

designs | data | decisions

METHODS REPORT

ANQAR WAVE 34

DECEMBER 22, 2016

Field Dates: November 18-27, 2016

Sample Size: 13,257

Number of Interviewers: 965

Field Provider: ACSOR

D3 Project Manager: Amanda Bajkowski

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Afghanistan Nationwide Quarterly Research (ANQAR) survey was designed to gain a broader understanding of the attitudes, behaviors, and issues that are important to the people of Afghanistan. This report reviews the methodology of the Wave 34 survey conducted in the late fall of 2016.

Fieldwork for Wave 34 was conducted by ACSOR for RS/NATO in Afghanistan from November 18-27, 2016. The sample includes a national probability sample of 10,826 Afghans selected at random in all 34 of the country's provinces; and a sample conducted via intercept interviews of 2,431. Respondents were 18 years and older, 65% were male and 35% were female. The survey includes both urban (25%) and rural (75%) households. Unless otherwise noted, all figures in this report represent unweighted results.

Executive Summary

The sampling methodology, questionnaire design, field team, and overall field experience are summarized in this report.

- Fieldwork was conducted from November 18-27, 2016. The field team consisted of 965 trained interviews and supervisors under the management of D3 Systems and ACSOR.
- ANQAR Wave 34 includes a total sample of 13,467 men and women 18 years of age and older in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. 10,826 interviews were conducted via random walk with male and female respondents and 2,431 interviews were conducted via intercept interviews with males in areas where security or weather restricted random selection interviewing. A full list of the locations for the intercept interviews can be found in Appendix A.
- The sample was stratified by province and urban/rural status using population data released by the Central Statistics Office (2015 - 2016 estimates) of Afghanistan.
 Additional booster sampling points were distributed to smaller provinces to ensure that the minimum sample size per province was at least 110 interviews. Booster sampling points were distributed in Panjshayr, Nuristan and Nimroz.
- Replacement draws within the same district originally selected were provided to the field team prior to the launch of fieldwork. In the case when the replacements were exhausted, settlement/nahia level replacements were done in field by supervisors where neighboring accessible settlements were chosen as replacements whenever possible. A full list of the Wave 34 replacements can be found in Appendix B.



- The sample was 65% male and 35% female. The survey was designed to include 50% male and 50% female respondents, but due to violence, transportation conditions, and local norms female interviewers could not travel to some selected districts. Sampling points that were planned for interviews with women and could not be covered by female interviewers were replaced with male interviews in the same village.
- The questionnaire consisted of 31 management questions, 18 demographics questions, and 109 substantive questions. Topics included quality of life, security, perceptions of the government, reconciliation, and migration.
- The mean interview length was 34 minutes with a range of 20 to 63 minutes.
- Various quality control procedures were employed throughout the project. During field, interviewers were observed by supervisors. Field supervisors also conducted back-checks of interviews. During the data processing phase, a proprietary program, Hunter, was used to search for patterns or anomalies in the data that may indicate an interview was not properly conducted by an interviewer. For the Wave 34 survey, a total of 471 cases were removed from the dataset; 422 cases were removed for being over 95% similar in substantive responses, 56 cases were removed due to similarities in answers, and no cases were removed for having over 50% don't know or refusal responses.
- The data were also screened for keypunching errors. ACSOR randomly selected 10% of the survey's questionnaires for double entry. The double punched questionnaires were compared to the originally punched questionnaires. Discrepancies between the two were rectified and the final data files were based strictly on a review of the original questionnaires. The overall error rate for the Wave 34 survey was .14%. The error rate was very low overall and we have confidence in the fidelity of the keypunched data.
- The Wave 34 survey has a margin of sampling error of ± 0.85 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. The overall design effect is 2.30. The complex margin of error is ± 1.29%.
- For the overall sample, the response rate is 87.5%, the cooperation rate is 95.56%, the refusal rate is 2.56%, and the contact rate is 91.57%.

Project Schedule

Table 1 lists the schedule of major project milestones.

TABLE 1: PROJECT TIMELINE

Project Phases	Start Date	End Date
Translation	12-Nov-2016	15-Nov-2016
Central Briefing	16-Nov-2016	17-Nov-2016
Field	18-Nov-2016	27-Nov-2016
Quality Control during field- work	18-Nov-2016	27-Nov-2016
Data Processing	01-Dec-2016	07-Dec-2016

II. SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample was drawn using a stratified multi-stage cluster design. D3 used the 2015-2016¹ updated figures provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the Afghan government. D3 chooses to use this because, similar to the 2010- 2011 update, much of the 2015-2016 update is based on data drawn from the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development relying on results from the National Reconstruction Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) based on a detailed cataloging of households to help inform the updates in a systematic, replicable way. While the proportions by provinces have changed in mostly a uniform, formulaic manner, the additional use of NRVA data adds to the detail of the estimates.

Sampling Methodology

The target population for this survey was a nation-wide poll of Afghans age 18+.

- Step 1: Primary sampling units (PSU) were allocated across all of Afghanistan's 34
 provinces using proportional stratification. Urban/rural status and province serve as the
 strata. In field, villages were considered rural while towns, cities and metros were
 considered urban. Settlements or neighborhoods within randomly selected districts were
 chosen by simple random sampling.
 - a. Booster interviews (n=88) were added to small provinces to ensure that the minimum sample size per province was at least 110 interviews. Booster interviews were add in Panjshayr (n= 32), Nuristan (n=32) and Nimroz (n=24).
- 2. Step 2: **Districts** were selected via *probability proportional to size* (PPS) *systematic sampling*. Districts serve as the primary sampling unit (PSU).

¹ There is no official census of Afghanistan. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the Afghan government has attempted to provide updates since 2003, but their base is influenced by figures from the 1979 census. The CSO has received support from the UN, the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development, and the World Food Programme to issue updates. D3 completed its review of 2015-2016 updates from the CSO and feels they are acceptable as replacements for the 2006 estimates.

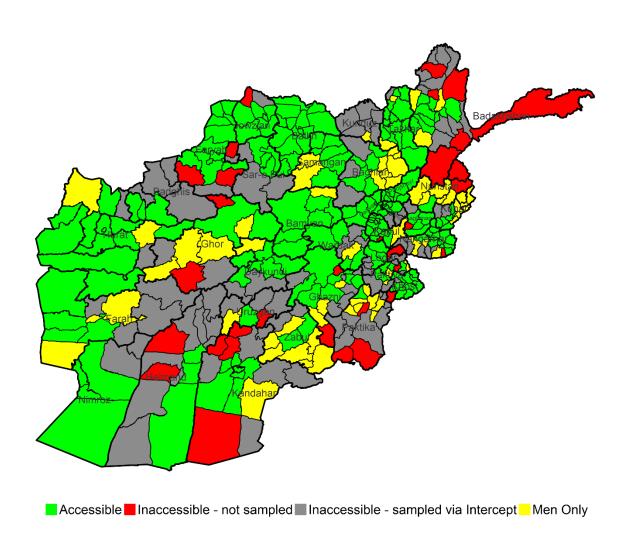
In situations where the selected district was inaccessible due to security, transportation, weather, or other reasons, another district within the province was randomly selected:

a. In situations where the selected district was inaccessible due to security, transportation or weather, intercept interviews were conducted with residents of those districts who were traveling in neighboring districts. Intercept interviews were used in 322 sampling points. These were conducted with male respondents only². A list of the intercept interviews can be found in Appendix A.

² Andar district in Ghazni is a unique PSU, where half of the sample originally allocated was converted to intercept interviews. This was done because only settlements near the city center of Andar were accessible at the time of the survey.

The following figure illustrates the accessibility assessment during the month of August, when field work launched. Red districts were not sampled and are completely inaccessible, yellow are accessible to males only, green are completely accessible (to both male and female interviewers), and gray are intercept interviews which targeted completely inaccessible districts that were visited during Wave 34.

FIGURE 1: AFGHANISTAN ACCESSIBILITY WITH INTERCEPT INTERVIEWS



Of the 424³ potential primary sampling units in the country, 20% were inaccessible to male interviewers, 30% were inaccessible for female interviewers. Overall, 98 completely inaccessible districts were sampled. These were made accessible to male interviewers by intercept

³ There are 408 districts in Afghanistan; however Kabul City is composed of 16 nahias leading to 424 primary sampling units used in the survey's sampling frame.

interviews. Including design effects, results have a complex margin of sampling error of +/1.23 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level for the full sample.

3. Step 3: Selected PSU that were completely accessible were divided into two sampling points of 8: one female and one male. This was done to allow for gender matched interviewing due to cultural constraints and to also obtain a greater geographical coverage within district, and therefore overall.

The **settlements**, within districts, were selected by simple random sampling for each of the two points. Within urban strata, we used neighborhoods (called "nahias" from cities and metros) and towns while in rural strata we used villages. As population data for settlement sizes does not exist, a simple random selection amongst all known settlements was used to select locations. The settlement/nahia served as the secondary sampling unit (SSU).

- a. Transportation constraints due to bad weather, and instability and frequent fighting in some provinces can cause a sampling point to be adjusted or replaced to keep interviewers out of areas that may be unsafe.
- b. Replicate draws were provided to the field team prior to the launch of fieldwork. In the case when the replacements were exhausted, settlement/nahia level replacements were done in field by supervisors where neighboring accessible settlements were chosen as replacements whenever possible.
- c. At the settlement level, 237 of the 1723 sampling points were randomly replaced within the same districts because of security reasons, 118 for transportation difficulties, 28 because they could not be located, and 7 for other accessibility issues. A complete list of replaced sampling points and reasons for replacements can be found in Appendix B.
- 4. Step 4: Field managers then used maps generated from several sources to select starting points within each SSU.
 - a. In rural areas, we used a system that requires interviewers to start in one of five randomly selected locations (Northern, Southern, Eastern, or Western edges of the rural settlement and Center).

- b. In urban areas, because it is more difficult to differentiate neighborhood borders, a random location (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western or Center) was provided to the interviewer, and they started from an identifiable landmark in the vicinity (ex: school, Mosque, etc.)
- 5. Step 5 A **random walk method** with a fixed sampling interval was performed from the starting point. For example, selecting every third house on the right in rural areas and every fifth house on the right in urban areas.
- 6. Step 6: After selecting a household, interviewers were instructed to utilize a **Kish grid** for randomizing the target respondent⁴ within the household. Members of the household were listed with their names and their age in descending order and then the respondent was selected according to the rules of the Kish grid.

TABLE 2: PROVINCIAL POPULATION PERCENTAGE, UNWEIGHTED AND WEIGHTED PERCENTAGE

Province	CSO Percentage in Population (Total)	Percentage in Unweighted Sample (Total)	Percentage in Weighted Sample (wgt1) ⁵
Kabul (KAB)	16.1%	16.7%	16.3%
Kapisa (KAP)	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
Parwan (PAR)	2.5%	2.3%	2.4%
Wardak (WAR)	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
Logar (LOW)	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
Ghazni (GHA)	4.5%	4.6%	4.5%
Paktiya (PIA)	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Paktika (PKA)	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
Khost (KHO)	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
Nangarhar (NAN)	5.6%	5.5%	5.6%
Laghman (LAG)	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%

⁴ Interviewers are not allowed to substitute an alternate member of a household for the respondent selected by the Kish grid. If the respondent refused to participate or was not available after callbacks, then the interviewer must move on to the next household according to the random route.

⁵ 'wgt1' variable in the data set.

Weighting

The dataset includes two weights.

- 1. "wgt 1" is a post-stratification adjustment performed to match the population's geographic distribution of Afghanistan. The only target used for this post stratification was Province by Urban/Rural status.
- 2. "wgt 2" is the same as wgt 1 except intercept interviews are not included in the calculations. The use of this weight effectively removes intercepts from the sample allowing for analysis of all interviews collected using random probability sampling methods.

Margin of Sampling Error and Design Effect

Given that the methodology for this survey is assumed to be a full probability-based sample, weighted data can be used to estimate variance for each statistic. These, in turn, can be used to estimate a design effect for the survey and then to estimate the complex margin of sampling error. Design effect estimates provided in this section account for both the complex sample design as well as the weights.

- The design was stratified by urbanity and province and then clustered by district and settlement.
- The design effect is estimated for five variables Q1, Q2, Q3, Q6 and Q7. In the following tables, we provide design effect estimates for each response category of the key variable through the *survey* package in R.
- In an effort to provide a survey-wide design effect, a "weighted mean" design effect is calculated as average across each response category of the variable when weighted by frequency of response which is then in turn averaged across all five variables.

TABLE 3: DESIGN EFFECT ESTIMATION USING Q1, Q2, Q3, Q6, Q7

q1: Q181 Generally speaking, do you believe the Government of Afghanistan is going in the right direction, the wrong direction, or is in the same place, not going anywhere?

	Frequency	Proportion	Complex SE	Design Effect
Right Direction	3542	26.71%	0.58%	2.25
Wrong Direction	6577	49.61%	0.64%	2.16
Same Place, Not Going Anywhere	2992	22.57%	0.48%	1.78
Refused (vol.)	2	0.02%	0.01%	1.11
Don?t Know (vol.)	144	1.09%	0.11%	1.57
Weighted Mean			0.58%	2.09
Total	13257	100.00%		

q2: Q280 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current quality of your life? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Frequency	Proportion	Complex SE	Design Effect
Not Satisfied At All	1764	13.31%	0.48%	2.66
Somewhat Dissatisfied	3687	27.81%	0.57%	2.13
Somewhat Satisfied	5543	41.81%	0.63%	2.16
Very Satisfied	2217	16.72%	0.49%	2.29
Don't Know (vol.)	45	0.34%	0.06%	1.55
Weighted Mean			0.57%	2.24
Total	13256	100.00%		

q3: Q281 Please tell me, in the future, do you think the conditions of your life will improve, worsen or stay the same?

	Frequency	Proportion	Complex SE	Design Effect
Worsen	4702	35.46%	0.62%	2.22
Stay The Same	3970	29.94%	0.58%	2.16
Improve	4261	32.14%	0.64%	2.48
Refused (vol.)	1	0.01%	0.01%	0.97
Don't Know (vol.)	324	2.44%	0.17%	1.63
Weighted Mean			0.60%	2.27
Total	13258	100.00%		

q6: Q337 How would you describe the economy for you and your community since 5 years ago? Have things gotten better, gotten worse or remained the same?

	Frequency	Proportion	Complex SE	Design Effect
Gotten Better	3234	24.39%	0.61%	2.68
Gotten Worse	6091	45.95%	0.70%	2.62
Remained The Same	3892	29.36%	0.63%	2.57
Refused (vol.)	2	0.01%	0.01%	0.98
Don't Know (vol.)	38	0.29%	0.05%	1.14
Weighted Mean			0.66%	2.62
Total	13257	100.00%		

q7: Q289 Has your family's economic situation gotten better, gotten worse or stayed the same compared to 12 months ago?

	Frequency	Proportion	Complex SE	Design Effect
Gotten Worse	5619	42.39%	0.65%	2.30
Stayed The Same	4778	36.04%	0.63%	2.30
Gotten Better	2796	21.09%	0.53%	2.24
Refused (vol.)	2	0.01%	0.01%	0.98
Don't Know (vol.)	62	0.47%	0.06%	1.15
Weighted Mean			0.62%	2.28
Total	13257	100.00%		

A survey wide design effect and margin of error is calculated as the average design effect across these five variables. The survey wide design effect is 2.30.

Assuming simple random sample with n=13,257, p=.5, at the 95% CI level, a conservative estimate of the margin of error for the survey is 0.85%.

Accounting for the complex design through the design effect estimate of 2.11, p=.5 at the 95% CI level, the complex margin of error (CMOE) is 1.29%.

Design effect estimates were also calculated at the provincial level. Detailed calculations can be located in the document titled *ANQAR W34 CMOE Provincial v1* and a summary of the provincial level design effects and complex margin of error can be found in the document titled *ANQAR W34 DEFF Summary v1*.

III. FIELD IMPLEMENTATION

The following section reviews the contact procedures, the sample disposition and field outcomes.

Contact Procedures

After selecting a household, interviewers were instructed to utilize a Kish grid for randomizing the target respondent within the household. Members of the household were listed with their names and age in descending order. The Kish grid provides a random selection criteria based on which visit the household represents in his or her random walk and the number of inhabitants living in the household.

Under no circumstances were interviewers allowed to substitute an alternate member of a household for the selected respondent. If the respondent refused to participate or was not available after three call-backs, the interviewer then moved on to the next household according to the random walk.

Typically interviewers were required to make two call-backs before replacing the household. These call-backs are made at different times of the same day or on different days of the field period, in order to provide a broader schedule in which to engage the respondent. Due to security-related concerns, the field force has had difficulty meeting the requirement of two call-backs prior to substitution in many rural areas.

In this survey, while interviewers were able to complete some call-backs, the majority of the interviews were completed on the first attempt:

First contact: 98.1%Second contact: 1.5%Third contact: .4%

Sample Disposition

This section describes the sample disposition which is another diagnostic tool to understand the validity of the sample. Final disposition codes, call outcome rates, and response rates contribute to an understanding of the presence of potential survey error.

This section contains:

- A detailed and comprehensive set of survey dispositions recoded into the six major types of American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) survey case dispositions.
- The formulas for calculating response rates, cooperation rates, and contact rates.
- A report of the final outcome rates for the evaluation of this survey according to the AAPOR Standards for Minimal Disclosure requirements (Part III of the Code of Professional Ethics and Practices).

Rate Calculations

The American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR) publishes four different types of rate calculations used in AAPOR reporting (response rates, contact rates, cooperation rates, and refusal rates). D3 and ACSOR use AAPOR's Response Rate 3, Cooperation Rate 1, Refusal Rate 2, and Contact Rate 2 as their standards. Intercept interviews are treated the same as standard interviews for the purposes of calculating response rates.

Acronyms used in the formulas are below:

I = Complete Interview

P = Partial Interview

R = Refusal and break-off

NC = Non-contact

O = Other

UH = Unknown if household/occupied household unit

UO = Unknown, other

e = Estimated proportion of cases of unknown eliqibility that are eliqible

$$(I + P) + (R + NC + O) + e (UH + UO)$$

$$(I + P) + R$$

$$(I + P) + (R + NC + O) + e (UH + UO)$$

Contact Rate
$$2 = (I + P) + R + O$$

$$(I + P) + R + O + NC + e (UH + UO)$$

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Final Disposition Codes

The survey cases are divided into six main types of AAPOR disposition groups: completed interviews, partial interviews, cases of unknown eligibility, non-contacts, refusals, and cases of ineligible interviews. Table 4 provides the final disposition classifications.

TABLE 4: INTERVIEW STATUS: FINAL DISPOSITION CODES AND DEFINITIONS

ACSOR Code	AAPOR Code	Description	Totals
Completed Intervie	ws		
1	1.0/1.10	Interview was successfully completed	13784
Partial Interviews			
10	1.200	During interview, selected respondent refused (General)	38
		During interview, selected respondent was not feeling	44
11	1.200	informed to answer the questions	
		During interview, selected respondent got angry because of	10
12	1.200	a question	
		During interview, selected respondent preferred head of	8
13	1.200	household be interviewed	
		During interview, selected respondent was in a hurry/no	25
14	1.200	time	
		Total Partials	125
Unknown Eligibility	/		
20	3.130	No answer at door	228
			324
21	3.200	No adults (18+) after three visits	
22	3.170	Unable to access building or house	80
23	3.210	Outright refusal at the door	450
		Total Unknown Household	1082
Non-contacts			
24	2.210	Selected respondent never available for interview	85
		Selected respondent long-term absence for the fieldwork	172
25	2.250	period	
		Total Non-contacts	257
Others			
26	2.300	Selected respondent not allowed to participate in the survey	73
35	2.310	Selected respondent deceased	0

	AAPOR		
ACSOR Code	Code	Description	Totals
		Selected respondent physically or mentally unable to	32
36	2.320	complete the interview	
		Selected respondent unable to complete interview in	6
37	2.332	languages available	
90	4.900	Other	111
		Total Others	
Refusals			
30	2.11	Selected respondent refuses (General)	163
		Selected respondent not feeling informed to answer the	61
31	2.11	questions	
		Selected respondent got angry because of the subject	25
32	2.11	matter	
		Selected respondent prefers head of household to be	88
33	2.11	interviewed	
34	2.11	Selected respondent in a hurry/no time	67
		Total Refusals	404
Not Eligible			
40	4.700	Does not meet screening criteria/not eligible for interview	29
41	4.500	Non-residential (business)/abandoned home	124
		Total Not Eligible	153
Total		Total Sampled Households	15916

The response rate is the number of complete interviews divided by the number of interviews plus the number of non-interviews plus all cases of unknown eligibility. The cooperation rate is the proportion of all cases interviewed of all eligible participants ever contacted. The refusal rate is the proportion of all cases in which a participant refuses to do an interview, or breaks-off an interview of all potentially eligible cases. The contact rate measures the proportion of all cases in which the participant responsible and associated with the provided phone number was reached by the survey. Table 5 provides the following outcome rates for the survey: the response rate, cooperation rate, refusal rate, and contact rate.⁶

⁶ D3 uses the rates published by AAPOR; citation is: The American Association for Public Opinion Research. 2009. Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Survey. 6th edition.

TABLE 5: FORMULAS AND RATES⁷

Disposition Rate Formulas	Percent
Response Rate 3 (RR): I/((I+P) + (R+NC+O) + e*(UH+UO))	87.50%
Cooperation Rate 1 (COOP): I/(I+P)+R+O)	95.56%
Refusal Rate 2 (REF): R/((I+P)+(R+NC+O) + e(UH + UO))	2.56%
Contact Rate 2 (CON): (I+P)+R+O / (I+P)+R+O+NC + e(UH+UO)	91.57%

 $^{^{7}}$ I = Interviews, E = Eligible (temporary code, not part of final calculation), R = Refusal, NC = Non-Contact, NE = Not Eligible, UH= Unknown Eligibility, O=other



Field Outcomes

It is protocol for supervisors to note political, social, or other newsworthy events that occurred during the field period that may have affected the survey. The reports from field are listed below by date and location of the event.

Field Report

Nov 18, 2016

LOGAR: Militants have suffered at least 17 casualties during a firefight with security forces in the Baraki Barak district of central Logar province, local officials said on Friday. The overnight clash was triggered by an insurgent attack on the security personnel, who were on their way to the Shah Mazar area of district, the governor's spokesman said. Salim Saleh told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces wanted to take away an Interior Ministry helicopter that made an emergency landing in the area three days back. Seven fighters were killed and 10 others wounded in the engagement that caused security officials no harm, the spokesman said, adding the chapter was removed from the site. Resident Ziauddin said the village remained under siege for three consecutive days, with security forces searching suspected houses. The clash resulted in casualties on both sides, he added. However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the fighters had suffered any casualties. Instead, he claimed, heavy losses were inflicted on the security forces.

Nov 18, 2016

FARAH: Eight policemen have been killed in a Taliban attack on the Bakwa district of western Farah province, an official said on Friday. The militants retreated following the predawn attack on the district center that happened at about 1 am, the governor's spokesman said. Mohammad Nasir Mehri told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants had also suffered casualties, but specific figures were yet to be received. But a police official said on condition of anonymity 13 people, including two sons of the district chief, had been killed in the clash. The district police commander, Gul Ahmad, was seriously wounded in the attack, the source revealed. Meanwhile, another source said the Bakwa police chief had been killed along with his deputy. The assailants also seized weapons and ammunition from police, he added. On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said the rebels — backed by their supporters — stormed the district police headquarters and killed a number of security personnel, including senior officials.



Nov 19, 2016

BADAKHSHAN: Commander of an uprising group and his bodyguard has been killed and three Taliban wounded during a clash in the Yaftal district of northern Badakhshan province, an official said on Saturday. Police Chief Brig. Gen. Gulam Sakhi Ghafoori told Pajhwok Afghan News the uprising group Commander Haidar was killed in Taliban ambush at around 5:00pm on Friday in the Saran village. He said three Taliban were also wounded in the counter attack by the local security officials. Taliban have not yet commended about the incident and injuries of its three fighters.

Nov 19, 2016

NANGARHAR: Seven Daesh or Islamic State (IS) Militants and a prayer leader have been killed and two IS rebels arrested in different incidents in eastern Nangarhar province, an official and a statement said on Saturday. Seven Daesh rebels, including notorious

Commander Mullah Bozarg, had been killed in a US drone attack in Kot district, a statement from the Governor House said. The unmanned aircraft target militants and destroyed cache of weapons and explosives in Laghar Joy locality, the statement said. Elsewhere, Daesh rebels killed a local Prayer Leader Mullah Abdul Samad in Rodat district late on Friday, according to the statement. The slain prayer leader had not connection with government. In Haskamena district, police captured two Daesh rebels hailing from Kunar province, Police Spokesman Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraqiwal said.

Nov 19, 2016

LOGAR: The Taliban are closing in on the headquarters of Sayyad district in northern Sar-i-Pul province amid an intense fighting with security forces, a public representative said on Saturday. Salahuddin Cherik, a member of the provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban captured Dara Band and Bazaar Kami areas of the district on Friday night and a fierce clash was ongoing just three kilometers from the district Centre. The Bazaar Kami and Dara Band localities are situated west of the district Centre. Governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat confirmed the Taliban had captured some areas. He, however, claimed 13 militants were killed and 17 others wounded during the past 24 hours of fighting. He said the bodies of some insurgents remained at the battlefield. The Taliban also said they captured some areas near the district center and inflicted heavy losses on the security forces. The group claimed seizing three military vehicles, one corolla car, eight motorcycles, two antiaircraft guns, two machineguns, one mortar and a Kalashnikov. Azizullah, a resident of Dara Band locality who was preparing to

flee the area, said many people had been displaced due to the ongoing clashes. He said the Taliban stormed their area from four sides. "We left our houses and are now searching for a safe and secure place. "Security officials said they would launch fresh attacks to capture areas lost to the rebels after the arrival of reinforcements.

Nov 19, 2016

NANGARHAR: Police have seized an explosives-laden car and a drug smuggler in two separate incidents in eastern Nangarhar province. The bomb-rigged vehicle was confiscated in Momand Dara district and four suspects, including three brothers, were arrested in connection with the plot, eastern border police chief, Col. Mohammad Ayub Hussain Khel, told a press conference here. He said the seizure of the explosives-filled car prevented a bloody terrorist attack in the district Centre. Elsewhere, a man arrested after 62 kilograms of hashish were recovered from him in Darband locality of Dur Baba district, Col. Hussain Khel said. The detainees had been shifted to the provincial police headquarters for investigation, he said.

Nov 19, 2016

KABUL CIYT: Forty-four militants suffered causalities during security forces' operations in several provinces over the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Interior (Mol) said on Saturday. In a statement, the Interior Ministry said the operations were carried out in Ghazni, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Sar-i-Pul provinces. The brief statement said nothing if security forces had suffered any causalities during the operations. Meanwhile, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) claimed arresting a two-member group linked to militants. The spy service in a statement said the two wanted to smuggler weapons from central Maidan Wardak province to Kabul.

Nov 19, 2016

KANDAHAR: More than a dozen Taliban militants have been killed in clashes with security forces in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Saturday. Zia Durrani, the police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News insurgents stormed Qaragah check-post in the Shorak district on Friday night and the fight continued for several hours, leaving 12 militants dead. He said only one policeman was injured and civilians suffered no causalities during the clash. Meanwhile, Taliban attacked Mullah Agha Jan locality in Arghistan district. The ensuing clash left one militant dead. The Taliban have not yet commented about the incidents but they claimed carrying out attacks in Maiwand and some others districts.



Nov 19, 2016

KANDAHAR: Police have detained a four-member group of kidnappers in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Saturday. Deputy police chief Lt. Co. Wali Mohammad Askar told Pajhwok Afghan News the group had kidnapped a resident of Kandahar City, the provincial capital, Mohammad Younas two weeks back. He said the kidnappers had sought five million Pakistani rupees in ransom from Younas family, but his family couldn't arrange such a huge amount. The kidnappers then reduced the ransom money to 1.2 million rupees but the family offered half a million (Rs500000). The family loaned the money from other people. Askar said Younas was safely recovered from the kidnappers and reunited with his family.

Nov 20, 2016

PAKTIA: National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel have arrested notorious commander of Haqqani Network in the Zurmat district of southeastern Paktia province, a statement from the Spy-Network said on Sunday. Syed Rahman known as Khybar was the commander of 20-member group and was behind terrorist activities in Zurmat district, the statement said. He had been arrested during NDS operative's raid in the district. Rehman confessed his involvement in anti-state activities in the area during initial investigation, the statement said.

Nov 20, 2016

BADAKHSHAN: Police shot dead one suicide bomber and three others managed to escape in northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Sunday. Police spokesman Mahfoozullah Akbari said following a tip-off, security personnel cordoned off the main bazaar of Baharak district after 1:00 pm on Saturday and launched a search for the terrorists. The security forces finally located the would-be bombers in a vegetable market near the main square of the district bazaar and entered an armed clash with them, he said. One of the suicide bombers was killed at around 6:30pm and the three others managed to flee. A Kalashnikov, eight sets of bullets, few hand grenades and a walkie-talkie were recovered from the dead militant. One security official was also killed and three others wounded during the clash, the official said. Earlier, a statement from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said police shot dead a would-be suicide bomber before he could reach his target in Baharak district. The incident happened on Saturday evening in the man district bazaar, the statement said, adding police identified the bomber and prevented a terrorist attack.

Nov 20, 2016

KHOST: One policeman and a Taliban notorious commander have been killed in a clash and a US drone strike in southeastern Khost and Paktia provinces, an official said a statement said on Sunday. The Taliban Commander Saifullah was killed and two others wounded in a US drone attack in Paktia's Zurmat district on Saturday night, a statement from the governor house said. The unmanned aircraft targeted Taliban commander in Shah Karez locality, it said. Elsewhere, a policeman was killed and another wounded during a clash with Taliban in Khost province early on Sunday, Governor Spokesman Mubariz Mohammad Zadran said. The clash took place on Khost–Gardiz highway near Ismailkhel and Mondozai districts when security forces were patrolling the area, he added. Militants have not commented about the incident

Nov 20, 2016

KABUL: Young social activist and a Ministry of Finance employee, Mirwais Omarkhel, was shot and injured by unknown gunmen in capital Kabul last night. Dr. Aimal Sherzad, a close friend of Omarkhel, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident occurred in Old Macro Rayan area. Omarkhel was shot twice and had been shifted to Wazir Akbar Khan hospital. In a telephonic interview, Mirwais Omarkhel confirmed the attack on him and said he was shot twice in his the chest and shoulder, but he was now recovering. "I was going home last night when some four or five people wearing commando coats came close to me. They wanted to hit me in the head and knock me unconscious and then either kill me or kidnap me", said Omarkhel. But he ran and the gunmen opened fire at him. The gun used was silencer-fitted, the activist said. He said local residents then gathered in the area and took him to hospital. The attackers fled after the arrival of other people. Omarkhel said had no enmity with anyone, but he had been receiving threats from domestic and foreign circles. Security officials remained silent about the attack on Omarkhel. However, National Security Council spokesman Tawab Ghorzang condemned the incident and said efforts were being made to arrest the assailants. "The government will investigate this incident very deeply and will arrest the assailants so they could be punished", he added.

Nov 21, 2016

KABUL: Two people were wounded in a magnetic bomb explosion in the Bagrami district of Kabul on Monday, an official said. Basir Mujahid, a Kabul police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the blast took place at around 6:00am on the main road to the district. He did not provided details, but eyewitness Mohammad Siddique said two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were wounded in the explosion. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Nov 21, 2016

TAKHAR: Senior official of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) was wounded in a magnetic bomb explosion in northern Takhar province on Monday, an official said. Governor Spokesman Sunnatullah Taimur told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened at around 9:00am on Abdul Khalil's vehicle. Civil Hospital Director Jamil Farotan said the injured NDS official had been delivered to the hospital and was in critical condition. Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast and claimed Abdul Khalil had been killed.

Nov 21, 2016

KABUL: At least 30 people were killed and 64 others wounded as a suicide bomber attacked a religious ceremony in the sixth police district of Kabul on Monday, an official said. Crime branch chief for 101st Kabul Asmayee Police Zone, Col. Faridoon Obaidi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place at a Shiite mosque, Bagirul Uloom, in Chahar Dehi area at around 12:20pm.A statement from the Ministry of Interior confirmed 30 people were killed and 64 others wounded in the deadliest attack. The attack took place when a religious ceremony of Shiite worshippers was underway. Mohammad Ismail Kawosi, a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health said 27 bodies including a child and 64 injured people including seven women had been evacuated to hospitals. The attacker detonated his suicide vest inside the mosque on the Faiz Mohammad Kateb road. Security forces cordoned off the scene, while ambulances and police vehicles evacuated the victims to hospitals. Obaidi had earlier said 27 people were killed and 35 others wounded in the bombing. He said tight security measures were put in place for all other mosques in Kabul during the ceremony, but the ceremony (Chehlam of ImamHussain (RWA) in Bagirul Uloom mosque was held without contact with security officials. However, Zabihullah, an eyewitness whose clothes were stained with blood, said around 30 people were killed in the attack. The victims included children and women, he added. The Taliban, who are often blamed by the government for such attacks, said they were not involved. But Islamic State or Daesh group claimed responsibility for the attack. "A martyrdom attack by an Islamic State fighter targets a Shiite husseiniya [shrine] in the city of Kabul," the organization's Aamaq Agency said in a newsflash. Soon after the blast that shattered windows of the mosque, people rushed to the scene to get information about their loved ones.

Nov 21, 2016

SAR-I-PUL: Security forces shot dead a would-be suicide bomber who planned an attack on the governor of northern Sar-i-Pul province on Monday. Governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat told



Pajhwok Afghan News he was travelling in his car, accompanied by the provincial intelligence chief. The attacker, shouting Allah-o-Akbar (God is great), ran toward his car, the governor said. But before reaching the car, the would-be attacker was gunned down by the security personnel.

Nov 21, 2016

NANGARHAR: Two Daesh rebels have been killed in a US drone strike in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Monday. Governor Spokesman Ataullah Khogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News the two militants were targeted in a drone missile attack Sunday night in a village of Mamandari locality. Elsewhere, three Taliban have been killed and a suspect militant detained during Special Forces operation in Tarko locality of Chaparhar district, according to Khogyani. He said civilians and security forces suffered no casualties during the offensive. Separately, more than 600 kilogrames of expired and low-quality food items have been recovered from Jalalabad city, the provincial public health department said. Public Health Director Dr. Najibullah Kamawal said, these items had been recovered from several stores and shops in the city and will be destroyed in the near future.

Nov 21, 2016

HELMAND: Afghan forces and Taliban militants clashed overnight in the capital of southern Helmand province, with each side claiming to have inflicted casualties on the other.Lt. Col. Mohammad Rassoul Zazai, spokesman for the 215th Maiwand Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash took place in Bolan area of Lashkargah on Sunday night. Several militants were killed and wounded during the clash and the Afghan forces escaped unhurt, the official said. However, a police official, who wished not to be identified, said three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and two others wounded during the clash. Three militants were also killed and a number of others wounded, the source added. Governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, confirmed the clash but said nothing about casualties. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, claimed 14 ANA soldiers were killed and two security posts captured by Taliban in Bolan. Currently six districts of Helmand are under Taliban control. Except centers, Taliban militants hold sway in other areas of all districts.

Nov 21, 2016

LAGHMAN: A Taliban commander was killed along with his two accomplices during a clash with security forces in eastern Laghman province on Monday, an official said. Sarhadi Zwak, the



governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the early morning clash took place in Achakzai area of Alishang district during an ongoing security operation codenamed "Almas". He identified the slain rebel commander as Majeed Zarqawe who had established a check-post in the area. Security forces suffered no causalities in the clash.

Nov 22, 2016

FARAH: A sitting member and former head of the Farah provincial council (PC) has escaped unhurt but three of his bodyguards sustained injuries in militants attack in Bala Balok district. Arid Bakhtawar, the PC member, told Pajhwok Afghan News he was on his way to western Herat province when militants attacked him in Daristan locality late on Monday. His guards responded to the attack. The ensuing clash lasted about half an hour, leaving three of this guards wounded. Bakhtawar said he arrived in Herat while the injured were evacuated to the Zonal Hospital. The guards are in stable condition. The public representative believed militants had also suffered causalities during the clash, but he had no figures. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Nov 22, 2016

KABUL: The Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) said on Tuesday it prosecuted 66 suspects in 65 criminal cases during the previous month of the year. The 66 individuals had been arrested in Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Ghazni, Maidan Wardak, Parwan, Herat, Kunduz, Helmand, Baghlan, Nimroz, Farah, Samangan and Paktia provinces, the CJTF said in a statement. A total of 556.29 kilograms of heroin, 18650 kilograms of morphine, 10125.51 kilograms of opium, 3719 kilograms of marijuana, 25698.35 kilograms of solid chemicals, 9770 liters of liquid chemicals and 2516.75 liters of alcohol had been recovered from the detainees. The justice center said alcohol and narcotics related cases belonged to 17 of 34 provinces, 12 cases each belonged to Nangarhar and Herat provinces and 6 cases in Badakhshan ranked these provinces at the top. The center said Logar, Khost, Daikundi, Nuristan, Panjshir, Paktika, Kapisa, Ghor, Bamyan, Badghis, Zabul, Uruzgan, Faryab, Sar-i-Pul, Jawzjan, Kandahar and Kunar had been free from narcotics or alcohol related cases. During the past one month, a total of 22 criminal cases and 12 suspects accused of drug and alcohol smuggling had been registered with the center.

Nov 22, 2016

KABUL: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has suspended four officials of the sixth police district of Kabul over Monday's suicide attack, an official said on Tuesday. At least 30 people were killed



and 64 others wounded as a suicide bomber attacked a religious ceremony in the sixth police district of Kabul on Monday, an official said. Islamic State or Daesh group claimed responsibility for the attack. A statement from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the ministry's leadership had decided to suspend duties of the sixth police district chief, intelligence chief, crime branch chief and counterterrorism chief over the incident. The Ministry of Interior on Monday appointed a delegation to investigate the attack, the statement said, adding the delegation included MoI crime branch chief and had been tasked with fully investigation the attack. By

Nov 23, 2016

NANGARHAR: Taliban militants continued their attacks on the Doab district of eastern Nuristan province for a fifth day on Wednesday, the governor said. Hafiz Abdul Qayum told Pajhwok more than 450 militants from several districts of Laghman and Nuristan provinces were involved in the attacks but so far no side had casualties. However, he said four civilians including women and children were injured when a rocket hit their house. The governor said the road to Doab district had been closed and the clashes prolonged after bad climate halted air supplies. He assured that no police check-points had been captured by Taliban. Nuristan provincial council chief Saadullah Nuristani told Pajhwok that the ground forces had already proven their worth but the lack of air support led to prolonged clashes. Nuristani feared losing the district to insurgents if fresh arms supplies did not reach the forces and if the air support did not arrive. Khan Mohammad, a resident, said people had run out of food items due to the closure of Doab road. According Khan Mohammad, no civilians have suffered casualties in the clashes but they could die of starvation if the clashes prolonged. The governor said new supplies including food would be reaching both security forces and residents of the district soon. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the fighters had captured three checkpoints and inflicted casualties to security forces during the clashes in Doab district, but his claim was rejected by local officials.

Nov 24, 2016

JAWZJAN: Nearly 20 children of displaced families have lost their lives to extreme cold in the Darzab district of northwestern Jawzjan province, an official said on Thursday. Hundreds of families, displaced by war from northern Sar-i-Pul province and remote parts of Darzab, have taken refuge in the district centre. They are faced with myriad problems. The district chief, Rahmatullah Hashar, told Pajhwok Afghan News a number of residents from Sayyad district and parts of Darzab had been displaced by Islamic State (IS)-linked violence. "At least 20 children of the displaced families have lost their lives as a result of freezing weather conditions and

snowfall in Darzab district last night," he said. Deputy Governor Abdur Rahman Mahmoodi said that some displaced households living in Shiberghan had received aid packages. But the aid was not enough to meet their needs, he added. Many of the displaced people were living in the open, mosques and schools in Bibi Maryam area of Darzab district, said Mahmoodi, who has urged charities to help the affected families, but none of them has so far done anything. "We are trying to resolve problems of the affected families," he said, warning a possible humanitarian disaster if the displaced were not helped urgently. A provincial council member, Halima Sadaf, said 1,600 families fearing Daesh offensives fled their homes in the Sayyad district of Sar-i-Pul and parts of Darzab to Balcheragh and Garziwan towns. She said 120 displaced families belonged to Darzab and the rest to Sar-i-Pul. The households are faced with a shortage of food, tents, medicine and other essential items. But officials of Sar-i-Pul and Jawzjan had done nothing so far to help them, she complained. "We may see even worse days if the affected families are not helped; they may lose more lives to the harsh winter. "The Darzab district chief had previously said that most of the displaced families had members serving the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and uprising groups.

Nov 24, 2016

FARYAB: Six Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been freed from Taliban's captivity in northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Thursday. The soldiers had been abducted after a private helicopter they were traveling in made an emergency landing in Pashtun Kot on November 14, 2015. At that time, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) had said two ANA soldiers and a foreign national were killed during a clash with Taliban militants after the landing. The rebels took hostage another 18 soldiers and crew members. Detective manager at the first ANA battalion in Faryab, Maj. Amanullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News six of the kidnapped soldiers were released from a Taliban jail late on Wednesday. The soldiers released were in good health and efforts were underway to free the rest still under Taliban's captivity, he said. A security official, who wished to go unnamed, said the Taliban had transferred the pilots to Qatar. The Taliban had demanded releasing Qari Salahuddin, their shadowy governor for Faryab, in exchange for releasing the hostages. Qari Salahuddin was arrested during an operation led by first vice–president, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, in Faryab last year.

Nov 24, 2016

SAR-I-PUL: Roads connecting Balkhab and Sancharak districts with the provincial capital of northern Sar-i-Pul province have been blocked by heavy snowing, sending essential items prices soaring, an official said Thursday. Mohammad Hussain Rejayee, a resident of Tarkhoj

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area of Balkhab district, told Pajhwok Afghan News heavy snowfall and windstorm ongoing since Wednesday had blocked the road leading to the provincial capital in Kutal Balkhab area. He said residents used the road for traveling to Sancharak and Sar-I-Pul city and the blockade had resulted in increased prices of essential daily use items. He said a bag of flour was sold for 1,400 Afghanis in Sar-I-Pul city but the same amount of flour was sold in Balkhab for 1,900 afs. The governor's spokesman, Zabihullah Amani, said a 20-member team of the public works department had been assigned with clearing roads of snow. The team had been provided with required machineries.

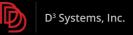
Nov 24, 2016

KANDAHAR CITY: Infighting left four policemen dead and as wounded in southern Kandahar province on Thursday, an official said. The incident took place in the 9th police district of Kandahar City, the provincial capital, at around 2:30pm this afternoon. Governor's spokesman, Samim Khpalwak, confirmed the incident but said more information about the police casualties and the nature of the clash would be shared later with the media. However, a security official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash took place between police belonging to the 9th police district and a security post of Dand district. The source said the police personnel first entered a verbal clash and then turned gun on each other and as a result, four policemen were killed and as many wounded. The official had no information what prompted the gunfire. A doctor at the Maiwand Hospital confirmed receiving four bodies and four injured policemen at the hospital. Such incidents in Kandahar had happened in the past too.

Nov 25, 2016

LAGHMAN: A girl was killed and six people were wounded when an insurgent-fired mortar shell hit a house in eastern Laghman province, the governor said on Friday. A wedding function was underway in the house on Thursday night when the mortar shell struck in the Dado Kala area of Alingarfistrict, a statement from the governor's office said. As a result, a 7-year-old girl was killed and six other people, including three children, were wounded. The injured are under treatment at the Mehtarlam Civil Hospital. Deeply shocked by the incident, Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi denounced the attack as an un-Islamic act. He accused the rebels of targeting innocent people.

Nov 25, 2016



NANGARHAR: Five people including a police officer were killed and 27 others wounded separate blasts in eastern Nangarhar province on Friday, the governor's office said. Police officer Col. Abdul Hakim was killed along with a child in an explosion in the provincial capital. Six other children were wounded in the incident, a statement from the governor's house said. In the second police district, a policeman and two civilians were killed in two explosions, which wounded 17 others, including three security personnel. Investigations into the blasts are underway.

Nov 26, 2016

NANGARHAR: Five Daesh rebels, including two Pakistanis, have been killed during clearing operation in the Pachiragam district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Saturday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces conducted clearing operation in the Pas Pachir locality of the district against rebels. He said two Pakistanis were among the dead Daesh rebels whose bodies remained at the site of clash. Some documented that proved their Pakistani identity, a rocket launcher, one Kalashnikov and some explosives were recovered from the dead insurgents. He said during the offensive areas of Mughalkhel, Ghondikhel and Tangikhel were cleared of the insurgents. Two people, people including a woman, were set free from rebels' captivity during the offensive. The civilians were kept hostages almost a month earlier, he added.

Nov 26, 2016

JAWZJAN: Five people, including two women, have died and three pregnant women miscarried due to severe cold in northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Saturday. Deputy Governor Eng. Abdul Rahman Mahmoodi said the victims belonged to families displaced by the conflict. He said food and other assistance had ready been dispatched and would be distributed to the displaced people settled in Zar Ab district. He said the aid included 5,000 Afghanis in cash, blankets, rice, floor, cookies, heaters, heating materials and other necessary items. Mahmoodi said the aid had been ordered by Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum.He said local officials were trying to get more assistance from NGOs and other sources for the displaced people hit hard by cold weather. Zar Ab district chief Rahmatullah Hashar said five people including two women died last night and three pregnant women lost their babies due cold weather. He said the displaced families had no access to doctor and health facilities and were in deep trouble. Halema Sadaf, a member of the provincial council, said the assistance being provided to each family was not enough, adding more assistance was needed for the displaced people.



Nov 26, 2016

KUNDUZ CITY: A civil society organization on Saturday expressed concern at more than 500 civilian deaths and injuries to more than 1,200 people during clashes in northern Kunduz province this solar year. Enayatullah Khaleq, a civil society activist, asked the warring parties to respect humanitarian laws and refrain from killing civilians during their clashes. He said the current year saw more than 500 people losing their lives to violence in Kunduz City, the provincial capital, alone. Another activist Leda Sherzad said the security situation of Kunduz had not improved and militants continued their attacks on the outskirts of the city. She said the number of people killed and wounded was shocking amid visits by high ranking officials who pledged improved security.

Nov 27, 2016

KABUL: Afghan National Border Police (ANBP) has captured over nine tones of Ammonium Nitrate in Torkham dry-port of eastern Nangarhar province, a statement from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Sunday. The substance commonly used to make Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) was recovered from a Pakistani truck entering to Afghanistan on Saturday evening, the statement said. The driver of the truck was taken into police custody. Afghan National Police encourages all citizens to report suspicious activities and criminal acts by dialing 119.

Nov 27, 2016

GHAZNI CITY: Local security officials on Sunday said an eight-member gang of criminals has been arrested in southern Ghazni province. Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel, told Pajhwok Afghan News that three of the detainees were involved in filming naked scenes of businessmen and people in order to blackmail them. The men had installed spy cameras in rooms where businessmen were sent to play with boys, he said. The criminals would look for people interested in having illicit relations with boys. The men had received thousands of US dollars from their victims, he said. Amarkhel added a large number of pornographic video clips, computers, spy cameras, SIM cards, business cards, condoms and different types of sexual medicines had been seized from the detainees. Sodomy scenes of some government officials had also been recorded by the men, but identities of the officials were unclear and investigations were underway, he said. Video clips of other people having sex with boys were also found with the detainees, he said. Mohammad Akram, a resident of Kandahar province, who owns a vehicle oil company in Ghazni, said first the men purchased some oil from him and



then invited him to their area. "When I went there, they guided me to a room where a boy was already there. The boy there requested me to have sex with him. The men recorded what happened in the room," he said. He said the men then contacted him over phone and asked him to pay \$20,000 otherwise they would release the film on the internet. Akram said he contacted Ghazni crime branch police. "Police recorded all telephonic conversations between me and the criminals and arrested them when they came for taking money on Saturday evening," he added. Amarkhel also said four drug smugglers and a militant involved in planting roadside bombs had been arrested in Ghazni. He said 2,000 different types of bullets were seized from the detainees.

Nov 27, 2016

NANGARHAR: Security forces killed two Taliban militants and wounded seven Islamic State or Daesh fighters during separate operations in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Sunday. Police spokesman Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal told Pajhwok Afghan News the seven Daesh gunmen were wounded during an ongoing joint operation in the Pachiragam district. Security forces seized some weapons and ammunition and destroyed a machinegun belonging to Daesh during the operation, he said. Meanwhile, Special Forces killed two Taliban militants in Ghanikhel district and arrested three others including Taliban's shadowy district chief for Nazian district, according to Mashriqiwal.

Nov 27, 2016

URUZGAN: Twenty Taliban militants have been killed and ten others wounded during an ongoing operation in the capital of central Uruzgan province, an official said on Sunday. Police chief Brig. Gen. Wali Jan Sarhadi said the rebels suffered casualties in Charmagar locality of Tirinkot during the "Operation Atal 16". Talking to reporters in the frontline area, Sarhadi said Afghan security forces had advanced against militants in the ongoing joint operation in Charmagar area. He called the area important and said most of the time insurgents targeted the provincial capital from that area.

Nov 27, 2016

NANGARHAR: Seven Islamic State (IS) or Daesh rebels were killed and three others wounded in a US drone strikes in eastern Nangarhar province on Sunday, an official said. Attuallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the drone targeted Daesh militants in Gorgori locality of the Haska Mena district at 11am today. Some weapons and ammunition

belonging to the rebels were also destroyed in the blitz, he said, adding civilians suffered no casualties in the strikes. Earlier in the day, police said two Daesh rebels were killed in the Pachiragam district during an operation this morning.

IV. QUALITY CONTROL

This section provides a description of quality control. Additional data processing checks and hard checks taken to ensure the quality of the report are summarized in this section. This survey had a high level of quality control and oversight which contributes to the overall validity of the data collected.

Field Team

A description of the field team composition such as the number of interviewers by gender, the number of interviewers that have worked on previous D3 projects, and those that are new interviewers to a D3 project are described in Table 6.

TABLE 6: DESCRIPTION OF FIELD

	Female	Male	Total
Number of female/male interviewers	378	587	965
Number of interviewers previously used in D3 project	369	574	943
Number of interviewers new to a D3 project	9	13	22

Training

The central training for provincial supervisors was held in Kabul on November 16-17, 2016 and was led by ACSOR project managers Nazir Ekhlass and Jawed Alkozai. Thirty-four provincial supervisors were trained at the central training in Kabul. Additional provincial level trainings were conducted in all 34 provinces by the trained supervisors.

Topics covered during the training include:

- Proper household and respondent selection
- Review of the questionnaire content
- Proper recording of questions
- Appropriate interviewing techniques
- Proper usage of the contact sheets

The training sessions were conducted successfully and no issues were reported.

Quality Control Methods – Field Level

When the questionnaires have returned to the ACSOR central office in Kabul they are sorted and open-end questions are coded by a team of coders familiar with international standards for creating typologies for codes.

The questionnaires are then sent for data entry. ACSOR key-punches all questionnaires on-site to protect the data and closely control the quality of the data entry process. During this process, the keypunching team utilizes logic checks and verifies any errors inadvertently committed by interviewers.

Following the data cleaning process and logic checks of the dataset, ACSOR uses a proprietary program called Hunter that searches for additional patterns and duplicates that may indicate that an interview was not properly conducted by an interviewer.

The Hunter program includes three tests:

- 1. Equality test compares interviews for similarities, grouped by interviewer, within sampling point, province, or any other variable. Typically, interviews with an interviewer average of 90% or higher are flagged for further investigation.
- 2. Non response test determines the percentage of "Don't Knows" for each interviewer's cases. Typically, interviews with 25% or higher Don't Know responses are flagged for further investigation.

3. Duplicates test – compares cases across all interviewers and respondents to check for similarity rates. This test will flag any pair of interviews that are similar to each other. Typically, any cases that have a similarity of 95% or higher are flagged for further investigation.

Any interview that does not pass Hunter is pulled out for additional screening. If the interview does not pass screening, it is removed from the final database before delivery.

For Wave 34, the Hunter program flagged a total of 478 cases to be removed:

- 56 cases were removed due to over 90% similarity in answers
- 0 case was removed due to having over 50% non-response
- 422 cases were removed for being over 95% similar in substantive responses (duplicates test).

Quality Control – Double Entry

For the Wave 34 survey, ACSOR randomly selected 1,392 questionnaires of the total 2,072⁸ (15%). These questionnaires were then given to an independent team for entry. Data results from this independent entry were then compared to the primary data set. Discrepancies and errors were identified by data coders. All discrepancies were compared to the fielded questionnaires. The data in the finalized dataset were based on the responses provided in the original questionnaires. The results of double entry showed an overall error rate of .14%, which is comparably low and acceptable for quality control standards.

⁸ Total n size before Hunter deletions and cases were removed due to improper survey administration and misprinted questionnaires.

V. QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was drafted from client specifications consisting of 31 management questions, 18 demographics questions, and 104 substantive questions. The mean interview length was 34 minutes with a range of 20 to 63 minutes. Topic areas that were addressed in the questionnaire include:

- Security
- Afghan National Security Forces
- NATO/International Forces
- Reconciliation/Reintegration
- Taliban/Da'esh
- Government performance
- Economic conditions
- Dispute resolution
- Perception of countries and organizations
- Migration

VI. OUTLOOK FOR FUTURE STUDIES

The fieldwork for ANQAR Wave 34 proceeded successfully. D3/ACSOR anticipate no difficulties in repeating the study for future waves.

VII. APPENDIX

Appendix A

LIST OF INTERCEPT INTERVIEWS FOR ANQAR WAVE 34

Sampling Point	Province	District
334	22 Faryab (FYB)	Kohistan
335	22 Faryab (FYB)	Kohistan
336	22 Faryab (FYB)	Kohistan
337	22 Faryab (FYB)	Kohistan
352	20 Jawzjan (JOW)	Darzab
353	20 Jawzjan (JOW)	Darzab
366	20 Jawzjan (JOW)	Qarqin
367	20 Jawzjan (JOW)	Qarqin
385	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Kohistanat
386	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Kohistanat
387	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Kohistanat
388	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Kohistanat
389	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Kohistanat
390	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Kohistanat
395	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Sayad
396	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Sayad
397	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Balkhab
398	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Balkhab
400	21 Sari Pul (SAR)	Balkhab
509	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Talah wa Barfak
510	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Talah wa Barfak
525	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
526	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
527	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
528	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
529	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
530	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
531	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
532	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Baghlan-e Jadid
545	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Dahanah-ye Ghori
546	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Dahanah-ye Ghori
547	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Dahanah-ye Ghori
548	16 Baghlan (BGL)	Dahanah-ye Ghori
571	17 Kunduz (KDZ)	Imam Sahib
572	17 Kunduz (KDZ)	Imam Sahib
573	17 Kunduz (KDZ)	Imam Sahib
574	17 Kunduz (KDZ)	Imam Sahib

688	14 Badakhshan	Yawan
	(BDS)	
695	14 Badakhshan (BDS)	Darwaz-e Pa'in
696	14 Badakhshan (BDS)	Darwaz-e Pa'in
697	14 Badakhshan	Shiki
097	(BDS)	SHIKI
698	14 Badakhshan	Shiki
	(BDS)	
699	14 Badakhshan	Yamgan
	(BDS)	3
700	14 Badakhshan	Yamgan
	(BDS)	3
701	14 Badakhshan	Darwaz-e Bala
	(BDS)	
702	14 Badakhshan	Darwaz-e Bala
	(BDS)	
703	14 Badakhshan	Warduj
	(BDS)	
704	14 Badakhshan	Warduj
	(BDS)	
705	14 Badakhshan	Khwahan
	(BDS)	
706	14 Badakhshan	Khwahan
	(BDS)	
709	14 Badakhshan	Ishkashim
	(BDS)	
710	14 Badakhshan	Ishkashim
700	(BDS)	D 11:
732	14 Badakhshan	Raghistan
722	(BDS)	Do alc'ata a
733	14 Badakhshan	Raghistan
702	(BDS)	Daymirdad
792	4 Wardak (WAR)	Daymirdad Daymirdad
793	4 Wardak (WAR)	Daymirdad Novide
815	4 Wardak (WAR)	Nerkh Nerkh
816	4 Wardak (WAR)	Nerkh
817	4 Wardak (WAR)	Nerkh
818	4 Wardak (WAR)	Nerkh
819	4 Wardak (WAR)	Jalrayz
820	4 Wardak (WAR)	Jalrayz
821	4 Wardak (WAR)	Jalrayz
822	4 Wardak (WAR)	Jalrayz
837	6 Ghazni (GHA)	Giro
838	6 Ghazni (GHA)	Giro

	(HEL)	
1716	27 Helmand (HEL)	Musa Qal`ah
1717	27 Helmand (HEL)	Musa Qal'ah
1718	27 Helmand (HEL)	Musa Qal`ah
1719	27 Helmand (HEL)	Musa Qal`ah
1720	27 Helmand (HEL)	Now Zad
1721	27 Helmand (HEL)	Now Zad
1722	27 Helmand (HEL)	Now Zad
1723	27 Helmand (HEL)	Now Zad



Appendix B

LIST OF REPLACED SAMPLING POINTS FOR ANQAR WAVE 34

SP #	Provi nce	District	Village (1st Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (2nd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (3rd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment
239	1. Kabul	Istalif	QOUL CHANAR GULDARA replaced with TALAQI	No transport ation way for vehicles	ASIYAB GADI	No transport ation way for vehicles		
240	1. Kabul	Istalif	MEHTARL AM BABA DARA ESTALEF replaced with KHOWJA HASSAN	No transport ation way for vehicles	PAYAN DAHI	No transport ation way for vehicles		
243	1. Kabul	Gul Darah	SHAH MIR PAYAN replaced with KALTARI	No transport ation way for vehicles				
249	1. Kabul	Paghma n	QALA SAQI replaced with BURJAK YA TARA KHAIL	No village with this name was found				
252	1. Kabul	Paghma n	BADAM QOUL replaced with BELSAN KHALDARI	No transport ation way for vehicles				

Reason

SP

Provi

District

Village

Reason

Village

Reason

Village

SP #	Provi nce	District	Village (1st Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (2nd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (3rd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment
	ngan	Pa'in	replaced with Ganj Zo	for vehicles	NAHIM	for vehicles		for vehicles
761	19. Sama ngan	Darah- ye Suf-e Pa'in	SHAIKHA replaced with Chubaki	No transport ation way for vehicles	MADRI	No transport ation way for vehicles	ZADRAI KHADRI	No transport ation way for vehicles
763	19. Sama ngan	Darah- ye Suf-e Pa'in	MALIK SHAHID KADAH replaced with SADAT KOTAL AIBAK MARKAZ DAHI	No transport ation way for vehicles				
770	32. Bamya n	Bamyan	SAR QOUL replaced with Tubchi	No transport ation way for vehicles	SULTANO O	No transport ation way for vehicles	QASHNAW UR	No transport ation way for vehicles
772	32. Bamya n	Bamyan	NAWUR GOSALA GAN replaced with Sil Kash Payeen	No transport ation way for vehicles	KATWAY	No transport ation way for vehicles	BAGHALA	No transport ation way for vehicles
776	32. Bamya n	Panjab	SABZ NOW replaced with RASHK	No transport ation way for vehicles				

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SP #	Provi nce	District	Village (1st Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (2nd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (3rd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment
781	32. Bamya n	Shaybar	DAHI PALANG replaced with Zard Khak	No transport ation way for vehicles	HAIL SAYEL	No transport ation way for vehicles	DAHAN MAD	No transport ation way for vehicles
782	32. Bamya n	Shaybar	DAHAN DEWARED replaced with Pesta Mazar	The village is under control of Taliban	NOORAK	No transport ation way for vehicles	DO WAREED	No transport ation way for vehicles
786	32. Bamya n	Waras	SOL BAYNAK replaced with DAHAN TAKHAK	No transport ation way for vehicles				
830	6. Ghazni	Ghazni town	Laghari replaced with Shahr Kohna	The village is under control of Taliban				
871	6. Ghazni	Qarah Bagh	BABI replaced with CHAMBAR AHMAD	No village with this name was found				
883	6. Ghazni	Ghazni	MUGHULA N replaced with MASJED SHARIF EID GA	The village is under control of Taliban				
884	6. Ghazni	Ghazni	KALA GHACH HULYA replaced	The village is under control of				



SP #	Provi nce	District	Village (1st Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (2nd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment	Village (3rd Draw)	Reason for Replace ment
	nd		MOHAMM AD ZAI	control of Taliban	BAND	control of Taliban		
168	27. Helma nd	Nahr-e Saraj	PAYEN QALA repalced with Ab Bazan	The village is under control of Taliban	KHOGYAN I GHUNDI	The village is under control of Taliban	KUN JAK	The village is under control of Taliban