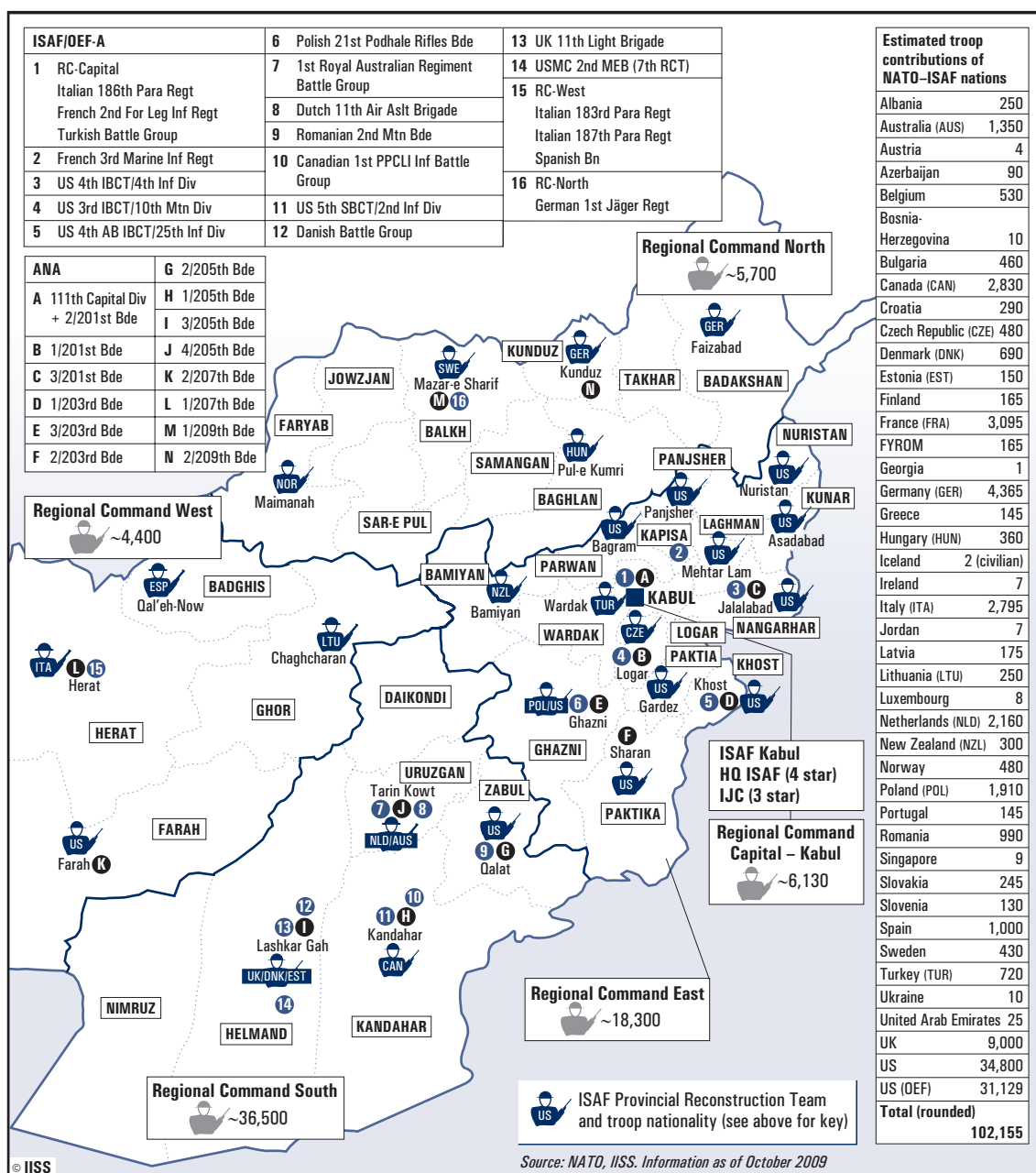


Map 3 Afghanistan



suicide car bomber carried out an attack opposite the Indian embassy, which is a continued target. India is a strong ally of the Afghan government and is seen as a direct threat to the Taliban and its allies.

Attacks on ISAF supply routes and facilities in Pakistan resulted in new arrangements with Russia and neighbouring Central Asian states to open routes through less hostile territory. On 6 February 2009, an agreement was reached with Russia for the 'Northern

Route', a rail connection running from the Baltic Sea via Russia to Central Asia to carry non-lethal military consignments. On 6 July Russia extended the agreement to allow air and land transit of lethal military supplies to NATO and US forces in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, on 3 April Uzbekistan agreed to the use of Navoi air base by US aircraft; Tajikistan also agreed to the movement of supplies through either Kulyab or Dushanbe air bases for onward movement