

1. U.S. Army Sgts. David Sterin, left, Michael Magnuson, right, both members of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) security force, lead members of the PRT through the Shur Andam Industrial Park in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, June 11, 2011. The PRT met with business leaders to assess the use of and need for electricity in the area. The PRT works with government and civic leaders at the district and provincial levels to improve infrastructure capacity in the province. (DoD photo by Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen, U.S. Air Force/Released)
2. A U.S. Air Force aircrew flight equipment specialist with the 744th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron adjusts and calibrates a set of AN/AVS-9 night vision goggles at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 8, 2011. (DoD photo by Senior Airman Sheila deVera, U.S. Air Force/Released)
3. Afghan Uniform Police (AUP) officers with the color guard prepare for a parade before the AUP Basic Patrolman Course graduation ceremony at the Regional Training Center-Kandahar in Kandahar, Afghanistan, June 9, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Brammer/Released)
4. A U.S. Army noncommissioned officer prepares to lower the American flag during a transfer-of-authority ceremony at Observation Post Mace, as U.S. and Afghan National Army troops look on Kunar province, Afghanistan, Dec. 21, 2010. The soldiers are assigned to the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team. OP Mace is the northernmost observation post in Afghanistan's Kunar province, which borders Pakistan. U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Peter Shinn
5. LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan Soldiers assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Task Force Storm, and Afghan National Security Forces work to gain high ground before moving into a hostile village on day three of a six-day dismounted operation Dec. 21. Soldiers of Co. C and ANSF pushed through western Baraki Barak on a six-day foot patrol to eliminate Taliban influence and establish a Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan presence. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cooper T. Cash, Task Force Patriot Public Affairs)
6. Airmen, Soldiers, U.S. civilians and local Afghans from Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul celebrate New Year's Eve around a bonfire at Forward Operating Base Smart, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)(Released)
7. U.S. soldiers and Afghan police move out on a foot patrol in the Isa Khan region of Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province, Dec. 28, 2010. The soldiers are assigned to the 10th Mountain Division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Queen
8. Soldiers and Marines walk through rotor wash from a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter as they move toward a Forward Operating Base in the village of Darrah-I-Bum, Badghis Province, Afghanistan Jan. 5, 2011. The cadre of personnel accompanied the International Security Assistance Force Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill on a visit to the Marines, sailors, and Soldiers of Special Operations Task Force-West living and working in Darrah-I-Bum. U.S. Marine photo/Sgt. Brian Kester
9. U.S. Army Sgt. Marcin Radwan and Staff Sgt. Bear, 49th Mine Dog Detachment, search for mines and explosives on a new checkpoint site during Operation Koranai Permakhtag near Bora Jengi,

Afghanistan, Dec. 22, 2010. The primary mission of Operation Koranai Permakhtag is the construction of a new Afghan Border Police checkpoint at Bora Jengi. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ian Schell/Released)

10. LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan U.S. Army Capt. Jason Merchant, the Company A, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment commander from Dysart, Iowa, scans the area while on patrol on a mountainside near the village of Sigin Jan. 1. The Soldiers discovered a command wire in a riverbed while on patrol and called in the 744th Ordnance Company's explosive ordnance disposal team to try and locate an improvised explosive device, however, none were found. The area, near the Watangatu boys school, has been an IED hotbed. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson, Task Force Red Bulls Public Affairs)
11. U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Paul Deugan (left) of Ankeny, Iowa, and Sgt. Drew Russell (right) of Dubuque, Iowa both cavalry scouts with Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 113 Cavalry Regiment scan their sector of fire while Russell utilizes a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) at Vehicle Patrol Base Dandarh, Parwan province, Afghanistan, Jan. 01, 2011. Bravo Troop visits Vehicle Patrol Base Dandarh to build up the base defense and to conduct dismounted patrols through surrounding villages to ensure security. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristina Gupton/Released) (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristina Gupton/Released)
12. Spc. John Lombardo, left, and Spc. Christopher Keefe pull security on a hilltop while mechanics look over a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle, or MRAP, after the brakes ignited during a return mission from Shinkay, Afghanistan, Jan. 6. Specialists Lombardo and Keefe are assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul, Qalat, Afghanistan. U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson
13. U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Taylor Gingrich, an infantry officer from Cedar Falls, Iowa, with Company A, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Ironman, a part of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Red Bulls, draws a smile from a small Afghan boy as Gingrich lets the boy wear his helmet at Quala e Najil School in Najil Jan. 3. The Soldiers from Co. A., as well as Afghan National Army soldiers from 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 201st Infantry Regiment, delivered supplies donated by people from the town of Waverly, Iowa, and its surrounding communities. Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson, Task Force Red Bulls Public Affairs
14. U.S. Army Sgt. Adam Dean (right), a combat engineer with 2nd Platoon, 832nd Engineer Company, attached to 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, speaks to a couple of young Afghan boys from the village of Qalah-ye Boland in Parwan province, Afghanistan, on Dec. 30, 2010. U.S. soldiers of 832nd Engineer Company visited the village to assess the area and to attend a key leader engagement with the Malik. DoD photo by Spc. Kristina Gupton, U.S. Army.
15. A Soldier with C Company, 3-187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division walks across a field during a joint patrol with Afghan National Security Forces in Andar District, Afghanistan, Jan. 07, 2011. The 3-187th also known as the Iron Rakkasans are partnering with Afghan National Security Forces to bring stability to the Andar District in Eastern Afghanistan. ISAF photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joseph Swafford
16. U.S. Army 1st Lt. Chris Grauel, C Company, 3-187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division looks on as sheep are herded during a joint patrol with Afghan National Security Forces in Andar

- District, Afghanistan, Jan. 07, 2011. The 3-187th also known as the Iron Rakkasans are partnering with Afghan National Security Forces to bring stability to the Andar District in Eastern Afghanistan. ISAF photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joseph Swafford
17. A local Afghan man from Nawbor Village, Bala Murghab District, Baghdis Province, Afghanistan, talks through an interpreter (right) to (left) U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lewis, a scout with White Platoon, Bulldog Troop, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, Colo., Jan. 16, 2011. The Afghan thanked the Afghan National Army and U.S. Army scouts for ridding his village of insurgents and bringing a better life to the Nawbor children, who gathered on the hill. U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace
 18. U.S. Army Pfc. Carlos Ortiz, left, and Spc. Kevin Vo walk past a burned-out car during a trip to a village near Shahr-e Safa, Afghanistan, Jan. 19, 2011. Members of Provincial Reconstruction Team Zubul visited the village to assess future projects and speak to elders about issues within the village. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson
 19. U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Brooks assesses a well during a trip to a village near Shahr-e Safa, Afghanistan, Jan. 19, 2011. Brooks was one of the Provincial Reconstruction Team Zubul members to visit the village and speak to elders about local issues. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson
 20. U.S. Army Spc. Kyle Oszczakiewicz an infantryman with 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion 187th Infantry Regiment, a native of Trenton N.J., scans for an insurgent as 2nd platoon receives small arms fire from across a wadi in Zambar, Afghanistan on Jan. 18. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Guffey 210th MPAD
 21. U.S. Army Col. Benjamin J. Corell, Task Force Red Bulls commander, takes cover as a UH-60 Black Hawk lands upon a mountaintop in Laghman province, Afghanistan, March 28, during Operation Bull Whip. Joint Terminal Attack Controllers were among the 2,200 coalition troops involved in the operation to clear the Galush Valley of insurgents.
 22. DEH DADI TWO, Afghanistan (Feb. 28, 2011) Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 begin their journey back to homeport in Port Hueneme, Calif. NMCB-40 will turn the camp over to the Army and NATO forces as a major hub in the northern Afghanistan distribution network supply route. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Michael B. Watkins/Released)
 23. DEH DADI TWO, Afghanistan (Nov. 2, 2010) Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Javier Vega, left, Lt. j.g. Chris Widhelm and Army 1st. Lt. Paul Lataille plan a base expansion project on a Swedish and American compound. The three are part of a pre-deployment site survey team working with the International Security Assistance Force in Northern Afghanistan. The workers primarily consisted of Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communications Specialist Michael B. Watkins/Released)
 24. KHILAGUY, Afghanistan (Nov. 23, 2010) A Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 walks to his equipment in a cloud of dust created by a nearby departing helicopter. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Michael B. Watkins/Released)

25. ARABIAN GULF (May 20, 2011) The guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76) patrols the Arabian Gulf. Higgins is deployed supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Alex Mabini /Released) 110520-N-BP741-001
26. A TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) missile is fired from a HMMWV by Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit; TOW missiles are generally used as anti-armor weaponry, and can be fired from a variety of vehicles and helicopters. Photo by GySgt Scott Dunn
27. Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment return to Patrol Base Poole after completing Operation Mako, a one-day mission to disrupt enemy activity in Trek Nawa, Afghanistan. Photo by Sgt Mark Fayloga
28. A Marine from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2 searches a compound for suspicious activity near the Kajaki Dam in Afghanistan. Photo by Cpl Eugenio Montanez
29. 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment Marines and Afghanistan National soldiers prepare to debark a CH-53E helicopter during Operation INTEGRITY in Marjah, Afghanistan last week. The operation secured an enemy hotspot, disrupted operations, and gathered census data on local residents. Photo by LCpl Andrew D. Johnston
30. A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft approaches an Air Force KC-10A Extender from the 908th Air Refueling Squadron to be refueled over Afghanistan on Oct. 2, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Michael B. Keller)
31. U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Brian Kehn, a pararescueman (PJ) assigned to the 79th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, flies aboard an HC-130P "Combat King" aircraft during an alert mission, April 10, 2010, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. "Guardian Angel" PJs, deployed from the 48th ERQS at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., returned to Afghanistan after their last deployment, which ended in January 2010. During that deployment, they completed search and rescue missions utilizing HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters at Kandahar Airfield. For some of the PJs, this is their first experience working with the HC-130P. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez)
32. Marines with Company I, Battalion Landing Team 3/8, Regimental Combat Team 8 examine a target during a security patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, March 21, 2011. Photo by GySgt Bryce Piper