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# METHODS REPORT

**ANQAR WAVE 31**

**APRIL 13, 2016**



**Field Dates:** February 19 – March 4, 2016

**Sample Size:** 13,577

**Number of Interviewers:** 985

**Field Provider:** ACSOR

**D3 Project Manager:** Leslie Dishman

**Prepared By:** Leslie Dishman, Research Analyst



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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 31 survey conducted in the spring of 2015.

Fieldwork for Wave 31 was conducted by ACSOR for RS/NATO in Afghanistan from February 19 to March 4, 2016. The sample includes a national probability sample of 11,410 Afghans selected at random in all 34 of the country's provinces; and a sample conducted via intercept interviews of 2,167. Respondents were 18 years and older, 64% were male and 36% were female. The survey includes both urban (20%) and rural (80%) 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 February 19 to March 4, 2016. The field team consisted of 985 trained interviews and supervisors under the management of D3 Systems and ACSOR.
- ANQAR Wave 31 includes a total sample of 13,577 men and women 18 years of age and older in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. 11,410 interviews were conducted via random walk with male and female respondents and 2,167 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 31 replacements can be found in Appendix B.

- The sample was 64% male and 36% 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 59 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 31 survey, a total of 196 cases were removed from the dataset; 172 cases were removed for being over 95% similar in substantive responses and 24 cases were removed due to similarities in answers. An additional 5 cases were not included in the data due to misprinted questionnaires and 6 interviews were misplaced while being transported from field.
- 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 31 survey was .17%. The error rate was very low overall and we have confidence in the fidelity of the keypunched data.
- The Wave 31 survey has a margin of sampling error of  $\pm 0.84$  percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. The overall design effect is 2. The complex margin of error is  $\pm 1.19\%$ .
- For the overall sample, the response rate is 80.95%, the cooperation rate is 92.80%, the refusal rate is 4.37%, and the contact rate is 87.22%.

## Project Schedule

Table 1 lists the schedule of major project milestones.

**TABLE 1: PROJECT TIMELINE**

Project Phases	Start Date	End Date
Translation	February 9, 2016	February 10, 2016
Central Briefing	February 18, 2016	February 18, 2016
Field	February 19, 2016	March 4, 2016
Quality Control during field-work	February 19, 2016	March 4, 2016
Data Processing	March 5, 2016	March 12, 2016

## II. SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample was drawn using a stratified multi-stage cluster design. D3 used the 2015-2016<sup>1</sup> 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+.

1. 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).

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

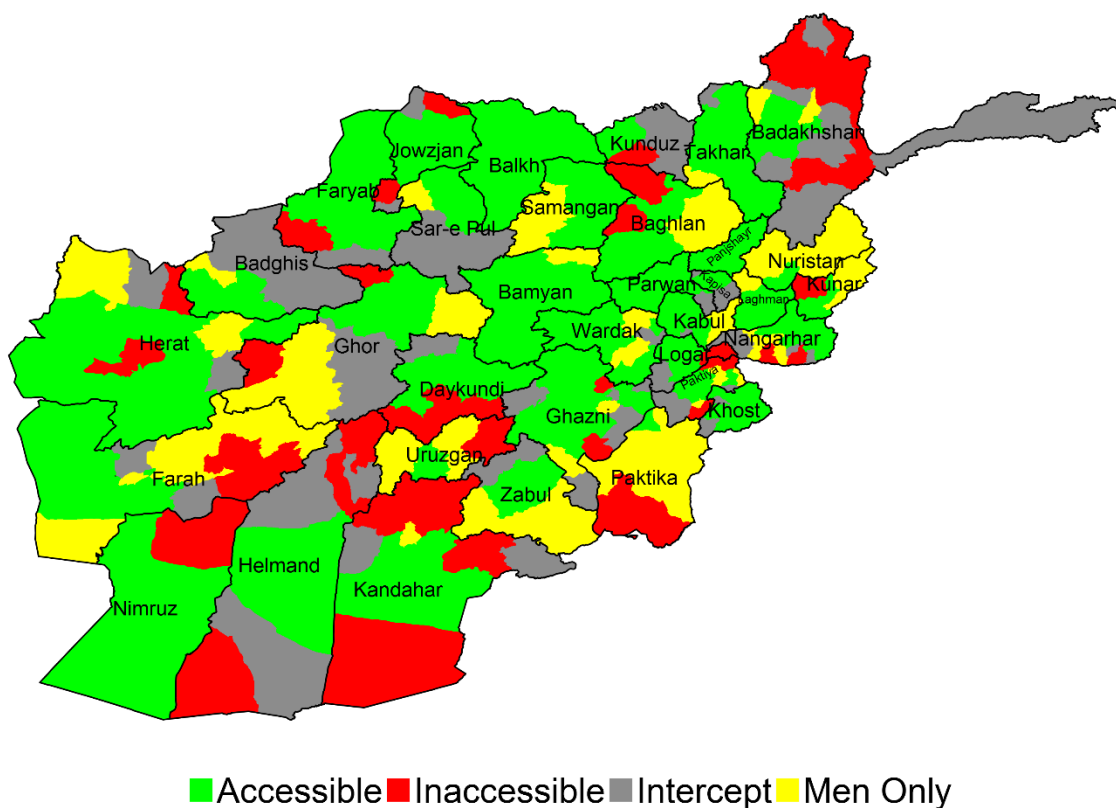
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<sup>1</sup> There is no official census of Afghanistan. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the Afghan government has attempted to provide updates since 2003, but their base is influenced by figures from the 1979 census. The CSO has received support 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.

interviews were used in 272 sampling points. These were conducted with male respondents only<sup>2</sup>. A list of the intercept interviews can be found in Appendix A.

The following figure illustrates the accessibility assessment during the month of February, 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 31.

**FIGURE 1: AFGHANISTAN ACCESSIBILITY WITH INTERCEPT INTERVIEWS**



<sup>2</sup> 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.



Of the 424<sup>3</sup> potential primary sampling units in the country, 16% were inaccessible to male interviewers, 27% were inaccessible for female interviewers. Overall, 84 completely inaccessible districts were sampled. These were made accessible to male interviewers by intercept interviews. Including design effects, results have a complex margin of sampling error of +/- 1.19 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, 68 of the 1723 sampling points were randomly replaced within the same districts because of security reasons, 63 for transportation difficulties, 19 because they could not be located, and one 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)

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<sup>3</sup> 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.



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 respondent<sup>4</sup> 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) <sup>5</sup>
Kabul (KAB)	16.1%	16.1%	16.1%
Kapisa (KAP)	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Parwan (PAR)	2.5%	2.4%	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%	1.6%	1.6%
Khost (KHO)	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
Nangarhar (NAN)	5.6%	5.5%	5.6%
Laghman (LAG)	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Kunar (KNR)	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 'wgt1' variable in the data set.

Province	CSO Percentage in Population (Total)	Percentage in Unweighted Sample (Total)	Percentage in Weighted Sample (wgt1) <sup>5</sup>
Nuristan (NUR)	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%
Badakhshan (BDS)	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Takhar (TAK)	3.6%	3.7%	3.6%
Baghlan (BGL)	3.4%	3.2%	3.4%
Kunduz (KDZ)	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%
Balkh (BAL)	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
Samangan (SAM)	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
Jawzjan (JOW)	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Sar-e- Pul (SAR)	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%
Faryab (FYB)	3.7%	3.4%	3.7%
Badghis (BDG)	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
Herat (HER)	7.0%	6.8%	7.0%
Farah (FRA)	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Nimroz (NIM)	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%
Helmand (HEL)	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
Kandahar (KAN)	4.5%	4.6%	4.5%
Zabul (ZAB)	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Uruzgan (ORU)	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
Ghor (GHO)	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%
Bamyan (BAM)	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%
Panjshayr (PAN)	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%
Daykundi (DAY)	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

## 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, Q22 and Q25. 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, Q22, Q25**

**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	3599	26.51%	0.55%	2.10
Wrong Direction	6951	51.20%	0.60%	1.99
Same Place, Not Going Anywhere	2943	21.67%	0.47%	1.78
Refused (vol.)	1	0.01%	0.01%	1.00
Don't Know (vol.)	83	0.61%	0.08%	1.31
<b>Weighted Mean</b>			<b>0.56%</b>	<b>1.97</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13577</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

**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	1706	12.57%	0.40%	1.93
Somewhat Dissatisfied	3968	29.23%	0.52%	1.78
Somewhat Satisfied	5939	43.74%	0.57%	1.78
Very Satisfied	1939	14.28%	0.45%	2.22
Don't Know (vol.)	25	0.18%	0.04%	1.04
<b>Weighted Mean</b>			<b>0.51%</b>	<b>1.86</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13577</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

**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	4971	36.61%	0.57%	1.91
Stay The Same	4330	31.89%	0.53%	1.75
Improve	3995	29.43%	0.56%	2.08
Refused (vol.)	2	0.01%	0.01%	1.01
Don't Know (vol.)	279	2.06%	0.17%	1.85
<b>Weighted Mean</b>			<b>0.55%</b>	<b>1.91</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13577</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

**q22: Q458 In general, to what extent do you think the statements made by the central government in Kabul are accurate about what the government is doing? Are they very accurate, somewhat accurate, somewhat inaccurate, or very inaccurate?**

	Frequency	Proportion	Complex SE	Design Effect
The Central Government's Statements Are Very Accurate.	1510	11.12%	0.41%	2.35
The Central Government's Statements Are Somewhat Accurate.	5509	40.57%	0.62%	2.14
The Central Government's Statements Are Somewhat Inaccurate.	4712	34.71%	0.58%	2.03
The Central Government's Statements Are Very Inaccurate.	1724	12.70%	0.40%	1.96
Refused (vol.)	13	0.10%	0.03%	1.45
Don't Know (vol.)	110	0.81%	0.09%	1.33
<b>Weighted Mean</b>			<b>0.55%</b>	<b>2.09</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13578</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

**q25: Q472 In general, how well do you think GIRoA cares for the families of ANDSF members who have been killed or disabled while performing their duty? Do they care for them very well, somewhat well, somewhat poorly, or very poorly?**

	Frequency	Proportion	Complex SE	Design Effect
Very Well	1168	8.60%	0.35%	2.08
Somewhat Well	5094	37.52%	0.63%	2.28
Somewhat Poorly	4586	33.78%	0.56%	1.88
Very Poorly	2644	19.47%	0.53%	2.45
Refused (vol)	1	0.01%	0.01%	0.98
Don't Know (vol)	84	0.62%	0.09%	1.79
<b>Weighted Mean</b>			<b>0.56%</b>	<b>2.16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13577</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

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 2.0.

Assuming simple random sample with  $n=13,577$ ,  $p=.5$ , at the 95% CI level, a conservative estimate of the margin of error for the survey is 0.84%.

Accounting for the complex design through the design effect estimate of 2.0,  $p=.5$  at the 95% CI level, the complex margin of error (CMOE) is 1.19%.

Design effect estimates were also calculated at the provincial level. Detailed calculations can be located in the document titled *ANQAR W31 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 W31 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: 97.7%
- Second contact: 1.7%
- Third contact: .6%



## 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 eligibility that are eligible

$$\text{Response Rate 3} = \frac{I}{(I + P) + (R + NC + O) + e(UH + UO)}$$

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

$$\text{Cooperation Rate 1} = \frac{I}{(I + P) + R}$$

$$(I + P) + R$$

$$\text{Refusal Rate 2} = \frac{R}{(I + P) + (R + NC + O) + e(UH + UO)}$$

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

$$\text{Contact Rate 2} = \frac{(I + P) + R + O}{(I + P) + R + O + NC + e(UH + UO)}$$

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

## 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
<b>Completed Interviews</b>			13784
1	1.0/1.10	Interview was successfully completed	
<b>Partial Interviews</b>			
10	1.200	During interview, selected respondent refused (General)	58
11	1.200	During interview, selected respondent was not feeling informed to answer the questions	50
12	1.200	During interview, selected respondent got angry because of a question	12
13	1.200	During interview, selected respondent preferred head of household be interviewed	22
14	1.200	During interview, selected respondent was in a hurry/no time	37
<b>Total Partial</b>			179
<b>Unknown Eligibility</b>			
20	3.130	No answer at door	413
21	3.200	No adults (18+) after three visits	513
22	3.170	Unable to access building or house	140
23	3.210	Outright refusal at the door	640
<b>Total Unknown Household</b>			1706
<b>Non-contacts</b>			
24	2.210	Selected respondent never available for interview	144
25	2.250	Selected respondent long-term absence for the fieldwork period	360
<b>Total Non-contacts</b>			504
<b>Others</b>			
26	2.300	Selected respondent not allowed to participate in the survey	111
35	2.310	Selected respondent deceased	2
36	2.320	Selected respondent physically or mentally unable to	29

ACSOR Code	AAPOR Code	Description	Totals
		complete the interview	
37	2.332	Selected respondent unable to complete interview in languages available	4
90	4.900	Other	0
		<b>Total Others</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Refusals</b>			
30	2.11	Selected respondent refuses (General)	277
31	2.11	Selected respondent not feeling informed to answer the questions	120
32	2.11	Selected respondent got angry because of the subject matter	38
33	2.11	Selected respondent prefers head of household to be interviewed	147
34	2.11	Selected respondent in a hurry/no time	162
		<b>Total Refusals</b>	<b>744</b>
<b>Not Eligible</b>			
40	4.700	Does not meet screening criteria/not eligible for interview	54
41	4.500	Non-residential (business)/abandoned home	262
		<b>Total Not Eligible</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total Sampled Households</b>	<b>17379</b>

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.<sup>6</sup>

**TABLE 5: FORMULAS AND RATES<sup>7</sup>**

Disposition Rate Formulas	Percent
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<sup>6</sup> 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*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

<sup>7</sup> I = Interviews, E = Eligible (temporary code, not part of final calculation), R = Refusal, NC = Non-Contact, NE = Not Eligible, UH= Unknown Eligibility, O=other

Disposition Rate Formulas	Percent
<b>Response Rate 3 (RR):</b> $I / ((I+P) + (R+NC+O) + e*(UH+UO))$	80.95%
<b>Cooperation Rate 1 (COOP):</b> $I / (I+P+R+O)$	92.80%
<b>Refusal Rate 2 (REF):</b> $R / ((I+P)+(R+NC+O) + e(UH + UO))$	4.37%
<b>Contact Rate 2 (CON):</b> $(I+P)+R+O / (I+P)+R+O+NC + e(UH+UO)$	87.22%

## 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

#### Kabul

**Feb 09, 2016**

KABUL: An explosion took place on the Metrological Department Road in the 15th police district of Kabul on Tuesday morning, but details of casualties were not immediately available. Head of 119 police helpline, Brig. Gen. Humayoon Aini, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the magnetic bomb went off at around 8am near a power pylon on the busy capital road. The bomb, attached to a mobile top-up card machine, destroyed the device and smashed windowpanes in nearby buildings, resident Mukhtar Faizi said, giving an eyewitness account. Police condensed off the area and launched an investigation into the incident, he said. No one has so far claimed responsibility for the blast.

#### Nimroz

**Feb 09, 2016**

ZARANJ/HERAT CITY: Three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and eight militants have been killed in western Herat and Farah provinces, officials said on Tuesday. The militants attacked an ANA checkpoint in the Mohammad Esa filling station area of Bakhwa district on Monday evening, the Dilaram district chief, Najibullah Hayat, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said three of the attackers were killed and as many others wounded in the six hours clash. Three ANA soldiers were also killed and two others wounded in the gun-battle. Separately, five insurgents were killed during another clash with border police in the Kalata Nazar area of Shindand district, 705th border police zone spokesman Ihsan Ulumi said. Five weapons and four motorbikes were left behind by fleeing fighters attackers in the area, the spokesman added.

#### Kabul

**Feb 09, 2016**

KABUL: Foreign forces shot and injured a security guard of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in capital Kabul on Tuesday, officials and eyewitnesses said. Crime branch police chief Brig. Gen. Faridoon Obaidi confirmed the incident and said an investigation into the attack was underway. He said the injured guard was under treatment at a government hospital in Kabul. He said foreign troops who injured the guard were yet to identified and information in this regard would be shared with the media after the investigation. Eyewitnesses said the guard was shot several times in the stomach and was rushed to hospital in critical condition. Wishing anonymity, the witnesses said the incident took place in the afternoon and that the foreign troops fled the scene after the shooting. One eyewitness Faiz Azimi told Pajhwok Afghan News foreign troops fired a magazine full of bullets at the guard. He did not know what provoked the foreign troops, who he believed were likely Americans, to fire at the guard. Musafir Qoqandi, a spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry when contacted, said it was "a trivial incident. ""Initial reports indicate that a man dressed in an Afghan National Defense Security Forces uniform opened fire on coalition forces at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Kabul on February 9th" said U. S. Army Colonel Michael T. Lawhorn, Public Affairs Director Resolute Support. Coalition forces returned fire and wounded the man who was later taken to the hospital, he said, adding the incident was currently under investigation.

## **Baghlan**

**Feb 09, 2016**

PUL-I-KHUMRI: Security forces on Tuesday claimed recapturing a military base from Taliban and killing eight rebels in the Baghlan-i-Markazi district of northern Baghlan province. Deputy police chief Col. Abdul Rashid Bashir told Pajhwok Afghan News the military base, where 20 soldiers were stationed, had been surrounded by the Taliban last Friday. He said army, police and National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel, supported by copters, launched an attack to clear the base late on Monday and took back its control from the Taliban. Nine insurgents had been wounded in the attack and some fled to Kubra and Basiqal deserts. Ahmad Shah, a resident of the locality, said two children and a woman were wounded during the clash when a rocket hit their house. He added the law and order situation had improved after the operation. Some families, displaced from the area in the past, have returned to their homes.

## **Parwan**

**Feb 10, 2016**

CHARIKAR: Two people were killed and 27 others wounded on Wednesday when a passenger bus veered off the road and turned turtle in the southern part of Salang Pass, officials said. The mishap took place in the Khaki Pul area of southern Part of Salang at around 10am, district



police chief Col. Mohammad Zia Hashimi told Pajhwok Afghan News. A child and a woman were killed and 27 others wounded, who were shifted to a health clinic in Gahwari Sang area, he said. Some of the injured in critical condition were shifted to Charikar Civil Hospital. The bus might have veered off the road due to a heavy snowstorm in the area, believed the commander of Salang Pass maintenance, Gen. Rajab.

## **Nimroz**

**Feb 10, 2016**

ZARANJ/MAIMANA: An official of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) was wounded along with his colleague in western Nimroz province while a civilian was killed in a roadside bombing in northern Faryab, officials said on Wednesday. The NDS personnel and one of his subordinates were attacked by two motorcyclists on the 200-bed Hospital Road in Zaranj, the capital of Nimroz province on Tuesday evening. An intelligence official, who wished anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News the attackers managed to flee after the incident. Bullets hit the NDS personnel in their hands and legs, but they were in stable condition, a police source said. Police have launched a search for the attackers, the source added. Separately, one civilian was killed and another wounded as the motorbike they were riding hit a roadside bomb in Qasar district on Tuesday evening. The town's Administrative chief, Rahmatullah Qaisari, said the injured civilian was in critical condition. Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed killing one soldier and injuring another in an attack on a convoy of the security personnel in the Ghormach district of Faryab.

## **Jawzjan**

**Feb 10, 2016**

SHIBERGHAN: A woman hanged herself in northern Jawzjan province, taking the number of female suicide incidents to seven since March 2015, officials said on Wednesday. The 25 years old hanged herself from a ceiling fan with her shawl, the crime branch chief, Col. Abdul Hadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Her mother-in-law immediately called his son (brother-in-law of the woman) to take her to hospital, but she died on the way. The woman leaves behind two children, with the motive behind her resort to yet to be known, according to the official, who said police had launched an investigation into the incident. Meanwhile, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) chief for Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul and Faryab provinces linked the suicide family violence. Maghfirat Samimi listed poverty, ignorance, disregard for women's rights and outright rejection of their demands as main reasons behind such incidents. She asked police to determine whether the women commit suicide or was killed.

## **Kabul**

**Feb 10, 2016**

KABUL: Heavy clashes between security forces and Taliban are underway in the Nirkh district of central Maidan Wardak province, an official said on Wednesday. The clashes erupted after the security forces launched a clearing operation codenamed Topan-1 in the district, the governor's spokesman, Toryalai Himmat told Pajhwok Afghan News. Having no confirm causality figures, Himmat said the offensive would continue until the area was purged of insurgents. Mohammad Rahim, a resident of Deh Hayat locality, said the clashes erupted at around 8:00am in the area. Fighting in the town was still ongoing, he added. "Heavy weapons fire could be heard in the area. But there has been no credible report yet about casualties." Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed one tank of security forces was destroyed and all soldiers on board killed. The governor spokesman, however, rejected the claim.

## **Helmand**

**Feb 10, 2016**

LASHKARGAH: Only 60 percent of high school graduates on Wednesday appeared in the university entry test (Kankoor) in southern Helmand province, officials said. More than 2500 students completed high school Helmand this year but only 1062 of them sat the exam due to security reasons, provincial education director, Abdul Matin Jafar, said. "Most of the students could not participate in the Kankoor test only for security reason," he said. Currently, Musa Qala, Nawzad, Deshu and Baghran districts are in control of Taliban. However, Governor Mirza Khan Rahimi said there were also some other issues preventing students from participating in the entry test in addition to insecurity. According to Rahimi, this year they took strict measures to prevent irresponsible individuals to entering the exam venue. In total 1062 students, including 76 girls, participated in the exam and they had already tasked a delegation with ensuring transparency in the exam, a representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Asadullah Aminzai, said.

## **Faryab**

**Feb 11, 2016**

**MAIMANA:** Afghan police have cleared a dozen villages of the Qaisar district of northern Faryab province of Taliban's presence, an official claimed on Thursday. The villages were cleared by a 100-member unit of Afghan Local Police (ALP) led by Wolesi Jirga (lower house of parliament) member Fathullah Qaisari. Public uprising members also fought alongside the ALP personnel, the district's administrative chief, Rahmatullah Qaisari, told Pajhwok Afghan News. "We have enough human resources, but ask the government to equip ALP and uprising members with weapons and ammunitions to prevent the Taliban from recapturing the areas," he said. Almaka, Sarbaz and Aiti Sarlaq areas, comprised of 12 villages, had fallen to Taliban a month ago, but the ALP retook the areas last night, said a member of provincial council, Syed Abdul Baqi Hashimi.

## **Bamyan**

**Feb 11, 2016**

**BAMYAN CITY:** The Hajigak Pass, connecting central Bamyan province with capital Kabul through Maidan Wardak province, has been closed since Wednesday due to heavy snowfall, officials said on Thursday. Driver Mohammad Jan said that most passengers travelled through the Hajigak Pass instead of Ghorband Valley in Parwan. But now many of people have to travel to the nation's capital through Ghorband. Meanwhile, Director of Public Works Eng. Mohammad Anwari promised reopening the strategic road as soon as possible. He said all roads to districts and other provinces were open, but three valleys remained blocked. The road has been closed by snowfall in the Behsud district of Maidan Wardak. Provincial officials should take urgent steps for reopening the route, said the Bamyan governor's spokesman, Abdul Rahman Ahmadi. Although the Bamyan-Kabul highway passing through Parwan province is open, people avoid travelling the road due to insecurity. Kidnappings on the road in Syagard district have become a routine occurrence. A resident of Bamyan said a one-way air ticket to Kabul cost 5,500afs. There are only two flights a week to Baman which cannot resolve the transportation problem of even 40 percent of people travelling to Kabul.

## **Kandahar**

**Feb 11, 2016**

**KANDAHAR CITY:** Six policemen were killed and seven others wounded as a result of an insider attack in the Zherai district of southern Kandahar province, an official said on Thursday. A policeman drugged his colleagues at a checkpoint on Wednesday night in the Nooruddin Kala area of the district, the governor's spokesman, Zia Durrani, told Pajhwok Afghan News. As the policemen fell unconscious, six of them were gunned down and seven others wounded by their rogue colleague, he said, adding the attacker was also killed in return fire. A delegation from the police headquarters had arrived at the scene for investigations, the district chief said. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, said the attacker loyal to the insurgent group had

killed 15 policemen, including checkpoint commander Agha Wali in Makwano area. He said the attack was in revenge for the civilian killed by that security forces in the Khakrez district of the province. The security forces said they had killed 21 militants and injured 11 others during a joint operations in Lam, Tanbel and Chinar areas of Khakrez two nights ago. But Ahamdi alleged Afghan and foreign troops had killed 13 civilians and injured eight others in the Khakrez operations.

## **Farah**

**Feb 11, 2016**

FARAH CITY: Three policemen were injured in a roadside bombing while explosives attached to a motorbike were defused by police in western Farah province, officials said on Thursday. A statement from the Ministry of Interior said that an explosives-packed bike parked on the road to Balabaluck district was defused at around 6am by police. Separately, three policemen sustained injuries when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the same district, said the administrative chief of the town, Mullah Sayed Mohammad. The policemen were discharged from the clinic after being administered first aid. However, a resident of Shinwan area said two policemen were killed and three others wounded in the blast. He gave no further details of the attack. As usual, the Taliban fighters claimed responsibility for the blast, saying all policemen aboard the vehicle suffered casualties in the bomb attack.

## **Nimroz**

**Feb 12, 2016**

ZARANJ: Residents of southwestern Nimroz province complain of growing incidents of kidnappings saying businessmen and well-off individuals have stopped sending children to school and training centres and may pull out their investments. Locals say seven incidents of kidnapping and two incidences of murder have occurred in the province in the past one month, fuelling serious concerns among the people. Last month, a businessman's son was kidnapped in Zaranj, the provincial capital. Zakria, 5, was found dead two weeks later, sparking angry protests by residents and civil society activists. The child's family says the abductors demanded one million afghanis and finally came down to 400,000 afis for the release of Zakria. But they brutally killed the boy and threw his body into a well. The son of another businessman was also abducted last month, but police rescued the 30 months old from the kidnappers and arrested five individuals in connection with the heinous crime. In the third incidents, trader Abdullah Noorzai went missing on the Zaranj-Dilaram road in Khashrod district. There is still no information about the businessman. According to inhabitants, well-off individuals and businessmen were usually taken hostage for ransom. Last year, there were fewer incidents of

kidnapping, they add. Tribal elder Nooruddin grumbles: “We are keeping our children inside home and behind closed doors, fearing they may be lost.” He confirms people are scared of their children being kidnapped if they venture out of home. Mohammad Nader Noorzai, a businessman, warns if the incidents of kidnapping are not controlled, traders will migrate to other provinces. Such a move will put negative impact on trade and commerce in Nimroz. He claims police are hand in glove with the kidnappers -- an issue that cannot be resolved as long as supporters of criminals in law-enforcement agencies are not removed. On the other hand, Governor Mohammad Sami touts the busting of two groups of kidnappers in the past three weeks. He asserts the government’s determination to eradicate crime from society. He promises the law and order situation in Nimroz will be improved at any cost, seeking continued cooperation from the masses. Two weeks earlier, an officer of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) -- the spy service -- and their driver were gunned down in Zaranj.

## **Kabul**

**Feb 12, 2016**

KABUL: Five Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and 22 militants have killed during clearing operations in 10 provinces of the country, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday. The joint anti-rebels offensives had been conducted in different parts of the country in the past 24 hours, a statement from the MoD said. Specifically the operations against insurgent had been carried out in Logar, Khost, Maidan Wardak, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Baghlan, Balkh, Badakhshan and Helmand provinces. Militants have not commented over clashes with security forces.

## **Kandahar**

**Feb 13, 2016**

KANDAHAR CITY: At least 35 passengers have been injured in an accident on the Kandahar-Herat highway in the southern province of Kandahar, officials said on Saturday. The incident took place on Friday when a passenger bus veered off the road in the Zherai district of Kandahar, the traffic branch chief, Col. Mohammadullah Khan, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Thirty-five passengers, including women and children, sustained injuries in the incident. The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals, he said. Police are interrogating the officials of the Siddiqui Transport Company, owning the bus, regarding the accident. The bus driver fled the area. However, a doctor on duty in Mirwais Hospital said 40 injured people had been evacuated to the hospital. Some of them were discharged from hospital after treatment.

## **Nangarhar**

**Feb 13, 2016**

JALALABAD: A district chief was injured when his car collided with a vehicle on the Kabul–Jalalabad highway of eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday. The road accident occurred in the limits of the Sarobi district of Kabul, wounding the Achin district chief, Haji Ghalib Mujahid, the governor’s spokesman said. Attaullah Khogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News the district chief met the accident while traveling from Kabul to Nangarhar. His driver and guard were also injured in the collision. Mujahid confirmed he was in a stable condition. Only his face was scratched in the accident. His driver said the car collided with a vehicle of the Afghan National Army (ANA).

**Helmand**

**Feb 13, 2016**

LASHKARGAH: One Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier was killed and another wounded in a suicide attack in the Sangin district of southern Helmand province on Saturday, officials said. The attack took place at around 5am near the ANA base in the district, spokesman for the 215th Maiwand Military Corps Lt. Col. Mohammad Rasoul Zazai told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said the soldiers shot dead four other fighters accompanying the suicide bomber. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi identified the attacker as Niaz Mohammad, who detonated his explosives–laden fuel tanker in front of the ANA centre, inflicting casualties on 30 soldiers. The fighters also attacked two checkpoints last night, killing 15 Afghan security forces and injuring many others, Ahmadi said. But Zazai vehemently rejected the claim.

**Faryab**

**Feb 14, 2016**

MAIMANA: A bomb–making expert of Taliban fighters was killed and three of his associates were injured as a result of a blast in northern Faryab province, officials said on Sunday. The expert was training fighters on how to use explosive devices in the Biland Ghor area of Qaisar district on Saturday evening when the bomb they had went off, an army official said. Spokesman for 209th Shaheen Military Corps Maj. Reza Rezaee told Pajhwok Afghan News the bomb–maker was killed and three other Taliban insurgents were wounded and their four motorbikes destroyed. Qaisar district’s administrative chief Rahmatullah Qaisari identified the bomb–making expert as Agha Jan, hailing from southern Helmand province. He had come to Faryab for training local Taliban.

**Kapisa**

**Feb 14, 2016**

KABUL: Residents and local officials said on Sunday the Taliban had launched an *Amr Bil Maroof Wa Nahi Anil Munkar* (enjoining virtue and forbidding evil) campaign in areas under their control in the Tagab district in central Kapisa province. Shah Agha, an inhabitant of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News members of the Taliban's Vice and Virtue Commission were patrolling the area to see whether or not the Shari law was observed by the people. He said foreign militants were part of the commission that cut hair of youngsters and ordered people to wear clothes in line with their dress code. "The Taliban have warned youth against shaving their beard," he claimed. Lal Gul, a resident of Solh-i-Kala, revealed around 100 youngsters had fled the area as a result of Taliban's threats and strict interpretation of the Sharia -- a move reminiscent of their oppressive rule when girls' education and music were outlawed. Qudus Sapi, the district's administrative head, confirmed the militants had imposed their way of life in areas under their control. Youth had clashed with the Taliban forcing them into the implementation of their orders. Although Taliban Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has not yet commented on the forcible enforcement of *Amr Bil Maroof Wa Nahi Anil Munkar*, he earlier said the group had not banned sports or other wholesome activities.

## Ghazni

**Feb 14, 2016**

GHAZNI CITY: At least nine Taliban militants and two policemen have been killed during separate clashes in southern Ghazni province, an official said on Sunday. The two policemen were killed during an attack by insurgents in Tasang area of Deh Yak district on Sunday morning, Karimullah Amiri, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News. The dead included one national police and one local police personnel and a third policeman was injured in the attack that targeted their joint patrol in the area, he said. Amiri did not say if the attackers suffered any casualties. Abdul Hadi, a resident of Tasang area, also confirmed the clash that lasted 20 minutes and the killing of two policemen. Elsewhere in the province, a clearing operation codenamed "Walid" was wrapped up in Giru district on Sunday. Lt. Noor, the 203<sup>rd</sup> Thunder Military Corps spokesman, said the operation that was launched four days ago was ended today. He said nine militants were killed and seven others were wounded during the operation. Civilians and security forces suffered no casualties. Amir Mohammad, 203<sup>rd</sup> Thunder Military Corps commander, said a number of areas had been cleared of militants as a result of the operation in Giru. He said around 30 landmines planted by insurgents were defused by Afghan forces during the operation. Mohammad Akram, a resident of Giru district, said there had been clashes between insurgents and Afghan forces for few days in the district. He said both sides had suffered casualties during the clashes, but he had no exact figures. Akram asked the government to set up security posts in the district to keep security. The Taliban have so far said nothing about the operation in Giru but they claimed to have killed policemen in a roadside bombing in Andar district.

## Nimroz



**Feb 15, 2016**

**ZARANJ:** Unidentified gunmen have shot dead an employee of the prosecution office and a civilian in southwestern Nimroz province, an official said on Monday. “Unknown motorcyclists shot dead Allah Noor, an employee of the appellant prosecution office, along with a friend,” the police chief, Brig. Gen. Dilawar Shah Dilawar, told Pajhwok Afghan News. The incident took place Sunday night in 5th police district of Zaranj, he said, adding two suspects had been detained with a pistol, a knife and a motorbike. Separately, a man was killed and five other people including two women and as many children were injured when a car crashed into a truck in Dago area on the Herat–Nimroz road, Traffic Director Mohammad Zarin said. A doctor on duty at the Zaranj Civil Hospital, Dr. Saifuddin, said that a dead body and five injured people had been brought to the hospital.

**Kapisa**

**Feb 15, 2016**

**MAHMOOD RAQI:** A commander was among four insurgents killed in a commando forces operation in the Tagab district of central Kapisa province, officials claimed on Monday. The Afghan commandos backed by air support from the Afghan Air Force conducted the operation on Sunday night in Adezo, Sinzo and some other areas of Tagab, Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander in the district, Asad Agha Safi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said a Taliban commander, Jan Agha, was killed along with three others and another three militants were injured as a result of an airstrike during the operation. The militants were trying to flee when they were hit, he said. Some of houses were partially damaged during the clashes and bombardment, a resident of the district, Khairullah said. The Taliban have so far said nothing regarding the nighttime operation.

**Helmand**

**Feb 15, 2016**

**LASHKARGAH:** Two Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel were killed and three others wounded after militants attacked their checkpoint in the Greshk district of southern Helmand province on Monday. The early morning attack took place in Malgir area, Greshk police chief 1st Lt. Mohammad Ismail Khapalwak told Pajhwok Afghan News. Six attackers also suffered casualties when the security personnel returned fire, he said. But a security source in the police headquarters said the Taliban captured Malgir police station, killing four policemen and injuring five others. According to the source, in a separate incident, a checkpoint commander and another policeman were killed on Sunday in Khanshin district of the province. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi who said nothing about the attack in Greshk, said the fighters

killed the commander of Hamam checkpoint, Nabi Jan, and another police in Khanshin district and injured six others and seized nine weapons.

## **Balkh**

**Feb 15, 2016**

MAZAR-I-SHARIF: Two people were killed and three others wounded during a clash between gunmen loyal two rival illegal militia leaders in Shulgara district of northern Balkh province, residents said on Monday. The clash erupted on Sunday afternoon in Karani Sarai area, a resident of the town, Haji Safi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said one each gunman from both sides were killed and three others were wounded and were rushed to hospital as a result of the clash, he said. Balkh police spokesman Sher Jan Durrani confirmed the clash, saying they had no exact report about casualties. He said they had sent an investigation team to the scene and the team had launched its investigation.

## **Nangarhar**

**Feb 15, 2016**

JALALABAD: A religious scholar was gunned down by unknown assailants in the capital of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday, an official said. The gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire at Maulvi Ahmad Shah in Angoor Bagh area of Jalalabad at about 2pm, the governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News. The cleric was on his way to his area mosque from another mosque at the old customs department after attending a translation session of the holy Quran when came under attack, he said. The victim had no government job, Khogyani said, adding an investigation into the murder had been opened. A resident of Jalalabad, Abdullah, said he was walking when he saw motorcyclists opened fire at a pedestrian. It appeared later the man killed was a religious scholar, he said. There has been no claim of responsibility for the assassination.

## **Kunduz**

**Feb 16, 2016**

KUNDUZ CITY: At least nine militants and eight security personnel have been killed during separate incidents in northeastern Kunduz province, an official said Tuesday. Gen. Mohiuddin Ghorri, commander for 20<sup>th</sup> Pamir Battalion in the northeastern zone, told Pajhwok Afghan News the rebels were killed during a clash in Dasht-i-Archi district of the province on Monday. He said another 13 insurgents were wounded in the fighting that also left three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and five Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel dead. Civilians suffered no casualties. However, resident Feroz claimed two houses in the area had been damaged as a result of rocket strikes and 20 families displaced by the gunbattles. "Our area is very insecure

and we want the government to leave it to Taliban or completely eliminate the fighters to let us heave a sigh of relief,” he said. Elsewhere in the province, five ALP men were killed in an internal attack in Darguzar area on the outskirts of Kunduz City, the capital of the province, on Monday night. Lt. Gen. Sher Aziz Kamawal, commander of the 808<sup>th</sup> Spinzar Zone, said one of ALP members with links to the Taliban killed his five colleagues joining the insurgents. Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, also claimed five ALP service members were killed and as many others wounded. A Ranger pick-up was destroyed during the clash in Darguzar area. He said one militant was also killed and another wounded. However, Kamawal denied clashes with rebels in the area.

## **Herat**

**Feb 16, 2016**

HERAT CITY: More than a 110 prisoners have been released from the central jail of western Herat province and prison terms of another 76 inmates reduced, an official said on Tuesday. Abdullah Azizi, Herat central jail commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News 111 prisoners, including 17 women, had been freed. Eight children had been released from a juvenile detention center in compliance with a presidential decree, he said. “Based on the decree, jail terms of 76 prisoners have been reduced.” Jamshid Saljuqi, an attorney evaluating detention centres, said only small-time offenders had been given relief under the decree. Around 3,000 prisoners, including 147 women, are being held in Herat prison.

## **Jawzjan**

**Feb 16, 2016**

SHIBERGHAN: Security officials in northern Jawzjan province on Tuesday said six Taliban fighters had been killed and five others wounded during a clash in Tosh Tapa district. But the insurgents claimed 21 Afghan soldiers were killed, wounded and captured during the clash. Maj. Reza Rezaee, spokesman for the 209<sup>th</sup> Shaheen Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clashes happened in Khan Aqa, Turkmen and Oldi Chaqma Choqur villages. He said security forces defused four landmines in the area, but a fifth exploded, claiming the lives of two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier and one policeman. He added reinforcements were about to reach the area, where a clearing operation would be launched soon. But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed six soldiers were killed, a dozen wounded and three others captured during fighting. Sher Mohammad, a resident of Sher Baig village, said scores of domestic animals had been lost as a result of the ongoing fighting in the five villages. He said residents had fled the area and migrated to other places.

## **Nangarhar**

**Feb 16, 2016**

JALALABAD: At least 13 insurgents have been killed and eight others wounded during a clash between Taliban and Daesh fighters in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Tuesday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in the Karkani locality of Achin district a Daesh stronghold near the Pakistan border. He said information about civilian casualties in the gunbattle was not immediately available. The Taliban and Islamic State have not yet commented on the clash.

## **Baghlan**

**Feb 16, 2016**

PUL-I-KHUMRI: Police on Tuesday said 10 Taliban militants were killed and 14 others wounded during an operation aimed at paving the way for repairing of damaged electricity pylons in northern Baghlan province. Baghlan police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Auz told Pajhwok Afghan News that security forces on Monday attacked bunkers of insurgents in Dand Shahabuddin area on the outskirts of Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital. He said the security forces had been able to reach the location where the pylons had been blown up. The clashes left 10 armed militants dead and 14 others wounded. He said another two fighters, residents of northern Balkh and southeastern Paktia provinces, had also been detained. "Security forces are in control of the area where the pylons are destroyed but the Taliban are firing from a distance. We are trying to completely clear the area of insurgents," he said. But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said government forces sustained heavy casualties when their attacks were repulsed in Dand Shahabuddin area. On their website, Mujahid claimed the fighters had destroyed a military tank and killed a number of forces, but did not go into details. Earlier in the day, Da Afghanistan Barishna Sherkat (DABS) spokesman Wahidullah Tawhidi told Pajhwok Afghan News that their technical team had reached 200 close to the site where the pylons had been damaged, but security forces were not allowing the team to start repairing the supply line. However, he said the technical team might be allowed after some time to launch the repair work. The militants blew up the pylon in Dand-i-Shahabuddin area nearly two weeks before they destroyed three more towers, plunging most of Kabul city into darkness. Residents of Kabul, reliant on electricity imported from Turkmenistan, have suffered a lot due to the resultant blackout. Taliban have already said they will allow repair of the power transmission line if an ongoing operation in Dand-i-Ghori district is stopped.

## **Kabul**

**Feb 17, 2016**

KABUL: Two people were injured and as many shops gutted in a fire that erupted in the Taimani area of the capital Kabul on Wednesday, an eyewitness said. The fire that took place 7:50am was linked to the carelessness of a gas-selling shopkeeper, said Nazir Ahmad, whose hands were burnt in the incident. He told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I came here to refill my gas cylinder. The shopkeeper was checking a gas balloon with a cigarette lighter. Suddenly one gas cylinder caught fire." Ahmad said his car, parked beside the shop, was also partially damaged as result of the explosion. The shopkeeper was also injured and shifted to hospital for treatment. Mohammad Kabir, firefighting department chief for the fourth police district, said a second shop was also torched. A loss of nearly 100,000 afghanis was inflicted on shop owners, he reckoned. He said the firefighters, informed at around 7:58am, arrived in the area at 8:03am. The fire was extinguished in time, otherwise it could have damaged nearby shops, he added.

## Faryab

**Feb 17, 2016**

MAIMANA: Two civilians were killed and 12 others injured in a bomb blast in Maimana, the capital of northwestern Faryab province, on Wednesday, an official said. The bomb attached to a bicycle went off in front of the Azizi Bank branch in the provincial capital at around 10:15am. A security official, who wished not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News that two people were killed and 12 others wounded in the blast. This scribe saw three seriously injured civilians shifted by police to hospital. Faryab Public Health Director Dr. Maroof Samar said a seven years old child was also among the wounded. The health condition of one of an elderly man was also critical, he added. Mohammad Alam, one of the wounded evacuated to the Afghan-Turk hospital, said: "I was passing through the area when the explosion occurred. I fell to the ground and don't know what happened later on." He blamed the government for failing to improve the security situation, saying people had no one to lodge their complaints with. The explosion shattered windowpanes in four shops and a vehicle. Provincial police chief, Col. Syed Aqa Andarabi, said he had come to hospital along with the governor and other officials to donate blood to the injured. "Militants shed the blood of people and we donate blood to them." Security officials, meanwhile, accused militants of involvement in the incident, but no group so far claimed responsibility for the attack. It was the third explosion happening in front of crowded Azizi Bank branch in Faryab during the past one year. At least 10 people had been killed and 30 others injured in the two early blasts. According to the latest UN report, 3,545 Afghan civilians were killed and 7,457 others wounded in 2015. It said civilian casualties increased to a record high last year, showing a four percent increase over 2014.

## Wardak

**Feb 18, 2016**

**MAIDAN WARDAK:** Four suspected terrorists have been killed in a raid on a health clinic run by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in central Maidan Wardak province, residents said on Thursday. The health facility in the Tangi Saidan area of Daimirdad district came under attack last night, an inhabitant told Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity. The raid drew strong denunciation from SCA. Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers took two patients and as many attendants out of the hospital and shot them dead, the resident claimed, believing the men were either militants or their supporters. Meanwhile, the Wardak governor's spokesman confirmed the overnight raid on the hospital. Ground troops and air force personnel took part in the operation, Toryalai Himmat said, adding three Taliban were killed and three caught alive. While condemning the raid, the SCA said two patients and one personal caretaker were killed in the incident. "This attack constitutes a gross violation of humanitarian principles and the Geneva Convention," an SCA official said. Medical facilities and staff provided treatment to anyone in need and patients were to be granted safety according to humanitarian law, he argued, asserting SCA neutrality. "The patients who are being treated at our clinics have the right to be protected," says Jorgen Holmstrom, SCA country director of SCA. "We will further investigate this violation and let those responsible be held accountable." Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the attack on the hospital was jointly conducted by Afghan and American forces. The dead were innocent civilians, not insurgents, he insisted.

## Nangarhar

**Feb 18, 2016**

**JALALABAD:** Fifteen Daesh –or so-called Islamic State (IS) -- fighters have been killed as a result of a drone strike in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Thursday. The attack was carried out by foreign troops on Wednesday night in the Mamond area of Achin district, killing 15 militants, police spokesman, Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal, told Pajhwok Afghan News. In addition to the drone attack, successful ground operations by Afghan security forces were also ongoing in the restive district near the Pakistan border, he said. On Wednesday, the Ministry of Interior said 45 IS fighters had been killed in the same district during security operations.

## Ghazni

**Feb 18, 2016**

**GHAZNI CITY:** Two passengers were killed and another 10 wounded on Thursday evening when a public transport bus collided with a minibus on the Kabul-Kandahar highway in southern Ghazni province, officials said. The collision took place in the evening in Nani area of Andar district, a traffic officer in Ghazni, Hikmatullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Two dead bodies and 10 injured people including three women, four children and three men have been brought to the civil hospital in Ghazni City, the hospital chief, Dr. Baz Mohammad Himmat, said. The

wounded were in stable condition, he said. Witness Samiullah said the 303 public transport bus was en route from Kandahar to Kabul and the minibus from Ghazni to Kandahar when they collided in the area.

## **Nangarhar**

**Feb 19, 2016**

JALALABAD: Six insurgents have been killed during a US drone strike in the Haska Mena district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok the strike took place in the Shikh Kando locality on Thursday. He said the drone missile targeted a vehicle in which the insurgents were traveling. The vehicle was also destroyed in the attack. Separately, police have arrested at least five suspect militants from the 5<sup>th</sup> municipality district of Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and recovered five hand grenades from their possession.

## **Khost**

**Feb 19, 2016**

KHOST CITY: A senior official of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) was killed in a magnetic bomb explosion in eastern Khost province on Friday, an official said. Wishing anonymity, the security official told Pajhwok Afghan News that Ismail was traveling in his car on the city's ring road when the attached magnetic bomb exploded. Deputy Governor Abdul Wahid Patan confirmed the incident but did not go into the details of the explosion. Mohammad Aslam, an eye witness, said the explosion took place in a car and one person on board was killed. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

## **Paktika**

**Feb 20, 2016**

SHARAN: At least five civilians lost their lives to two separate explosions in the Wazikhwa district of southeastern Paktika province on Saturday. A woman and two children were killed on Saturday afternoon when the car they were travelling in struck a roadside bomb in the district, resident Syed Noor told Pajhwok Afghan News. The car's driver was also killed while a fifth person was seriously wounded, the resident said. However, he would not say who was behind the bombing. Abdul Ghani Paktin, provincial council chairman, said one man was killed and another injured when the motorbike struck a roadside bomb in the same district.

## **Badakhshan**

**Feb 21, 2016**



FAIZABAD: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Sunday said 23 militants have been killed and five others wounded during an operation in Argo district of northeastern Badakhshan province. A statement from the MoI received by Pajhwok Afghan News said all villages of Argo district had been cleared of insurgents as a result of the joint operation of Afghan forces, in which nine more militants were arrested. On the other hand, Badakhshan's deputy police chief Col. Sakhi Dad Haidari told Pajhwok Afghan News a seven-member militant group has joined the peace process in Argo. He said the group led by Qari Bismillah also surrendered their weapons to the government. The joining could leave positively impact the security situation, he added. Mullah Bismillah, leader of the reconciling group said, they had been active against the government over the past three years. He said they recently agreed that violence had given them no advantage. Provincial peace committee director Ghawsuddin Rahmani said more than 600 militants had joined the reconciliation programme in Badakhshan so far.

## Takhar

Feb 21, 2016

TALOQAN (Pajhwok): Three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and 10 Taliban fighters were killed in a clash in the Khwaja Ghar district of northern Takhar province on Sunday, an official said. Police spokesman Col. Abdul Khalil Aser told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents staged predawn attacks on military check-posts at around 3:00am. He said 10 rebels, including their commander Mullah Shakir, were killed in counterattacks by ANA soldiers. The clash was still underway in the area, the police official added. Shamsuddin, a resident of locality, confirmed the fighting was still underway between the Taliban and security forces in Pul-i-Momin neighbourhood. Four months back, the Taliban captured Khwaja Ghar district, but security forces took it back after three days.

## Nangarhar

Feb 21, 2016

JALALABAD: A border security forces' base in the Torkham town of eastern Nangarhar province has come under rocket strike from across the Durand Line, an official said on Sunday. A provincial council member, Javed Zaman, told Pajhwok Afghan News 10 rockets were fired intermittently from across the border into the dusty town early Sunday morning. He said a number of the rockets hit the base of the border forces, but he had no information about casualties. A local security official, wishing not to be named, said that some of the rockets landed inside the military centre. But Col. Rahimullah Sahak, a border police commander, said the rockets were fired from the Landikotal area of Khyber Agency, where a radar system of the Pakistani border forces is located. Two of the rockets hit the centre and others landed in

surrounding areas, Sahak said, recalling the Pakistanis had invited them to a meeting scheduled for Tuesday. Pakistan wanted to build terminal near the Torkham gate, but Afghan forces prevent the project, he added. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the rocket strikes but said the incident caused no casualties. Shina, a shopkeeper in Torkham, confirmed the incident and said the situation in the area had been tense over the past few days.

## **Kandahar**

**Feb 21, 2016**

KANDAHAR CITY: Six insurgents have been detained with weapons and explosives in southern Kandahar and Paktika provinces, an official said on Sunday. The security forces conducted night raids in the Maiwand district of Kandahar and captured eight motorcycles, three vehicles and six insurgents. Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces also destroyed a bomb-making factory during the raid. Separately, National Directorate of Security (NDS) operatives seized two trucks full of weapons and explosives in Paktika province. A statement from the spy network said the trucks contained 1,200 kilograms of explosives placed in 250 bags under firewood. The explosives belonged to the Haqqani network and were being delivered to fighters inside Afghanistan, the intelligence agency added.

## **Logar**

**Feb 21, 2016**

PUL-I-ALAM: Four tribal elders have been taken hostage by militants in the Azra district of central Logar province, official said on Sunday. The Taliban, however, rejected the claim as groundless. The elders were snatched from their vehicle in the Spin Jumat area of Azra late on Friday, Hameedullah Hameed, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Abdul Wakeel, the provincial council chairman who hails from Azra, confirmed the incident. "The elders were kidnapped by the insurgents on their way to the Aryub Zazai district of Paktia." On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the fighters had not kidnapped anyone in the restive district, bordering Nangarhar province. "Yesterday, pro-government militiamen captured some people, killing one of them and handing over the rest of captives to the authorities in Kabul," he added.

## **Kunduz**

**Feb 21, 2016**

KUNDUZ CITY: A Taliban-designated district chief and nine other militants have been killed during an operation in northern Kunduz province, an official said on Sunday. Military commander Gen. Mohiuddin Ghorri told Pajhwok Afghan News Afghan National Army (ANA) commandos and police launched the operation in Dasht-i-Archi district on Sunday morning. He

said the Taliban's shadow district chief, Mullah Shakir, was among the 10 fighters killed in the operation. Afghan forces also wrested back Pul-i- Momin area from the rebels. Gen. Ghorri claimed circling several insurgents inside a house in the area, saying they would be arrested or killed. Abdullah, a resident of the area, said dozens of families had been displaced to the Qarlaq area of Dasht-i-Archi district. "The clashes erupted early in the morning. I don't know whether civilians have suffered casualties, but people are leaving homes," he added.

## **Urozgan**

**Feb 21, 2016**

TARINKOT: At least three people have been wounded during a clash in the central jail of Uruzgan province, an official said on Sunday. The clash took place during hunger strike by the inmates on Saturday night, prison director Col. Khalilur Rahman told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said one inmate snatched a jail guard's weapon and started firing at policemen. The clash continued for two hours, but no one suffered casualties, Rahman added. However, another security source, who wished not to be named, claimed three people including a prison official and two policemen were wounded. The source said the inmates went on hunger strike to press for their rights and denounce harassment by police.

## **Takhar**

**Feb 22, 2016**

TALOQAN: At least five members of a family have been killed in a bomb blast in the Barak district of northern Takhar province, an official said on Monday. Sunatullah Timori, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the explosion took place inside Mullah Farooq's house in the district bazaar late on Sunday. Farooq was the prayer leader at district's grand mosque, he said, alleging the cleric had kept the explosives inside his residence. Farooq, his wife, two of their children and another woman were killed in the blast. Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Noor Mohammad Hakimi, said an investigation into the incident was underway. "We suspected Farooq of having links with the Taliban, but could not find evidence," he said. The militants are yet to comment on the incident.

## **Nangarhar**

**Feb 22, 2016**

JALALABAD: At least six militants and two policemen have been killed in separate security incidents in eastern Nangarhar and southern Zabul provinces, officials said Monday. According to a statement from Silab Military Corps office in eastern zone, six militants were killed during an ongoing operation in eastern Laghman province on Sunday. The source said that security forces and civilians suffered no casualties in the operation. Elsewhere, two policemen were

killed during a militants' attack in Zabul province. The policemen were killed during a militants' ambush in Khan village of Shah Joy district on Sunday evening, Wazir Mohammad, the district chief told Pajhwok Afghan News. However, a security official wishing not to be named said that three policemen were killed in Taliban ambush. Militants did not comment so far on the incident.

## **Kunduz**

**Feb 22, 2016**

**KUNDUZ CITY:** Seventeen Taliban have been killed and 20 others wounded during a clash in the Dasht-i-Archi district of northern Kunduz province, a statement from the police headquarters said on Monday. Taliban, however, claimed that 12 police were killed in the overnight attack on police check-posts in Pul-i-Momin locality. The bodies of Taliban assailants were in the battle ground which had been shifted by the local elders and official from the Red Crescent Society. Taliban Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Afghan security forces have attacked the Taliban positions in the locality and 12 security officials were killed in the group's counter attack. He confirmed three Taliban were killed and six others wounded in the fighting.

## **Baghlan**

**Feb 22, 2016**

**PUL-I-KHUMRI:** A rocket fired by militants hit the office of the provincial deputy governor in the capital of northern Baghlan province on Monday, killing one person and injuring four others, an official said. The BM1 rocket hit the deputy governor's office in Pul-i-Khumri at around 11:15am, said Governor Abdul Sattar Bariz. He told Pajhwok Afghan News the rocket hit the roof of his deputy's office, killing a worker of the provincial power utility and wounded driver of the deputy governor and three civilians. He said the deputy governor was unhurt in the incident. The rocket was fired from Dand-i-Ghori area on the outskirts of Pul-i-Khumri, Bariz said. Acting public health director Abdul Bariz Sahibzada confirmed receiving four wounded persons and one dead body at the provincial civil hospital. It was a 12th rocket to be fired from Dand-i-Ghori area into Pul-i-Khumri this solar year, raising the death toll in the strikes to two including a child. The rocket attacks had so far injured more than 10 people. Dand-i-Ghori having a population 30,000 people has been under Taliban's control for the past nine months. Despite Afghan forces' operation in the area, the militants could not be flushed out. Local residents say they are concerned about a large presence of militants around Pul-i-Khumri and feared the city would fall to militants if the government did not pay attention.

## **Parwan**

**Feb 22, 2016**

**CHARIKAR:** More than a dozen people including local policemen and civilians were killed and another 18 people were wounded in a suicide attack in the Seyagard district of central Parwan province on Monday afternoon. The dead included nine civilians and four Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel and the injured included 17 civilians and one ALP personnel, said Parwan police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Zamam Mamozai. He told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place at about 3pm in the district bazaar in front of a health clinic. The Seyagard district chief, Mohammad Saeed Saeed, said the target of the suicide bombing was ALP forces, saying the injured included the district ALP commander Mushtaq. A Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the suicide attack was carried out by Mohammad Rassoul, a resident of southeastern Paktia province. He said the attack killed ALP commanders namely Mustaq, Naqibullah, Khalil and other policemen in the district.

## Kunduz

**Feb 23, 2016**

**KUNDUZ CITY:** One person was killed and seven others including an influential figure, wounded in a bomb blast in the capital of northern Kunduz province on Tuesday, an official said. The magnetic bomb attached to a private Corolla car went off near the Kunduz Square at around 9:50am, police spokesman Hijratullah Akbari told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said the bomb was attached to the car of Haji Qadir, an influential resident of Khanabad district. Qadir and a number of others were wounded in the incident and shifted to hospital. Kunduz Civil Hospital Director Dr. Naeem Mangal confirmed receiving eight people, including Qadir, in wounded condition. Two pedestrians and a traffic policeman are also among the wounded. However, one of the wounded in critical condition succumbed around 1pm today, Mangal said. But Abdul Nasir, a hawker in the area, said occupants of the car suffered serious burn injuries. "I lay on the ground for a while. When I stood up, I saw a car in flames. . . "Two men in the front seats were burning, but he could not help them, Nasir said, adding firefighters arrived 20 minutes after the incident and took the five wounded people out of the car. A Pajhwok Afghan News reporter said the incident was occurred in mid of the road that also broken windowpanes of some nearby shops.

## Nangarhar

**Feb 23, 2016**

**JALALABAD (Pajhwok):** Taliban have killed a would-be suicide bomber from the Islamic State (IS) group in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Tuesday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened in the Pirkhel locality of Khogyani district late on Monday. He said the attacker was shot dead by the Taliban before he could detonate his suicide vest. The attacker was an IS fighter who wanted to kill a local Taliban leader.

## Kunar

**Feb 23, 2016**

ASADABAD: Two policemen and three insurgents have been killed during overnight clash in the Narai district of eastern Kunar province, an official said on Tuesday. Police Chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Babib Syedkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News insurgents have blown up police vehicle in the Sawa locality on Monday evening in which two policemen were killed and as many wounded. Soon after the explosion, he said, a clash erupted between police and insurgents in the area in which three assailments were killed and as many more wounded. Militants have yet to comment about the incident.

## Nangarhar

**Feb 23, 2016**

JALALABAD: At least 43 Islamic State (IS) militants have been killed during separate operations by Afghan and foreign forces in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Tuesday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News foreign forces conducted airstrikes against a group of Daesh militants in the Peshi Khor area of the district on Monday night. The fighters were meeting to plan attacks on security posts, he said, adding 25 of the militants were killed and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition destroyed during the raids. Khogyani said the Afghan forces also inflicted casualties on a large number of insurgents during an operation codenamed Shahin 18 in different areas of the restive town near the Pakistan border. Police spokesman Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraqiwal confirmed 18 militants had been killed and seven others wounded during the ground offensive in Achin over the past 24 hours. Weapons belonging to the rebels were also destroyed.

## Logar

**Feb 23, 2016**

PUL-I-ALAM: Kidnappers have released the four tribal elders abducted in the volatile Azra district of central Logar province, an official said on Tuesday. Two days earlier, the elders were snatched by unknown gunmen from their cars in the Spin Jumat area of the district. Hameedullah Hamid, Azra district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants freed the four men today. Influential figures negotiated with the captors in the regard, he said. Abdul Walid, a provincial council member from Azra district, confirmed the tribal elders returned to their homes in the morning. He alleged the Taliban had kidnapped locals in the past as well. While denying the payment of ransom, he asked the government to ensure highway security so that people could feel safe travelling from one area to another. However, Taliban spokesman

Zabihullah Mujahid denied the group's involvement in kidnapping the elders. "Sometimes Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces stop people and take them hostage in Azra," he claimed.

## Kabul

**Feb 23, 2016**

**KABUL :** The spy service on Tuesday said its operatives had busted a five-member kidnap gang and rescued a child from their captivity. A statement from the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said the group had kidnapped the 14-year-old boy, Aminullah, from Kabul's 10th police district. They had been keeping the boy in Shakar Dara district of Kabul province until the group was busted yesterday night during an operation by the NDS special forces, the statement said. The kidnappers had sought \$200,000 from the boy's family in ransom, the statement said, identifying the detainees as gang leader Shafi aka Abdul Aziz, Farshad, Tooryalai, Faridon and Tooryalai son of Khudaidad. The statement said the group had been involved in a series of kidnappings.

## Nangarhar

**Feb 24, 2016**

**JALALABAD:** One person was killed and eight others were injured in a accident in the Behsud district of eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday, an official said. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News a Corolla car crashed into a minibus in Saracha Pul area at around 8am, causing the casualties. Khogyani linked the incident to rash driving, saying the injured were taken to the Nangarhar Civil Hospital. The condition of two of the wounded is said to be critical. Mohammad Shafi, giving an eyewitness account, also said one person was killed on the spot and a number of others sustained injuries.

## Farah

**Feb 24, 2016**

**FARAH CITY:** Hundreds of militants have besieged the Pushtrod district centre of western Farah province, forcing hundreds of families to leave their homes, officials said on Wednesday. The insurgents launched coordinated attacks on the district centre late on Tuesday, capturing Kudar, Dukin, Faizabad, Gajgin, Chapak, Charmaq and Gosha villages, the town's administrative chief said. Ghausuddin told Pajhwok Afghan News the district centre was currently under siege and tank snatched by rebels destroyed. Two militants have been killed so far during clashes. Security forces and civilians had suffered no casualties, he said, adding hundreds of residents had left their houses after the Taliban informed them about fighting in the area. Although there were enough security forces to resist against the militant onslaught, reinforcements were needed to retake control of the villages, Ghausuddin said. Mohammad Sadiq Saadi, the youth

council head for Dokin village, said around 300 families had been displaced from the district centre to Farah City, the capital of the province. A large number of families from other areas of the district had also left their homes due to increasing insecurity, Saadi said. A shepherd was wounded in a mortar strike in Dokin village. “We are living with our relatives in Farah City and won’t return before the security situation in our area improves,” he said. Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed inflicting casualties on Afghan forces during attacks on the district centre. However, they did not give specific figures.

## Logar

**Feb 24, 2016**

PUL-I-ALAM: One child has been killed and three others have been wounded in a landmine explosion in the Charkh district of central Logar province, an official said on Wednesday. Khalilullah Kamal, the town’s administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban-planted roadside bomb exploded in Khwaja Ismail village late on Tuesday. He said the landmine had been planted in an area between the main Masjid and Khwaja Ismail Shrine. He regretted the casualties suffered by innocent children. Kamal added the improvised explosive device had been implanted on a route used by common people, not security forces. Abdul Hameed, a resident of locality, said mosque-going children usually used the route. Last evening, some of them were hit by the explosion. He said no one had been arrested so far.

## Jawzjan

**Feb 24, 2016**

SHIBERGHAN: The Taliban have killed a policeman they kidnapped and a local uprising force member in the Aqcha district of northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Wednesday. Mohammad Reza Ghafoori, the governor’s spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Public Order Police official had gone missing on his way to a Shiberghan bank on Tuesday. Before reaching to the bank, the policeman was captured by the Taliban, who killed him later on in Dasht-i-Laili area on the outskirts of the provincial capital. Ghafoori said the Taliban had not yet returned the victim’s body, but efforts were being made by local elders to convince the insurgents into handing over the policeman’s corpse. Separately, the Taliban attacked an uprising force patrol in Aqcha last night. One volunteer was killed in the ambush, the gubernatorial spokesman said.

## Takhar

**Feb 24, 2016**

TALOQAN (Pajhwok): Thirteen suspected insurgents have been arrested on charges of staging terrorist attacks in northern Takhar province, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said



on Wednesday. The suspects were detained during separate raids in Taloqan, the provincial capital, and some other districts, a statement from the spy network said. The detainees were involved in terrorist attacks, killing of religious scholars, tribal elders and kidnappings. One Kalashnikov, a pistol and two hand grenades were recovered from them.

## **Zabul**

**Feb 25, 2016**

QALAT: Two deminers have been injured in a militant attack in southern Zabul province, an official said on Thursday. The deminers came under attack on their way from Qalat to Shinkai district in Katili Manda area on Wednesday afternoon, the district police chief told Pajhwok Afghan News. Hamayon Gulzarsaid two demining workers were wounded, one critically, in the incident. The official gave no more details. Gul Ahmad, one of the wounded deminers, said they were heading from the provincial capital to Shinkai district when the gunmen fired at them. He added the assailants signaled them to stop their car but they continued driving. As a result, the gunmen fired on them. No any group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

## **Ghazni**

**Feb 25, 2016**

GHAZNI CITY: Four militants, including a commander, have been killed and three others injured by their own bomb in the Andar district of southern Ghazni province, an official said on Thursday. Andar district chief, Mohammad Qasim Desiwal, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the explosion took place inside a madrasa (seminary) in Mastufi area. The bomb they were making exploded, killing and wounding the rebels. A Taliban commander named Badr and his three accomplices were killed and three others wounded in the incident. Civilians suffered no casualties in the blast. Police spokesman Fahim Amir confirmed the explosion and the casualties. Jan Mohammad, a resident of the area, said they were informed about the death of Taliban commander Badr. The madrasa building was also damaged in the blast. The guerrillas have not yet commented on the incident.

## **Nangarhar**

**Feb 26, 2016**

JALALABAD: One civilian was killed and five others were wounded in a roadside bombing in eastern Nangarhar province on Friday, an official said. The Nangarhar governor's spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion occurred in the Pacha Qala area of Khogyani district at about 7am. Attaullah Khogyani said three of the injured were in critical condition. Belonging to

the same family, the wounded were evacuated to the Jalalabad Civil Hospital. Area resident Abdullah said the men were on their way to a livestock market in Kaga Bazaar, which was organised every Friday.

## **Faryab**

**Feb 26, 2016**

**MAIMANA:** Two kidnapped passengers have been killed by the Taliban in the Khwaja Sabaz Posh district western Faryab province, an official said on Friday. Fifty people were disembarked from a bus and three cars in Kotal Koraz area and made hostage by the insurgents late on Thursday, the district's administrative chief said. Abdullah Masoomi told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban released 51 captives after a while but kept four in their captivity. Two of them, hailing from Balkh and Bamyan provinces, were killed. Qari Mohammad Yousaf Haqqani, introducing himself as a regional Taliban commander, claimed the two men they had killed were Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers. But ANA spokesman in Faryab Mohammad Zahir Zahir said it was not yet clear who the victims were. The troops did not travel in public transport buses, he explained.

## **Urozgan**

**Feb 26, 2016**

**TIRINKOT:** Unidentified gunmen have shot dead a man and his son in Tirinkot, the capital of central Uruzgan province, an official said on Friday. A police official, wishing not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News the double-murder incident took place in the Shah Zafar neighbourhood of the city last night. He said the gunmen killed Abdul Malik and his son, who did not have government jobs, inside their house. The killers made good their escape. Area resident Hazratullah confirmed the shooting. He said Abdul Malik headed the village development council.

## **Nangarhar**

**Feb 26, 2016**

**JALALABAD:** Seven more Islamic State, or Daesh, fighters have been killed during an ongoing operation in eastern Nangarhar province, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday. The fatalities came during an air and ground offensive in Pakha and Gor areas of Achin district, a Daesh stronghold near the Pakistan border, a statement from the ministry said. Seven members of the rebel group were killed and four others wounded during the operation on Thursday, according to the statement, which said two rebels were eliminated in the Narai district of neighbouring Kunar province. In the Sarobi district of Kabul, the ministry added, three guerrillas

Nirakh were killed during a search operation. Four more fighters were killed in the district of Maidan Wardak province.

## Kunar

**Feb 27, 2016**

ASADABAD: At least 13 people were killed on Saturday when a suicide bomber blew himself up near the governor's office in Asadabad, the capital of eastern Kunar province. Governor Wahidullah Kalimzai told Pajhwok Afghan News 40 people were wounded as the bomber on foot detonated his explosives 15 metres from the entrance to his office. He said tribal elder Haji Khanjan was among the fatalities. The governor stopped short of blaming any group for the massive bombing. Public Health Director Dr. Ihsanullah Fazli confirmed the casualties, saying 13 bodies and 40 injured civilians -- some in critical condition -- had been brought to the civil hospital. The suicide bombing happened in the Shaheedan Square of the eastern city at 10am, eyewitness Ikramullah said. Several government departments are located close to the site, frequented by people, he added. Meanwhile, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned the suicide attack, saying the indiscriminate use of explosives in areas crowded by civilians was a serious violation of international humanitarian law. In a statement, the mission reminded all parties to the armed conflict in Afghanistan that they were bound to uphold their legal obligations to avoid harming civilians at all times. The mission extended its sincere condolences to the families of those killed and a speedy recovery for those injured. UNAMA once again affirmed its continued support to the people of Afghanistan.

## Faryab

**Feb 27, 2016**

MAIMANA: First Vice-President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, spearheading an offensive in northwestern Faryab province, claimed on Saturday 120 Taliban had been arrested. During the operation, involving gunship helicopters, notorious Taliban commanders Hameedullah, Akhund, Abdul Malik and Amanullah had been detained, he said. At least 20 villages in Khwaja Sabz Posh district have been cleared of insurgents, according to the VP, who is also a dreaded Uzbek commander. Scores of fighters were wounded in clashes with security personnel, who seized two anti-aircraft guns, one mortar launcher and one machinegun. Dostum, who heads the Junbish-i-Islami party, said hundreds of foreign rebels had fled the area and security forces were chasing them. He acknowledged two security personnel were killed during the ongoing offensive. "In line with the decision of the National Security Council, I am in northern Afghanistan to lead the anti-Taliban offensive and protect the region from insurgents." But the Taliban claimed inflicting heavy casualties on Dostum-led security forces in Khwaja

Sabz Posh district. Their spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said the fighters had made a tactical retreat from the area. He rejected Dostum's assertion of nabbing 120 Taliban fighters.

## Kabul

**Feb 27, 2016**

KABUL: A dozen people, mostly civilians, were killed and nine others were wounded in a suicide bombing in Kabul on Saturday, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said. Two of the dead and one of the injured were Afghan National Army (ANA) service-members, a MoD statement said, adding the attacker blew himself up at the MoD entrance gate. Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi told reporters at the site that the bomber walked to the entrance gate of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and blew himself at around 3:30pm. Among the dead were mostly civilians, he said. He put the death toll at nine and said more than a dozen had been wounded in the blast. Earlier, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said six people wounded in the explosion were hospitalized. An eyewitness said it was a suicide explosion that took place in front of the entrance gate to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) at around 3:25pm. The witness, Ghulam Haidar, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I was passing through the area when a powerful explosion occurred. I saw a column of thick smoke rising into the sky." He said the explosion targeted a security forces' vehicle which was comprehensive destroyed and some people were likely killed and wounded. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Kabul

**Feb 28, 2016**

KABUL: At least 15 people, including **women**, were killed and more than 30 others wounded in a suicide bombing in Kabul on Saturday, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Sunday, revising the toll. The attacker blew himself up in front of the MoD entrance at around 3:30pm on Saturday, killing three Afghan National Army (ANA) officers, three lieutenants, three other staffers, an engineer of a private company and four civilians. MoD spokesman, Dawlat Waziri told Pajhwok Afghan News nine ANA officers, including one female, six soldiers, 11 civil employees and five passers-by were among the wounded. The injured also included seven women. Kabul police chief, Abdul Rahman Rahimi, told reporters at the site the bomber walked to the entrance of the ministry and blew himself up. Mostly civilians were mostly the fatalities, he said. An eyewitness said it was a suicide bombing that took place in front of the entrance gate to the ministry. Ghulam Haidar told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I was passing through the area when the powerful explosion occurred. I saw a column of thick smoke rising into the sky." He said the explosion targeted a security forces' vehicle that was comprehensive destroyed and some people were killed and wounded. He, however, did not give specific casualty figures. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. The group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said a number of ANA soldiers had been killed and wounded in the incident.

## Baghlan

Feb 28, 2016

PUL-I-KHUMRI: At least 22 rebels have been killed and seven others wounded airstrikes and a ground offensive in the Dand-i-Ghori locality of northern Baghlan province, an official said on Sunday. Maj. Javed Salim, spokesman for the 209<sup>th</sup> Shahin Military Corps Commando Unit, told reporters the insurgents were killed during an overnight operation in Aka Khel, Niazullah and Salangiha areas. He said Taliban's notorious commanders, who could not be identified yet, were among the dead. Ground forces were making progress as the areas had been recaptured from the Taliban. Maj. Salim claimed the security forces had defused 20 of landmines the Taliban had planted in the neighbourhood. Asadullah Chakari, a resident of Naizullah area, said 150 families had migrated from the village three weeks earlier.

## Faryab

Feb 28, 2016

MAIMANA: A Taliban-designated district chief and five other rebels have been killed in the Pashtoonkot district of northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Sunday. Governor Syed Anwar Sadat told Pajhwok Afghan News Damla Noorul Haq, the shadow district chief, was hit by a mortar shell fired by the army in Khwaja Musa area on Saturday night. He said five associates of the Taliban district chief were also killed during. Noorul Haq had recently warned the government of torching oil tankers and cutting power cables if the fuel supplies were not allowed to area under Taliban control. But the governor categorically refused to allow fuel supplies to the area. While spurning Haq's warning, he said clearing operations would be launched soon against the militants. On the other hand, the government and Taliban claimed inflicting casualties on each other during pitched battles in the district. Massoud Ahmad Massoud, commander of Junbish-i-Millie (JIM) led by Gen. Abdur Rashid Dostum, said Khwaja Musa Bazaar was cleared of militants on Saturday. He claimed a large number of fighters suffered casualties during the fighting, with some bodies still in the control of security forces. He added 17 weapons were also seized from the rebels. A security official, wishing not to be named, said three Afghan Local Police (ALP) members were also killed and 14 others wounded in the clashes. A doctor at the Afghan-Turk Hospital in Maimana confirmed receiving three dead bodies and 11 injured people, three of them in critical condition. Without commenting on the loss of their district chief, the Taliban claimed killing six soldiers, wounded several others and destroying an army tank. They also claimed seizing a tank.

## Badghis

Feb 28, 2016

**QALA-I-NAW:** Family dispute and violence led to the murder of a woman in the Qadis district of northwestern Badghis province, an official said on Sunday. Mirza Ali, the district's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the woman was allegedly strangled to death by her husband, who managed to flee the area. According to Ali, government officials could not venture into the Taliban-controlled area to investigate the incident. Tribal elders would be asked to help probe the murder, he said. Despite attempts, Pajhwok could not contact area residents. Dozens of women in Afghanistan lose their lives to family violence every year.

## Badakhshan

**Feb 28, 2016**

**FAIZABAD:** At least five people were killed by armed robbers who also snatched cash and belongings worth more than 30 million afghanis from passengers on the Kabul-Badakhshan highway during the outgoing solar year. The robberies took place during the past six months on the highway that passes through Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan provinces. Transport union officials said passenger buses usually travelled at night. Israel, owner of the Jurm Transport Company in Faizabad, said more than five people, including a judge of the Kabul appellant court, were killed by highwaymen and militants in Khanabad district of northeastern Kunduz province. He told Pajhwok Afghan News that an Afghan National Army (ANA) officer and a soldier were also killed on the route. Another ANA officer and a former jihadi commander, Dawood, were disembarked from a bus and shot dead by militants in the same area. Transport companies' owners said public goods worth more than 20 million afghanis and 10 million afghanis in cash had been snatched over the past 11 months by armed robbers on the Kabul-Badakhshan highway. Qari Niamatullah, director of Ayaran Khurasan Transportation Union, said three buses of the union had been looted in the Qabr Qazi area of Kunduz province in the past four months. The robbers also snatched 50,000 afghanis the driver had collected from passengers in fare in addition to ornaments from women. Niamatullah added last week a driver, who did not stop his bus, was shot in the chest by the highwaymen. He is currently under medical treatment at a hospital in Kabul. Proprietors of Nawi Amo, Khawak-i-Panjsher, Bazarak-i-Pansher and Setara-i-Khurasan companies confirmed their buses were looted on the Takhar-Kunduz and Kunduz-Baghlan highways. The outlaws allegedly looted tens of thousands of afghanis from passengers and the driver each time, they said. Wahidullah, a bus driver, said: "I am personally against travel after 6pm, but unhealthy competition among transport companies is forcing us to do so." He believed the problem could be resolved if security officials and the Ministry of Transport press the companies. Badakhshan Civil Society Association (BCSA) also opposed night travel. BCSA head, Saifur Rahman Sais, said: "I have asked representatives of transport firms not to operate passenger buses at night, but they don't care. I have also shared the issue with MPs, but they also ignored it because their relatives travel by air." He said the Badakhshan-Kabul highway had become dangerous for

passengers in recent months. Commuters were either looted or beaten by robbers, he charged. Sharif, a passenger, said three weeks ago, robbers had stopped them in the Baghlan-i-Markazi district of northern Baghlan province. The gunmen took away all their mobile telephones and money. "The masked robbers intimidated passengers with their weapons and searched their pockets," he claimed, accusing the bandits of robbing him of 10,000 afghanis and a mobile telephone. There was no one to rescue passengers from robbers, Sharif grumbled. About a week ago, police detained two armed thieves who had snatched 200,000 afghanis and five mobile phones from passengers in Baghlan province. Deputy Governor Gul Mohammad Baidar said he did not know why passengerstravelled at night. The transport companies in Kabul were not controlled by provincial authorities, he explained. "We have also pressed the companies to transport passengers in daytime, but they don't care. We have sent several letters on the issue to the Ministry of Transport, but the problem is yet to be resolved," he concluded.

## **Kunduz**

**Feb 28, 2016**

KUNDUZ: Seventy-one Taliban militants have been killed and scores of others wounded during clearing operations in northern Kunduz province, an official said on Sunday. Police Chief Brig. Gen. Qasim Jangal Bagh told Pajhwok Afghan News 61 insurgents killed in Dasht-i-Archi district included some notorious commanders. He said another 10 rebels were killed and five more wounded in parts of Chardara and Khanabad districts. He hoped the entire province would be soon purged of rebels. Meanwhile, Gen. Ahmad Habibi, commander of 20<sup>th</sup> armoured brigade, declared the ongoing offensive would continue until the last insurgent was eliminated in the province. But Taliban's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed inflicting heavy casualties on security forces during clashes in the province. He said three commandoes were killed, two others wounded and a tank was destroyed and all onboard killed and wounded. The ongoing operation in Kunduz was launched after residents complained against growing insecurity.

## **Sar-i-Pul**

**Feb 28, 2016**

SAR-I-PUL: Nearly a dozen people including police, local police personnel and Taliban militants have been killed during clashes near the capital of northern Sar-i-Pul province, sources said on Sunday. The clashes in Chesma Shifa area on the outskirts of Sar-i-Pul city broke out after Taliban gunmen attacked a passenger van also carrying a police post commander Juma Khan on Saturday afternoon, the provincial council chief, Maulvi Noor Mohammad Beig, said. He said Juma Khan was killed along with two friends and four civilians including a woman. Without providing details, Beig said more people suffered casualties after the clash spread to the middle of the village. A resident of the area, who declined to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban after attacking the passenger vehicle stormed a police post in Baghawa village,

triggering a firefight that stretched into midnight. The villager, who attended funeral prayers for the victims, said the clashes left eleven people dead including three policemen, their two female relatives and four local residents who had offered refuge to the insurgents in their homes. He said one Taliban fighter was wounded in the clashes. Another source in the area said 17 people suffered casualties in the clashes. He said the dead included four policemen and the remaining dead and wounded were relatives of Taliban and local policemen. But the Taliban claimed two local police commanders were killed in Saturday's attack that followed the killing of two civilians by relatives of the slain police personnel, triggering an armed clash between local residents and the police. In the ensuing clashes, the Taliban claimed, 20 people, including women and children, were killed. They also claimed the local police personnel torched homes of several residents.

## Kabul

**Feb 29, 2016**

KABUL: At least four civilians were wounded in a magnetic bomb blast in the seventh police district of Kabul on Monday, eyewitnesses said. The incident took place in the Aqa Ali Shams area of the district at around 7am, wounding four people, resident Mirwais told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said the blast happened as an Afghan National Army (ANA) commander's vehicle was passing by. But Shams did not name the commander. Security officials have not yet commented on the bombing. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Farah

**Feb 29, 2016**

FARAH CITY: At least four children have been killed and two others wounded in a bomb explosion in the capital of western Farah province, an official said on Monday. Deputy police chief, Col. Del Khan Jan Khakrezi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place on Sunday afternoon when a bomb the children were playing with exploded in Karja area. He said four children were killed and two others wounded in the explosion. The bomb had been planted in the area in the past, he added. Farah Civil Hospital Director Abdul Hakim Rassouli said two of the children were killed immediately, a third died on the way to hospital and the fourth succumbed to his injuries while being treated. Binyamin, a resident of Karja area, said: "The four children from our village were grazing animals when the incident happened."

## Nangarhar

**Feb 29, 2016**

JALALABAD: At least nine Daesh militants have been killed during a drone strikes in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Monday. Governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told



Pajhwok Afghan News the drone targeted the Islamic State (IS) militants in Mamando area of Achin district on Sunday night. Nine IS members were killed after the drone attacked twice, with civilians escaping unhurt, he added. Khogyani said several areas had been cleared of militants as a result of an ongoing operation by Afghan forces in Achin district. There has been no word from the Islamic State outfit about their latest casualties.

## **Faryab**

**Feb 29, 2016**

MAIMANA: Twenty-eight insurgents, including notorious commanders, have been killed and hundreds of families displaced by the ongoing fighting in the Pashtoonkot district of northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Monday. Maj. Reza Rezaee, spokesman for the Shahin Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News scores of rebels had been killed during the clearing operation codenamed Shamsheer-25, spearheaded by First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum. The offensive kicked off two days back, he said, adding that arm, police and personnel from the National Directorate of Security were taking part in it. He said six security officials had been wounded so far during the operation. A military vehicle which developed technical fault was set a light by security force before it could be captured by the Taliban. Rezaee added 4,000 leaflets had been airdropped from helicopters, warning the Taliban to surrender within six hours or face the music. But Massoud Ahmad Massoud, deputy head of Junbish –i-Islami party, said 32 fighters, including commanders Maulvi Kandahari, Haqyar, Ghani and Izzatullah, had been killed and dozens wounded in Khwaja Musa locality. But Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, the Taliban spokesman, confirmed the security forces attacked Khwaja Musa area with heavy weapons and tanks. The Taliban launched a counter-attack. He said 11 security men were killed, 25 others wounded and three tanks destroyed. One tank and a machinegun were seized by the fighters. A tribal elder, who wished to go unnamed, said hundreds of families had fled to secure places. Earlier, Dostum had claimed 120 Taliban had been arrested in Pashtoonkot. Among them were dreaded commanders Hamidullah Akhund, Abdul Malik and Amanullah.

## **Baghlan**

**Mar 01, 2016**

PUL-I-KHUMRI: A young man was killed and two children were wounded in a rocket attack in Pul-i-Khumri, the capital of northern Baghlan province, on Tuesday. A BM1 rocket landed in a house at around 8:30am, killing a 24 years old man and injuring two of his children, Baghlan police spokesman, Zabihullah Shuja told Pajhwok Afghan News. Fired from Dand-i-Ghori locality, currently the scene of a military offensive, the rocket landed between the governor's house and the police headquarters, the official said. He accused the Taliban of blindly firing rockets at government offices. Civilians were the victims of such strikes, Shuja claimed.

Mohammad Zakir, a resident of the area, said: “We were in the street where the rocket hit the house of our neighbour and damaged its walls,” He added people headed to the site to evacuate victims. Zakir, however, was unaware of the exact casualty figures. A week earlier, a rocket fired from Dand-i-Ghori area hit the governor’s house and left one person dead and a driver of the deputy governor wounded. During the ongoing solar year, the Taliban have fired at least 12 rockets from Dand-i-Ghori into Pul-i-Khumri, leaving several people dead and wounded.

## **Kabul**

**Mar 01, 2016**

KABUL: Police and detective organs have detained five people in connection with trafficking more than a tonne of drugs and 880 litres of alcoholic beverages, the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) said on Tuesday. A statement from CJTF said the men were detained in Kabul, Nangarhar and Paktia provinces with eight kilograms of heroin, 1,126 kilograms of hashish, 881 litres of alcoholic beverages and a vehicle. Cases against the detainees have been sent to the CJTF for investigations, the statement added, without giving further details.

## **Wardak**

**Mar 01, 2016**

MAIDAN WARDAK: One person was killed and ten others wounded in a traffic accident on the Kabul-Kandahar highway in central Maidan Wardak province on Tuesday, an official said. Toryalai Himmat, the governor’s spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened at around 6:00am in the Dasht Toap locality. A coaster traveling from Kabul to Ghazni province crashed head-on with a car, leaving one passenger dead and another 10 wounded. He said the injured had been transferred to hospitals in Maidan Shahr, the provincial capital, and Syedabad district.

## **Kandahar**

**Mar 01, 2016**

KANDAHAR/TIRINKOT: Four policemen at a post on the Kandahar-Uruzgan highway have been killed in what suspected to be an insider attack in southern Kandahar province, officials said on Tuesday. The incident took place in Tagharak area of Shah Walikot district on Monday evening. A security official in Shah Walikot, who wished not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News the commander of the security post was on leave and 14 policemen were present in the post at the time of the attack. The source said four policemen of the post were killed and the remaining 10 had gone missing along with their weapons and ammunition. The official added possibly some of the missing policemen having links with the Taliban executed their colleagues. But Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durrani said the incident occurred in Uruzgan province not in Kandahar.

But he did not provide more details. Uruzgan police officials confirmed the slain policemen belonged to their headquarters. Uruzgan acting police chief Col. Mohammad Akbar Shinwari said a number of policemen at the post had links with Taliban. He said the policemen, who had links with Taliban, had invited the militants who killed four police personnel. Three other policemen escaped the attack and survived, he said. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident.

## Kunar

**Mar 01, 2016**

ASADABAD: One civilian was killed and 14 others injured after Taliban fired bullets and rockets for several hours into villages in the Marawara district of eastern Kunar province, an official said on Tuesday. Deputy Kunar police chief Col. Sayed Maqsd Pacha told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban had been firing into villages since Monday morning. He said one civilian was killed and 10 others including women and children were wounded in Taliban-fired mortar shells and gunfire on Monday. Another four other civilians including a mother and her three children were injured when a mortar shell hit their house in Marawara village of the district on Tuesday morning, Pacha said. He added that there were no security posts in the area where militants were firing. Kunar Civil Hospital Director Dr. Farooq Sahak confirmed receiving eight wounded people including women and children on Monday and four others on Tuesday. He said condition of the wounded persons was stable. The Taliban have so far said nothing in this regard. Three days ago, at least 15 civilians were killed and 37 others wounded in a suicide attack in Asadabad, the capital of Kunar.

## Baghlan

**Mar 01, 2016**

PUL-I-KHUMRI: Afghan security forces clashed with Taliban militants in the Dand-i-Ghori area near the capital of northern Baghlan province, with both sides claiming to have inflicted casualties on the other. Baghlan police spokesman Zabihullah Shuja told Pajhwok Afghan News that a dozen Taliban militants had been killed during 24 hours of operations in the area. He said the dead militants included two commanders namely Qari Aminullah and Maulvi Shoaib. The police official said security forces had recaptured Salang area from the insurgents. He said three days ago security forces had also wrested back Niazullah, Akakhel and Arab Tapa villages, part of the Salang area, from insurgents. He claimed 20 bunkers of Taliban had been destroyed and a house-to-house search was underway, saying civilians suffered no casualties because they had left their homes for safety ahead of the operations. But the Taliban on their website claimed repulsing security forces' attacks and denied the fighters had been driven from any village. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed eleven security personnel were killed during clashes with the rebels and five others were wounded. A resident of Niazullah village,

Asadullah, said the Taliban had retreated from Salang area towards Joye Naw and Ahmadzai villages. He said they heard artillery fire and flying jets last night and currently gunfire could be heard in Joye Naw area.

## **Badakhshan**

**Mar 02, 2016**

FAIZABAD: At least three militants have been killed during ongoing clashes with Afghan forces in Baharak district of northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Wednesday. Deputy police chief, Col. Sakhidad Haideri, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban insurgents launched coordinated attacks on security posts in the district around 6am. He said three fighters were killed and four others detained by security forces during the clash. An Afghan security official also sustained slight injuries, he added. The militants were equipped in neighbouring Warduj district controlled by them, Haideri said. Kashm, Tagab, Teshkan and Argo districts have already been purged of rebels. Ahmad Naveed Frotan, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the attacks on security posts in Baharak, but he had no information about casualties. Baharak district is located 44 kilometers southeast of Faizabad, the provincial capital.

## **Urozgan**

**Mar 02, 2016**

TIRINKOT: Five policemen and as many militants have been killed during a clash in the Deh Raud district of central Uruzgan province, an official said ON Wednesday. The clash took place on Tuesday night when a large number of militants stormed police posts in Agah Sahib Hill, the district police chief, Haji Niaz, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said five policemen were killed and sixth wounded in the attack. Five militants were also killed and several others injured in retaliatory fire, he added. The bodies of the slain fighters are still lying at the scene. Police forces have left their security post and the militants seized two Ranger pick-ups and some ammunition, Niaz said. Provincial acting police chief, Col. Mohammad Akbar, confirmed the attack the security post's capture by the guerrillas. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for the attack and said six policemen had been killed and many others wounded. He said two pick-ups, a car, two motorcycles and some ammunition had also been seized by the attackers. But Mujahid did not comment on militant casualties.

## **Nangarhar**

**Mar 02, 2016**

**JALALABAD (Pajhwok):** All five Taliban gunmen who attacked security forces near the Indian consulate in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, were killed on Wednesday, an official said. A policeman and two civilians, including a woman, were also killed in the gun and suicide attack that took place near the Indian diplomatic mission at around 2pm. Another 19 people were wounded. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the bombing took place near the Indian Consulate. One attacker blew himself up and four others opened fire at security forces who eliminated all the gunmen, bringing to an end the coordinated assault. Public Health Director Najibullah Kamawal said some wounded people had been evacuated to the civil hospital from the scene. Asadullah, an eyewitness, said the suicide bomber blew himself up on the road. Some insurgents entered the street and started firing. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

## **Baghlan**

**Mar 03, 2016**

**PUL-I-KHUMRI:** The capital of northern Baghlan province once again came under an overnight rocket attack from militants but there were no casualties, an official said on Thursday. Baghlan police spokesman Zabihullah Shuja told Pajhwok Afghan News three BM1 rockets were fired into Pul-i-Khumri city on Wednesday night, landing at different areas but caused no casualties. One rocket landed in the third police district limits and the two others near Farhat Hill on the outskirts of the third police district, he said. Two days ago, a young man was killed and two children wounded when a rocket fired by Taliban militants hit a house in Pul-i-Khumri. A week earlier, a BM1 rocket hit the office of the deputy governor, leaving one person dead and a driver and three other civilians injured. At least 17 rockets have been fired by militants into the city from nearby Dand-i-Ghori area so this solar year, leaving a man and a child dead and more than 10 others injured. Residents of the city criticise the government for failing to prevent these incidents. Mohammad Rajab, a resident of Farhat Hill said: "The government's clearing operation has been ongoing since a month in Dand-i-Ghori area, but it could not identify the location from where the rockets are fired." He said two rockets hit Farhat Hill around 10pm last night awakening sleeping residents including children. The window glasses of some houses were also broken as a result of the strike that seriously terrified residents, he added. The resident asked the government to ensure security of the area otherwise people would leave their homes. Some people have already left the Farhat Hill due to frequent rocket strikes, Rajab said. However, local security officials said they had cleared Niazullah, Akakhil, Arab Tapa and Salangi areas of Dand-I-Ghori from militants during the ongoing operation. Dand-i-Ghori having a population of 30,000 people has been under Taliban's control over the past nine months. The area is located two kilometers from Pul-i-Khumri city. Local residents expressed their concern over the presence of a large number of militants around Pul-i-Khumri and feared the city would fall to militants if the government not paid attention.

## **Badakhshan**

**Mar 03, 2016**

FAIZABAD: Five Taliban militants were killed and 10 others wounded during clashes with security forces in Baharak district of northeastern Badakhshan province, while the rebels claimed killing 17 Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel. The governor's spokesman, Ahmad Navid Frotan, told Pajhwok Afghan News another four militants were captured alive after they attacked security posts in Yardar area of Baharak district late on Wednesday. Some weapons and ammunition of the militants were also seized by the Afghan forces, he said, adding that airstrikes by the Afghan Air Force also targeted the militants and inflicted heavy casualties to them. Frotan confirmed two Afghan security personnel also lost their lives to the clashes that left another three security men injured. But a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed the fighters killed 17 ALP members and wounded another 15 in their attack. He acknowledged the killing of only two militants and injuries to three others. A resident of the area, Haidar Mohammad, said security forces backed by uprising militias cleared Yardar village of militants. Civilians suffered no casualties during the clashes and the militants had fled from the area, he said.

**Balkh**

**Mar 03, 2016**

MAZAR-I-SHARIF: Two people were killed and 24 others injured in a bomb blast in Dawlat Abad district of northern Balkh province on Thursday, an official said. The district chief, Amir Shah Khan, told Pajhwok Afghan News the blast took place in the district's bazaar at around 2pm. "The explosion happened after I passed the bazaar in my car," he said, adding all victims of the blast were civilians including children and women. Mohammad Ewaz, a resident of the district bazaar, said the explosives had been planted on a rickshaw. "The rickshaw was already parked in the bazaar and was detonated when the district chief was passing through the bazaar," he said. However, he put the number of those killed at three, saying a large of other people had been injured in the incident. He said there were more crowds of people in the bazaar because Thursday was a special bazaar day for shopping. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident.

**Parwan**

**Mar 03, 2016**

CHARIKAR: The Salang highway maintenance department on Thursday said a heavy snowstorm was expected in coming 15 days in areas along the highway and stringent measures have been taken to protect the lives of commuters. Gen. Abdul Rajab Ali, the maintenance department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Metrological Department had predicted heavy snowfall and strong winds in areas along the highway. "The situation will persist for 10 to 15

days and the snowfall will sometimes intensify and sometimes decrease. "Rajab Ali said though they had taken precautionary measures and had deployed snowplows and personnel, the passengers should be careful and avoid non-essential travel until conditions improved. He said it was possible the highway that connects Kabul with northern provinces could be closed if snowfall continued or snow avalanches occurred in order to protect commuters from threats to their lives and vehicles. "If we felt a danger, we will close the highway," he said, asking passengers to carry warm clothes with them while travelling on the highway.

## Kabul

Mar 03, 2016

KABUL: A ringleader was among a dozen kidnappers arrested in separate raids in Kabul and central Parwan province, the spy service said on Thursday. A statement from the National Directorate of Security identified the alleged kidnappers arrested in Kabul as Parwaiz, Zamarai, Asadullah, Tooryalai (a gas seller), Kamil and Khalil. The six persons were detained in light of confessions made by an earlier arrested five-member kidnap gang some time ago in Kabul's 10 police district, the statement said. The group had been involved a series of kidnappings including the kidnapping a 14-year-old boy Aminullah, son of Qandi Shah, the statement added. The NDS also said a ringleader and his five accomplices involved in kidnappings had also been arrested in Parwan province. The statement identified the ringleader as Mohammad Afzal aka Major General Pikar. The five other detainees included a woman. The statement claimed 23 different arms, three vehicles, fake documents, military uniforms and blank passports had been recovered from the detainees. These individuals had the plan to benefit from their relations with the Taliban's shadow governor for Parwan in kidnapping people and carrying out other such activities. However, the statement did not provide any date or location of the arrests in Parwan. The spy service urged the people to contact the department in case they observed any suspicious activity on 1919 hotline.

## 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	375	610	985
Number of interviewers previously used in D3 project	370	591	961
Number of interviewers new to a D3 project	5	19	24

## Training

The central training for provincial supervisors was held in Kabul on February 18, 2016 and was led by ACSOR project managers Nazir Ekhlash and Jawed Alkozai. Thirty-three provincial supervisors were trained at the central training in Kabul. The supervisor from Sar-i-pul was unable to attend the Kabul training and was trained separately. 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 31, the Hunter program flagged a total of 196 cases to be removed:

- 24 cases were removed due to over 90% similarity in answers
- No cases were removed due to having over 25% non-response
- 172 cases were removed for being over 95% similar in substantive responses (duplicates test).

In addition, 11 cases were not included due to misprinted questionnaires.

## Quality Control – Double Entry

For the Wave 31 survey, ACSOR randomly selected 1,360 questionnaires of the total 13,773<sup>8</sup> (10%). 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 .17%, which is comparably low and acceptable for quality control standards.

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<sup>8</sup> 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 59 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 31 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 31

Sampling Point	Province	District	District Code
247	Kabul	Musahi	MUS
248	Kabul	Musahi	MUS
285	Faryab	Kohistan	KIT
286	Faryab	Kohistan	KIT
348	Jawzjan	Qush Tepah	QTP
349	Jawzjan	Qush Tepah	QTP
352	Jawzjan	Khamyab	KMB
353	Jawzjan	Khamyab	KMB
364	Jawzjan	Darzab	DZB
365	Jawzjan	Darzab	DZB
366	Jawzjan	Darzab	DZB
367	Jawzjan	Darzab	DZB
377	Sari Pul	Balkhab	BKB
378	Sari Pul	Balkhab	BKB
395	Sari Pul	Kohistanat	KTT
396	Sari Pul	Kohistanat	KTT
397	Sari Pul	Kohistanat	KTT
398	Sari Pul	Kohistanat	KTT
399	Sari Pul	Kohistanat	KTT
400	Sari Pul	Kohistanat	KTT
504	Baghlan	Dahanah-ye Ghor	DYG
505	Baghlan	Dahanah-ye Ghor	DYG
530	Baghlan	Baghlan-e Jadid	BEJ
531	Baghlan	Baghlan-e Jadid	BEJ
532	Baghlan	Baghlan-e Jadid	BEJ
533	Baghlan	Baghlan-e Jadid	BEJ
534	Baghlan	Baghlan-e Jadid	BEJ
535	Baghlan	Baghlan-e Jadid	BEJ
566	Kunduz	Chahar Darah	CDR
567	Kunduz	Chahar Darah	CDR
568	Kunduz	Chahar Darah	CDR
569	Kunduz	Chahar Darah	CDR
570	Kunduz	Qal'ah-ye Zal	QYZ

571	Kunduz	Qal'ah-ye Zal	QYZ
572	Kunduz	Qal'ah-ye Zal	QYZ
573	Kunduz	Qal'ah-ye Zal	QYZ
574	Kunduz	Aliabad	ALB
575	Kunduz	Aliabad	ALB
576	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
577	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
578	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
579	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
580	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
581	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
582	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
583	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
584	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
585	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
586	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
587	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
588	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
589	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	IMS
590	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
591	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
592	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
593	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
594	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
595	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
596	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
597	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
598	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
599	Kunduz	Kunduz	KDZ
600	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
601	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
602	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
603	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
604	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
605	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
606	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
607	Kunduz	Khanabad	KNB
608	Kunduz	Archi	ARC
609	Kunduz	Archi	ARC
610	Kunduz	Archi	ARC

611	Kunduz	Archi	ARC
612	Kunduz	Archi	ARC
613	Kunduz	Archi	ARC
640	Takhar	Darqad	DRQ
641	Takhar	Darqad	DRQ
642	Takhar	Khwajah Bahawuddin	KBW
643	Takhar	Khwajah Bahawuddin	KBW
679	Badakhshan	Raghistan	RAG
680	Badakhshan	Raghistan	RAG
683	Badakhshan	Shuhada	SHD
684	Badakhshan	Shuhada	SHD
687	Badakhshan	Jurm	JUR
688	Badakhshan	Jurm	JUR
689	Badakhshan	Yawan	YAW
690	Badakhshan	Yawan	YAW
697	Badakhshan	Shighnan	SHG
698	Badakhshan	Shighnan	SHG
699	Badakhshan	Darwaz-e Pa'in	DEP
700	Badakhshan	Darwaz-e Pa'in	DEP
701	Badakhshan	Shiki	SHI
702	Badakhshan	Shiki	SHI
703	Badakhshan	Yamgan	YAM
704	Badakhshan	Yamgan	YAM
705	Badakhshan	Kuf Ab	KUF
706	Badakhshan	Kuf Ab	KUF
707	Badakhshan	Warduj	WDJ
708	Badakhshan	Warduj	WDJ
709	Badakhshan	Kohistan	KOH
710	Badakhshan	Kohistan	KOH
711	Badakhshan	Wakhan	WKN
712	Badakhshan	Wakhan	WKN
713	Badakhshan	Kiran wa Munjan	KWM
714	Badakhshan	Kiran wa Munjan	KWM
819	Wardak	Nerkh	NRK
820	Wardak	Nerkh	NRK
821	Wardak	Nerkh	NRK
822	Wardak	Nerkh	NRK
849	Ghazni	Giro	GIR
850	Ghazni	Giro	GIR
853	Ghazni	Nawah	NWH

854	Ghazni	Nawah	NWH
855	Ghazni	Ajristan	ART
856	Ghazni	Ajristan	ART
857	Ghazni	Wali Muhammad-e Shahid	WMS
858	Ghazni	Wali Muhammad-e Shahid	WMS
861	Ghazni	Zanakhan	ZNK
862	Ghazni	Zanakhan	ZNK
889	Ghazni	Andar	AND
890	Ghazni	Andar	AND
891	Ghazni	Andar	AND
892	Ghazni	Andar	AND
911	Paktika	Wazah Khwah	WKW
941	Logar	Baraki Barak	BBK
942	Logar	Baraki Barak	BBK
943	Logar	Baraki Barak	BBK
944	Logar	Baraki Barak	BBK
945	Logar	Baraki Barak	BBK
946	Logar	Baraki Barak	BBK
951	Logar	Charkh	CKH
952	Logar	Charkh	CKH
953	Logar	Charkh	CKH
954	Logar	Charkh	CKH
955	Logar	Kharwar	KAW
956	Logar	Kharwar	KAW
965	Parwan	Kohi-e Safi	KES
966	Parwan	Kohi-e Safi	KES
1005	Paktya	Jani Khel	JKL
1006	Paktya	Jani Khel	JKL
1015	Paktya	Zurmat	ZMT
1016	Paktya	Zurmat	ZMT
1017	Paktya	Zurmat	ZMT
1018	Paktya	Zurmat	ZMT
1019	Paktya	Zurmat	ZMT
1020	Paktya	Zurmat	ZMT
1021	Paktya	Jaji	JAJ
1022	Paktya	Jaji	JAJ
1023	Paktya	Jaji	JAJ
1024	Paktya	Jaji	JAJ
1040	Khost	Sperah	SPH
1041	Khost	Sperah	SPH



1044	Khost	Qalandar	QLD
1045	Khost	Qalandar	QLD
1098	Nangarhar	Sherzad	SRZ
1099	Nangarhar	Sherzad	SRZ
1100	Nangarhar	Sherzad	SRZ
1101	Nangarhar	Sherzad	SRZ
1114	Nangarhar	Kot	KOT
1115	Nangarhar	Kot	KOT
1128	Nangarhar	Hisarak	HSR
1129	Nangarhar	Hisarak	HSR
1134	Nangarhar	Nazyan	NZN
1135	Nangarhar	Nazyan	NZN
1160	Nangarhar	Achin	ACH
1161	Nangarhar	Achin	ACH
1162	Nangarhar	Achin	ACH
1163	Nangarhar	Achin	ACH
1164	Nangarhar	Achin	ACH
1165	Nangarhar	Achin	ACH
1194	Kapisa	Alah Say	ALS
1195	Kapisa	Alah Say	ALS
1204	Kapisa	Tagab	TAG
1205	Kapisa	Tagab	TAG
1206	Kapisa	Tagab	TAG
1207	Kapisa	Tagab	TAG
1208	Kapisa	Tagab	TAG
1209	Kapisa	Tagab	TAG
1240	Kunar	Darah-ye Pech	DYP
1241	Kunar	Darah-ye Pech	DYP
1312	Kandahar	Arghistan	AGT
1313	Kandahar	Arghistan	AGT
1314	Kandahar	Arghistan	AGT
1315	Kandahar	Arghistan	AGT
1316	Kandahar	Ma'ruf	MRF
1317	Kandahar	Ma'ruf	MRF
1318	Kandahar	Mya Neshin	MNH
1319	Kandahar	Mya Neshin	MNH
1322	Kandahar	Registan	RGT
1323	Kandahar	Registan	RGT
1354	Kandahar	Maiwand	MWD
1355	Kandahar	Maiwand	MWD

1367	Zabul	Daychopan	DCP
1368	Zabul	Daychopan	DCP
1373	Zabul	Khak-e Afghan	KEA
1374	Zabul	Khak-e Afghan	KEA
1393	Uruzgan	Khas Uruzgan	KUZ
1394	Uruzgan	Khas Uruzgan	KUZ
1395	Uruzgan	Khas Uruzgan	KUZ
1403	Day Kundi	Kajran	KAR
1404	Day Kundi	Kajran	KAR
1405	Day Kundi	Kajran	KAR
1406	Day Kundi	Kajran	KAR
1420	Day Kundi	Sang-e Takht	SET
1421	Day Kundi	Sang-e Takht	SET
1422	Day Kundi	Sang-e Takht	SET
1423	Day Kundi	Sang-e Takht	SET
1488	Herat	Kushk-e Kohnah	KEK
1489	Herat	Kushk-e Kohnah	KEK
1490	Herat	Farsi	FRS
1491	Herat	Farsi	FRS
1550	Badghis	Murghab	MGB
1551	Badghis	Murghab	MGB
1552	Badghis	Murghab	MGB
1553	Badghis	Murghab	MGB
1554	Badghis	Murghab	MGB
1555	Badghis	Murghab	MGB
1562	Badghis	Jawand	JWD
1563	Badghis	Jawand	JWD
1564	Badghis	Jawand	JWD
1565	Badghis	Jawand	JWD
1572	Badghis	Ghormach	GRM
1573	Badghis	Ghormach	GRM
1574	Badghis	Ghormach	GRM
1575	Badghis	Ghormach	GRM
1576	Ghor	Tulak	TLK
1577	Ghor	Tulak	TLK
1578	Ghor	Do Lainah	DLN
1579	Ghor	Do Lainah	DLN
1602	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB
1603	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB
1604	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB
1605	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB

1606	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB
1607	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB
1608	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB
1609	Ghor	Pasaband	PSB
1622	Farah	Bakwah	BKW
1623	Farah	Bakwah	BKW
1626	Farah	Khak-e Safayd	KSF
1627	Farah	Khak-e Safayd	KSF
1646	Farah	Gulistan	GLT
1647	Farah	Gulistan	GLT
1671	Helmand	Sangin	SGN
1672	Helmand	Sangin	SGN
1673	Helmand	Sangin	SGN
1674	Helmand	Sangin	SGN
1675	Helmand	Musa Qal'ah	MQL
1676	Helmand	Musa Qal'ah	MQL
1677	Helmand	Musa Qal'ah	MQL
1678	Helmand	Musa Qal'ah	MQL
1679	Helmand	Now Zad	NZD
1680	Helmand	Now Zad	NZD
1681	Helmand	Now Zad	NZD
1682	Helmand	Now Zad	NZD
1683	Helmand	Marjah	MRJ
1684	Helmand	Marjah	MRJ
1685	Helmand	Reg-e Khan Neshin	RKN
1686	Helmand	Reg-e Khan Neshin	RKN
1687	Helmand	Washer	WSH
1688	Helmand	Washer	WSH
1714	Helmand	Baghran	BGN
1715	Helmand	Baghran	BGN
1716	Helmand	Baghran	BGN
1717	Helmand	Baghran	BGN
1718	Helmand	Baghran	BGN
1719	Helmand	Baghran	BGN
1720	Helmand	Kajaki	KAK
1721	Helmand	Kajaki	KAK
1722	Helmand	Kajaki	KAK
1723	Helmand	Kajaki	KAK

## Appendix B

### LIST OF REPLACED SAMPLING POINTS FOR ANQAR WAVE 31

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
1. Kabul	235	Deh-e Sabz	GHAZI ABAD	FAMELY HAYE PULCHARKHE	No transportation way for vehicles
	238	Mir Bachah Kot	SEYAB CHARIMGAR	BABA QASHQAR	No village with this name was found
	239	Mir Bachah Kot	KHOWJA GEYAN	SUFIYAN	No transportation way for vehicles
	241	Chahar Asyab	TANG DARA	QALA JAN KHAN	No village with this name was found
	242	Chahar Asyab	KARAIZ	NOW NEYAZ	No village with this name was found
	243	Istalif	JAH JAH	DAHAN KAR	No village with this name was found
	252	Khak-e Jabar	CHAR WAZAGI	KHURD KABUL	No transportation way for vehicles
	253	Paghman	HAJI SUBHAN KALAY	SAFID SANG	No village with this name was found
	256	Paghman	QOUL LONG	QALA HAIDAR KHAN QALA BAQI	No transportation way for vehicles
	260	Paghman	QALA DAR DAHI	QALA SHAIKH MIRO QALA MALIK	No village with this name was found
	261	Shakar Darah	QALA MOMEN	SEYA SANG	No village with this name was found
	264	Shakar Darah	MALKHZAR WA QALA TAOWS MALANG	JAHAN SHAH	No village with this name was found
	265	Shakar Darah	SHAIR BAZ KHAIL	Sayed Khail	No village with this name was found

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
					found
	266	Shakar Darah	ARABAN CHAWOL KHAIL	SHAH MARDAN MARKAZ WOLLUSWALY	No transportation way for vehicles
	269	Qarah Bagh	QALA PAHLAWAN	SHENWARI	No transportation way for vehicles
	271	Bagrami	MEYA KHAIL	HUSSAIN KHAIL	No transportation way for vehicles
	273	Bagrami	ADAM KHAN	ALO KHAIL	No transportation way for vehicles
	274	Bagrami	QALA PAKHCHAK DOWLAT ZAI	QALA NEYAZI	No village with this name was found
	275	Sarobi	QALA SURKH	Mia Saheb	The village is under control of Taliban
	276	Sarobi	KHORIN KI	Oria Khail	The village is under control of Taliban
22. Faryab	301	Qaram Qol	YUSUF MIRZAYE	ALTE BOLAK	The village is under control of Taliban
	302	Qaram Qol	MIRZA QAWUM AFGHANIYA BALA	MARKAZ QARAM QOUL	The village is under control of Taliban
	324	Shirin Tagab	LALK YA KARKALY	PAS QESHLAQ BALOCH	The village is under control of Taliban
	325	Shirin Tagab	SARDABA	BAID QESHLAQ	The village is under control of Taliban
	326	Shirin Tagab	HAJI HABIBULLAH	MULLAH MOHAMMAD AZIM	The village is under control of Taliban
	328	Shirin Tagab	ABDUL QADER JALALY	ALI BATER	The village is under control of Taliban

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
20. Jowzjan	329	Shirin Tagab	GUL QADOUQ	HAJI KARIM	The village is under control of Taliban
	371	Faizabad	AYE GUL	TEMORIYA SHAKAR QOUL	No village with this name was found
21. Sar-e Pul	383	Sar-e Pul	GUL TAPA	Dema Qeshlaq	The village is under control of Taliban
	384	Sar-e Pul	MAJAR	SHAH CHANAR	The village is under control of Taliban
	389	Sar-e Pul	AWRANG	Tughni	No transportation way for vehicles
	390	Sar-e Pul	DARAZA	Ab Gezak	No transportation way for vehicles
	403	Gosfandi	SHEEKYAR PAYEN	SAYAD TOYE	No transportation way for vehicles
	460	Balkh	NOWARID DANDOKAI	ARAB HA	The village is under control of Taliban
18. Balkh	462	Balkh	NOWARID TANA KHASBAK	HESSARAK	The village is under control of Taliban
	463	Balkh	PENJA JEREB	DEWALGI HUSSAIN KHAIL	No transportation way for vehicles
	465	Balkh	GOR TEPA	HASSAN ABAD	No transportation way for vehicles
	470	Sholgarah	CHAPCHAL	HAJI KHAIL	The village is under control of Taliban
	472	Sholgarah	JANGLY	SAR ASIYAB HAJI MULLAH BAI	The village is under control of Taliban
	473	Sholgarah	NOW QESHLAQ	Khwaja Sekandar	The village is under control of Taliban

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
	475	Sholgarah	SHORCHA	BABA HAWAZ	The village is under control of Taliban
	476	Dowlatabad	NEACHKA	CHAR BAGH SAYIDAN	The village is under control of Taliban
	480	Dowlatabad	DAR ABAD WATANI	NAKHCHIR ABAD	The village is under control of Taliban
	481	Dowlatabad	CHAH	Khushal Abad	The village is under control of Taliban
16. Baghlan	494	Pul-e Khumri town	Kampodar	Karta Khurasan	The village is under control of Taliban
	523	Pul-e Khumri	KUNJ YA GORGAN	GHARO SHAHKH PAYEN	The village is under control of Taliban
	524	Pul-e Khumri	GORGAN QAZAL BAI KAMAR KHAIL	WAZ GHARI TURKMAN	The village is under control of Taliban
	525	Pul-e Khumri	SAD JAREYBA NOWAQOUL	Zaman Khail	The village is under control of Taliban
	526	Pul-e Khumri	NASIR YA AHMAD ZAI	Khugyani	The village is under control of Taliban
	528	Pul-e Khumri	BABE ASHYA QHULAM MOHAMMAD	Band do	The village is under control of Taliban
	529	Pul-e Khumri	HABIB UZBEK HA DAHI PAYAN MAIN	Chap Darya	The village is under control of Taliban
	625	Warsaj	SHAHR	KHAN AQAH	No transportation way for vehicles
15. Takhar	626	Kalafgan	JALD RAQ	Aqjar	No transportation way for vehicles
	632	Yangi Qal'a	ALAM JAAR	TOOPKHANA	No transportation

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
			JANGAL	KAFTAR ALI CHAKARI	way for vehicles
	634	Dasht-e Qal'ah	AROWQ	NAQIL BAGHBAYAN	No transportation way for vehicles
	637	Baharak	KHAROTI	QESH LAQ ABDULSAMAD	No transportation way for vehicles
	644	Taloqan	GANDI CHA	EASHAN TOORA	No transportation way for vehicles
	645	Taloqan	SAFI JALAT	POST KHOR	No transportation way for vehicles
	646	Taloqan	HAJI NOWROZ	SHAHR KOHNNA TALUQAN	No transportation way for vehicles
	648	Taloqan	TALOK	JO SHAIKH QALA EASHANAN	No village with this name was found
	649	Taloqan	TAJAR BASHI	SHAH TALUQAN	No village with this name was found
	651	Taloqan	BABA KHAN PAHLAWAN	TAJ GOZAR	No transportation way for vehicles
	657	Rustaq	SHAIR TALA NOWABAD	Hawele Bala	No transportation way for vehicles
	658	Rustaq	DARAH SHOWROK	PASTAKA PAYEN	No transportation way for vehicles
	659	Rustaq	DASHT CHANARI	GHOUNJ	No transportation way for vehicles
	660	Rustaq	BARI BAYAI GORGAN	SARAM BAZ BALA	No transportation way for vehicles
	662	Rustaq	YAFERY	NOWABAD SAR RUSTAQ	No transportation way for vehicles
	665	Rustaq	TOTALI	Nonaki Bala	No transportation way for vehicles
	667	Khwajah Ghar	QESH LAQ HAJI ABDULKHALIQ	TAGHA QALTAK	No transportation way for vehicles
	669	Khwajah Ghar	HUSSIN KALDI	JAW KADO BALA	No transportation way for vehicles
	671	Ishkamish	ZARMAKH	Bad Guzar	No transportation



Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
14. Badakhshan					way for vehicles
	674	Ishkamish	QARANQAL NOW ABAD	MAIDANI-HA	No transportation way for vehicles
	675	Chah Ab	CHASHMA GUL	SEYA JAAR	No transportation way for vehicles
	685	Faizabad	KHAM MIR	SAFAJ SHAH	No transportation way for vehicles
	693	Baharak	SAR HOWZ	KOYAK	No transportation way for vehicles
	695	Tagab	DARA SOM	SHAYESTA	The village is under control of Taliban
	717	Kishim	DARA GANDOM	SANG AB	No transportation way for vehicles
	719	Kishim	WAKHSHI	MAHAJER SHAIKHDAN	No transportation way for vehicles
	720	Kishim	AB CHANAR	SARAY GHARBE	No transportation way for vehicles
	721	Argo	BOYENA QARA BALA	Naw Abad Chehl Kapa	No transportation way for vehicles
	722	Argo	KOHAKI	CHEHL KAPA	No transportation way for vehicles
	727	Darayim	TOOT DARA	Sayed Hay Deh Bazar	No transportation way for vehicles
	729	Yaftal-e Sufla	SOKHTA KOH	Kuhna Dehan Dara	No transportation way for vehicles
	732	Yaftal-e Sufla	SOFIYAN	CHAYABAK	No transportation way for vehicles
19. Samangan	734	Shahr-e Buzurg	GARDANAK	KHASAR	No transportation way for vehicles
	735	Shahr-e Buzurg	QARYA SAG PAYAN	BAR LASS	No transportation way for vehicles
	740	Khuram wa Sar Bagh	SHAKH SAFID QAZAL GUZAR	BAGHALAK	No village with this name was found
	742	Aibak	TAKATI PAYEN	LARGHAN MASJED JAMAH MIR	No transportation way for vehicles

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
	SEYYID WAL				
	746	Aibak	HOSH QARAH	DASHT MAZAR	No transportation way for vehicles
	747	Darah-ye Suf-e Pa'in	QARAH JANGAL	Kaj Zo	No village with this name was found
	750	Darah-ye Suf-e Pa'in	GULI DARAH	Masjid Hazrat Ali	No transportation way for vehicles
	751	Darah-ye Suf-e Bala	SARKHAN CHASHMA	BOYENA QARA TAQCHAI	No transportation way for vehicles
	752	Darah-ye Suf-e Bala	BALOGH	BENAMANAG	No transportation way for vehicles
	753	Darah-ye Suf-e Bala	GORG-I-KOSHTA	KOHNNA HASSANI	No transportation way for vehicles
	760	Hazrat-e Sultan	KHOWJA GOLAB	NOW ABAD GURGEEN	No transportation way for vehicles
32. Bamyan	762	Kahmard	SAR GULY	FEROZAK	No transportation way for vehicles
	763	Kahmard	SEYA BENI	BANAQ DAHI BALA	No transportation way for vehicles
	767	Chihel Borj	TENA QALA	KHUSHK DARAH	No transportation way for vehicles
	769	Waras	CHAPHA	NOORAK	No transportation way for vehicles
	787	Yakawlang	HAZAR CHASHMA PAITOW	SAR TAR TOWK	No transportation way for vehicles
	788	Yakawlang	MAIDANAK	Char Deh	No transportation way for vehicles
6. Ghazni	883	Qarah Bagh	KHAR BALAQ	QOUL	The village is under control of Taliban
	885	Andar	KHAROTI	Ada Andar	The village is under control of Taliban
	886	Andar	SHAHAB KHAIL	Ada Andar	The village is under control of Taliban
	887	Andar	ASHNONI	Ada Andar	The village is

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
					under control of Taliban
	888	Andar	GHABAR GULONI	Ada Andar	The village is under control of Taliban
	898	Ghazni	AMIR KHAN	KHOWJA BAQAL	No village with this name was found
8. Paktika	905	Dilah wa Khoshamand	SALUZAY	GHUTI	The village is under control of Taliban
3. Parwan	962	Shinwari	SHAIRAK	TOGHZAR	The village is under control of Taliban
	971	Charikar	SOKHTA ZAR	TOTOM DARA HULYA	No transportation way for vehicles
	994	Jabal us Saraj	KOCHA PAYEN	Pay Mazar	No transportation way for vehicles
10. Ningarhar	1104	Chaparhar	KHALE SHAIR BABA	KUNDI BAGH	The village is under control of Taliban
	1105	Chaparhar	KOCHEYANO KALAY	AGHZO KALAY	The village is under control of Taliban
	1147	Surkh Rod	QALA MANSOOR	Zelani	The village is under control of Taliban
11. Laghman	1166	Mehtar Lam	ALKOZAI	MABAIN DAHI	The village is under control of Taliban
	1184	Alingar	NOORALAM	KUNDA	The village is under control of Taliban
	1185	Alingar	PALWASA	RAJAHE	The village is under control of Taliban
	1190	Alisheng	ANDOLI	JAMSHED ABAD	The village is under control of

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
12. Kunar					Taliban
	1223	Shigal wa Sheltan	KHANANO KAS	KARBORAH	The village is under control of Taliban
	1243	Tsowkey	DEWARA	Tarnaw	The village is under control of Taliban
	1247	Nurgal	TETAK	Patan	The village is under control of Taliban
	1248	Chapah Darah	BIKARE	SANZAYE	The village is under control of Taliban
13. Nuristan	1258	Mandol	ATA RA RA	TAI KAMAR	The village is under control of Taliban
	1259	Mandol	PASHKEL	Markaz Wolaswali Mandol	The village is under control of Taliban
33. Panjshayr	1265	Shutul	DAHI SORKH	RUBAT	This village is related to Unaba district
29. Zabul	1361	Tarneke wa Jaldak	DWLA	AGHA JAN KALAY	The village is under control of Taliban
34. Daykundi	1415	Mir Amor	ASTARIK	DARA	No village with this name was found
	1416	Mir Amor	HESSAR	SAR SANG	No village with this name was found
	1418	Mir Amor	TUBAK BALA	DAHI NOW	No transportation way for vehicles
24. Herat	1460	Gulran	CHAKAR AB	BAIDAK MRAD KORI	The village is under control of Taliban
	1465	Gulran	NANG ABAD	CHAH MURADAK	The village is under control of

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
					Taliban
	1467	Obeh	BAGAL	QALA ZARD	The village is under control of Taliban
	1468	Obeh	KAR GHOZ	NOW	The village is under control of Taliban
	1511	Shindand	KAH WA SARAI NOW	AROMA YA DAHAN CHANAR	The village is under control of Taliban
	1518	Shindand	QALA KOHNA	CHANGAN	The village is under control of Taliban
	1541	Pashtun Zarghun	DAHI SHAIKH	BAQERYA MULLAH JALAL	The village is under control of Taliban
	1547	Qal'ah-ye Now	DARA AGHA	SANG AW BAND	The village is under control of Taliban
23. Badghis	1559	Qadis	QAL JALAL	KHODAI MADIYAN KHOD AMADA	The village is under control of Taliban
	1560	Qadis	JANGALAK	CHARAYE AB DOUL QAYOM	The village is under control of Taliban
	1567	Ab-e Kamari	SENA ORDO	Mawji Ha	The village is under control of Taliban
	1568	Ab-e Kamari	GHAR ZARQABE	KOCHA ZARD AGHZAI	The village is under control of Taliban
	1590	Chaghcharan	SAYID YARAI	SANG BAR	No transportation way for vehicles
31. Ghor	1598	La'l wa Sar Jangal	MUKHTABAT	Mukhtar	No transportation way for vehicles
	1625	Qal'ah-ye Kah	MARAZ QALA KAH	NOW ABAD DUZD BAD	The village is under control of Taliban
25. Farah					

Province	SP#	District	Projected Village	Replaced Village	Reason for Replacement
	1633	Farah	QALA	KARAIZ JALAL ABAD	No village with this name was found
	1635	Farah	PANJELA	KARAIZ MULLAH AHZAM	The village is under control of Taliban
	1638	Bala Boluk	SAWR	Ganj Abad	The village is under control of Taliban
	1639	Bala Boluk	BAKSH ABAD	GALA MEAKH	The village is under control of Taliban
	1640	Bala Boluk	ZAR MARDAN	Gerani	The village is under control of Taliban
	1641	Bala Boluk	SAR TAKHT	TAPA SADAT	The village is under control of Taliban
	1648	Pusht-e Rod	BARANGAK BALA	CHEN AFGHANI	The village is under control of Taliban