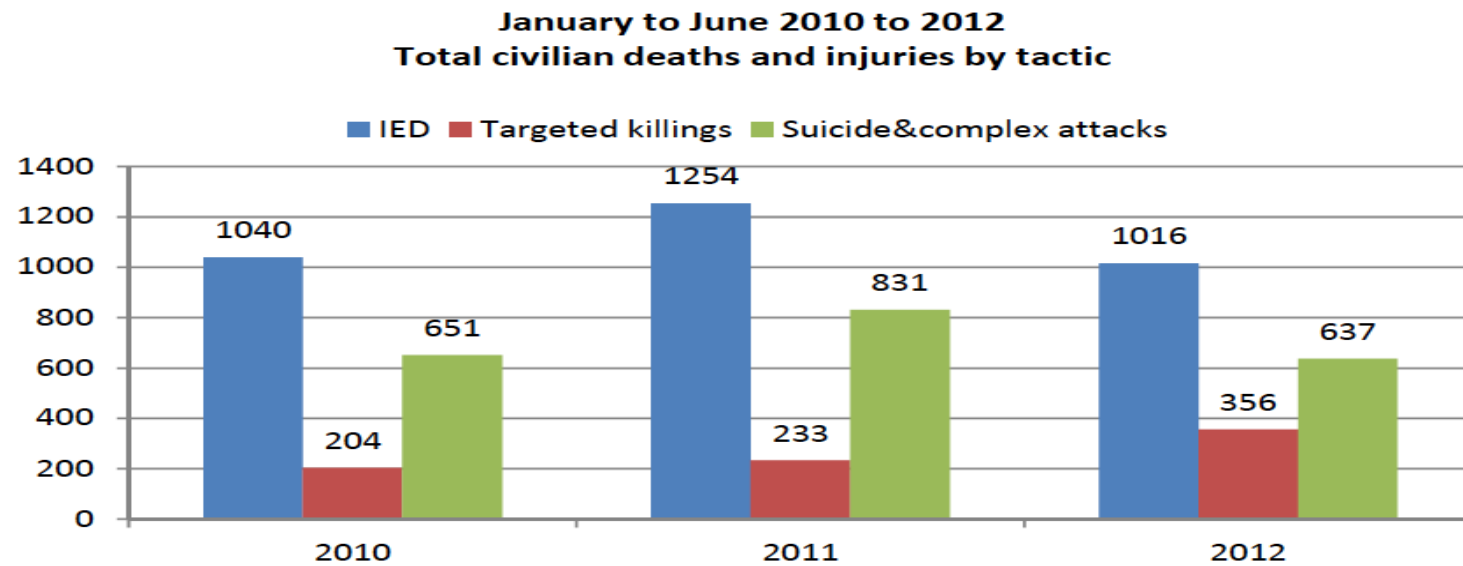
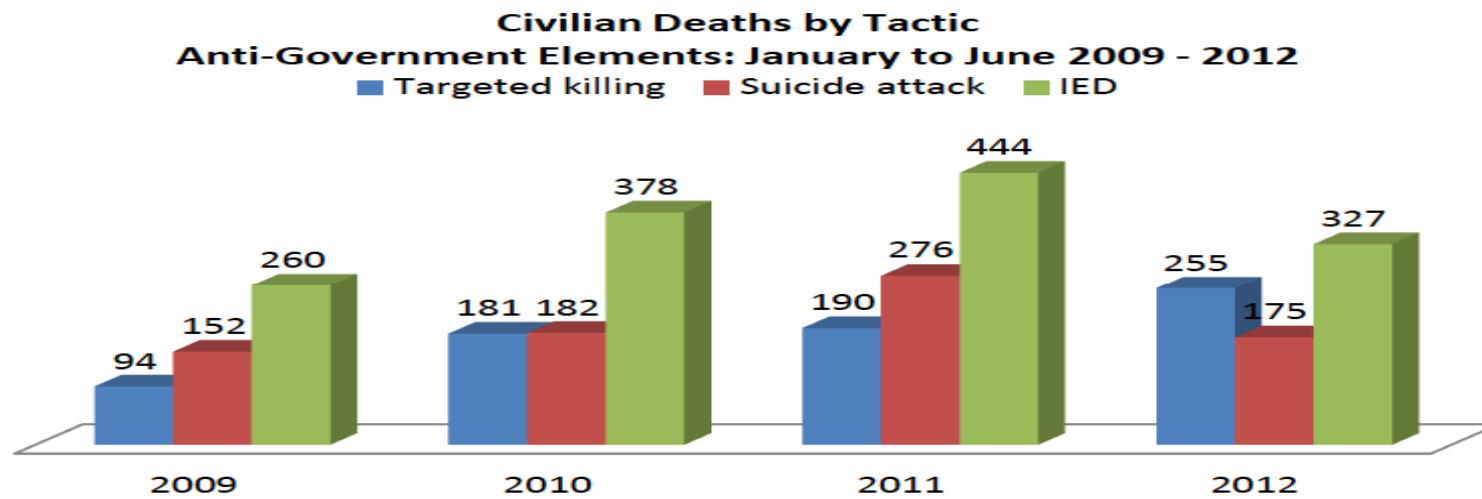
As of 30 June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that conflict-related violence had displaced approximately 114,900 people in Afghanistan of which 17,079 were newly displaced in the first half of 2012. Conflict-induced displacement in the first six months of 2012 is 14 percent higher than in the same period last year.

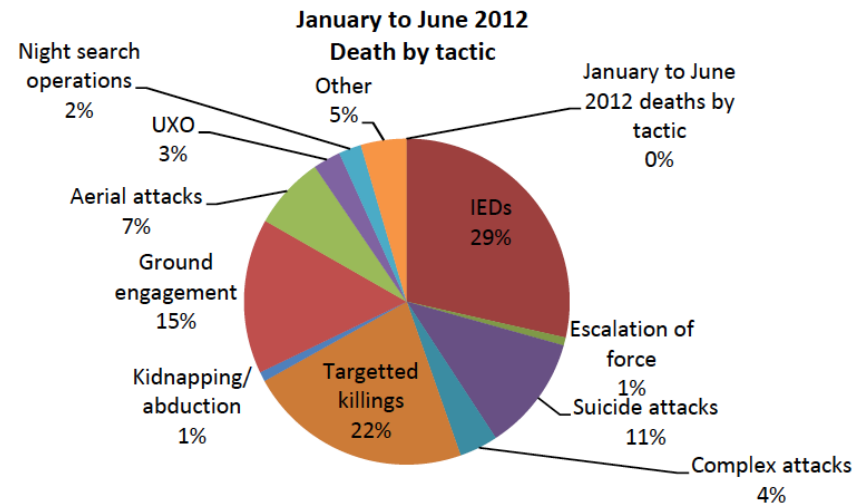
### Civilian deaths and injuries by perpetrator January to June 2010 - 2012



Source: All material is excerpted from Afghanistan Mid-year Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2012, August 8, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42646&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>.

Anti-Government Elements were responsible for 80 percent of civilian casualties, killing 882 civilians and injuring 1,593 others during the first six months of 2012, an overall reduction of fifteen percent compared to the same period in 2011 when UNAMA documented 1,167 deaths and 1,760 injuries. UNAMA reiterates its concern with the continued use of indiscriminate tactics by Anti-Government Elements and the toll such methods exact on civilians.





Source: All material is excerpted from Afghanistan Mid-year Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2012, August 8, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42646&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>.

In the first six months of 2012, UNAMA documented 165 civilian deaths and 131 civilians injured as result of operations and actions by Pro-Government Forces, This is a 25 percent reduction in total civilian casualties compared to the same period in 2011 when UNAMA documented 255 civilian deaths and 138 injured from the operations of Pro-Government Forces.

IEDs remain the biggest threat to civilians. Anti-Government Elements continue to use IEDs in an indiscriminate and unlawful manner. Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, IEDs alone caused 33 percent of all civilian casualties, killing 327 civilians and injuring 689. Taking into consideration tactics which use IEDS, such as suicide and complex attacks.

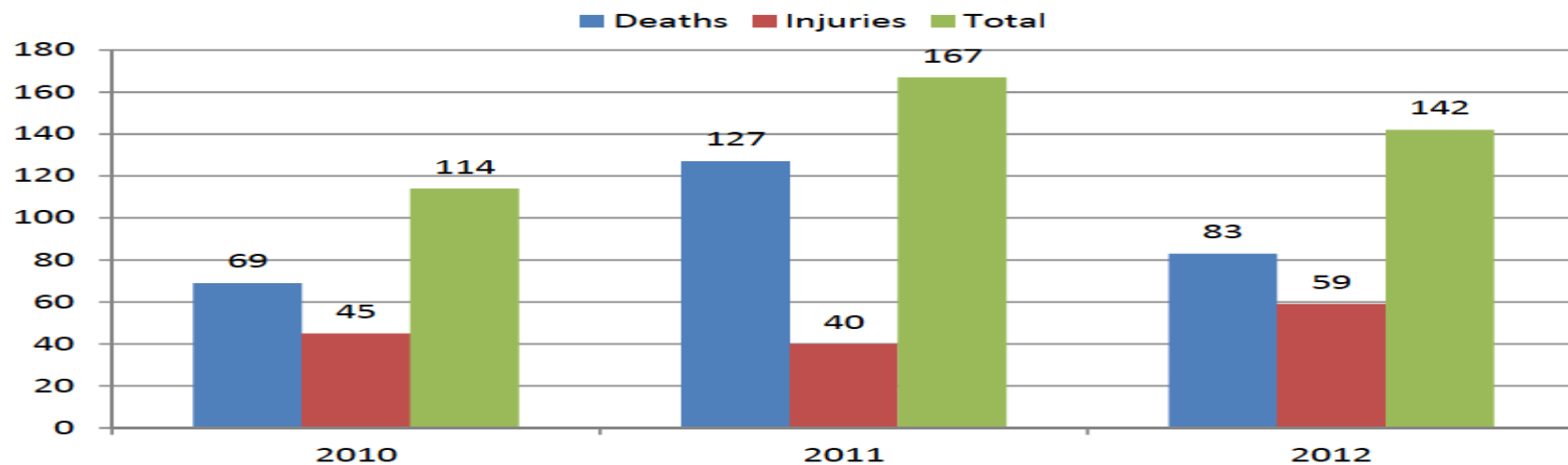
...IEDs overall caused 53 percent of all civilian deaths and injuries in the first six months of 2012. UNAMA observed that most IEDs causing civilian casualties had not been directed at a specific military objective, but rather were placed routinely on civilian roadsides, resulting in indiscriminate deaths and injuries of civilians in violation of international humanitarian law. As a result, many IED incidents that resulted in civilian casualties could amount to war crimes.

Civilian casualties resulting from targeted killings of civilians by Anti-Government Elements increased by 53 percent in the first six months of 2012. Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, UNAMA documented the death of 255 civilians and wounding of 101 others in 237 separate incidents of targeted killings or attempts, compared with 190 civilian deaths and 43 injuries during the same period in 2011. Anti-Government Elements continue to target community leaders, governmental authorities and civilians that they suspect of supporting the government or military forces. These acts amount to violations of customary international humanitarian law, which explicitly states that attacks must not be directed against civilians.

... Anti-Government Elements increasingly targeted and killed civilians they perceived to support the Government of Afghanistan or international military forces. In the first half of 2012, there were 237 incidents of targeted killings which resulted in the death of 255 civilians and injuries to 101 more, a 53 percent increase compared with the same period in 2011 in which UNAMA documented 190 civilians killed and 43 others injured under such circumstances. Government employees, off duty police officers and civilian police, tribal elders, civilians accused of spying for Pro-Government Forces and government officials remained the primary focus of these anti-government attacks.

On 2 May 2012, the Taliban announced that their “Al-Farooq” Spring offensive would specifically aim to kill civilian targets, including high ranking government officials, members of Parliament, High Peace Council members, contractors and “all those people who work against the Mujahideen”. International humanitarian and human rights laws prohibit the deliberate and systematic targeting of civilians, which amount to war crimes and violations of the right to life. Such actions are meant not only to weaken the Government, through depriving them of their most capable public servants, but also to intimidate local communities. Many such incidents have occurred over the last six months:

**January to June 2010 -2012: civilian casualties by aerial attacks**



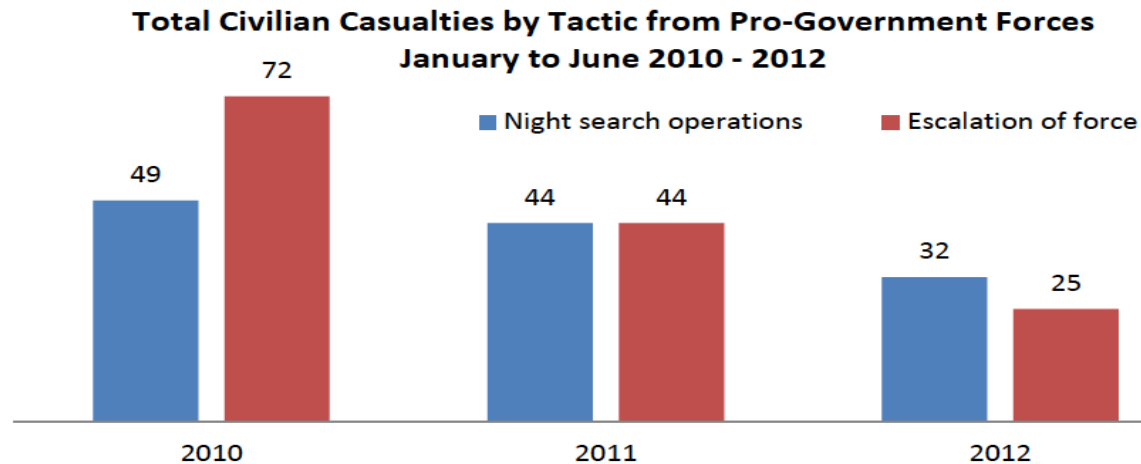
Source: All material is excerpted from Afghanistan Mid-year Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2012, August 8, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42646&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>.

Aerial attacks have remained the tactic causing more civilian deaths and injuries than any other tactic used by Pro-Government Forces since UNAMA began documenting civilian casualties. Between 1 January and 30 June, UNAMA documented 83 civilian deaths and 46 injured as a result of aerial attacks by international military forces. This represents a 23 percent decrease in overall civilian casualties from aerial operations compared with 2011 when UNAMA documented 127 civilian deaths and 40 injuries.<sup>30</sup> In 2012, this tactic caused almost four times more civilian deaths than any other tactic used by Pro-Government Forces. In the first half of 2012, of the 129 civilian casualties caused by aerial attacks, 81 were women and children representing nearly two-thirds of the total number of civilian casualties caused by aerial attacks.<sup>31</sup> In the first six months of the year, ground engagements by Pro-Government Forces resulted in the death of 21 civilians, a significant decrease from 2011 when UNAMA documented 66 civilian deaths during the same period.

Between 1 January and 30 June, UNAMA documented 20 civilian deaths and 12 injured from search and seizure operations by Pro-Government Forces, a decrease of 27 percent compared with the same period in 2011. This is consistent with the downward trends documented in the same periods in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Civilian casualties as a result of ANSF and ISAF escalation of force incidents continued to decrease in 2012. In the first six months of 2012, UNAMA documented 25 civilian casualties (nine killed and 16 injured) in 19 separate incidents. Compared with the same period in 2011, this represents a 43 percent decrease in civilian casualties resulting from escalation of force incidents.

Reductions in civilian casualties from aerial operations may be attributed to factors such as the implementation of measures designed to prevent civilian casualties, as well as fewer attacks directed against international military forces, resulting in fewer engagements requiring close air support. According to ISAF monthly trend reports, between January and May 2012 period compared with the same period in 2011 'enemy initiated attacks' reduced by six percent.<sup>99</sup> According to the Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2007-2012 Airpower statistics, between 1 January and 31 May 2012, 1,166 weapons were released during Close Air Support (CAS) missions, a 37 percent reduction compared with the same period in 2011 when 1,848 weapons were released.





Source: All material is excerpted from Afghanistan Mid-year Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2012, August 8, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42646&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>.

Civilian casualties as a result of ANSF and ISAF escalation of force incidents continued to decrease in 2012. In the first six months of 2012, UNAMA documented 25 civilian casualties (nine killed and 16 injured) in 19 separate incidents. Compared with the same period in 2011, when UNAMA documented 30 killed and 14 injured, this represents a 43 percent decrease in civilian casualties resulting from escalation of force incidents. This is an important development because it reflects an ongoing commitment by Pro-Government Forces to distinguish civilians from genuine threats toward security force checkpoints and convoys and the use of non-lethal alternatives.

Source: All material in this section is excerpted from Afghanistan Mid-year Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2012, August 8, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42646&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>.



