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DAZED AND CONFUSED: RETURNING FROM BRUSSELS, KABUL AND KANDAHAR



Impressions from a Short Visit

- ◆ Confusions
- ◆ Security Situation
- ◆ Complicated WoG
- ◆ Alliances at War
- ◆ Canadian Military
- ◆ Afghan Capacity
- ◆ Corruption
- ◆ Conclusions

Afghan Trip Report 2



Confusions

- ◆ Contradictions at Different Levels
- ◆ At What Level? Kabul or Local?
- ◆ Canadian Face or Afghan Face?



Afghan Trip Report 3

Security Situation

- ◆ More Violence
 - ◆ IED's, Suicide Bombing
- ◆ More Control over More Territory
 - ◆ Ink spots Growing
 - ◆ "Safe" in Kabul
- ◆ Police Substations
 - ◆ None Lost Since Backed up by ANA, CF
 - ◆ Under Fire

Conclusion: Fragile Progress



Afghan Trip Report

Complicated Whole of Gov't

- ◆ Simultaneity on the Ground is Unrealistic
- ◆ Simultaneity in Ottawa is Unlikely
- ◆ At the Int't Level?!? @\$
- ◆ But, at the lowest level, coordination: PRT

Alliances at War

- ◆ Alone in Kandahar?
 - ◆ Sharing RC South
 - ◆ Never Op Alone
 - ◆ ANA
 - ◆ Air, Other Assets
- ◆ Lead Nation
 - ◆ Pro's, Cons
- ◆ Caveats, ROE

Alliances at War

- ◆ Alone in Kandahar?
- ◆ Lead Nation
- ◆ Caveats, ROE
 - ◆ Better for Germans to stay in the North
 - ◆ Changes
 - ◆ Consistencies
- ◆ Key Problem is Numbers, Not Caveats

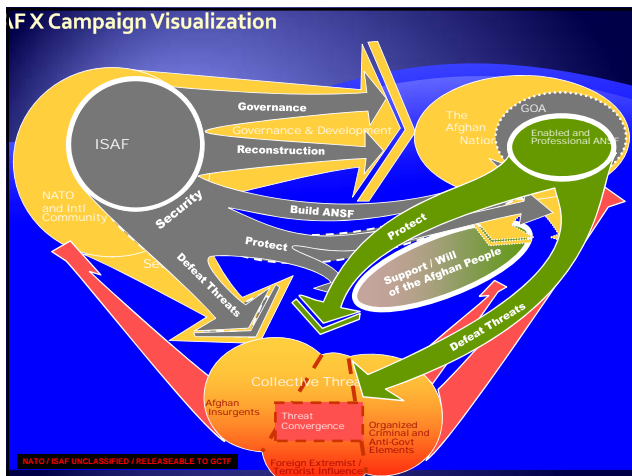
NATO Functional but Stressed

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Canadian Military

- ◆ Military Gets Counter-Insurgency
 - ◆ Inkspots
 - ◆ Effects-Based Ops
 - ◆ Avoiding Collateral Damage
 - ◆ Relationships

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Afghan Capacity

- Far Better Than Iraq
- Varies Across Gov't
 - Good: MRRD, MoD
 - Bad: Interior
- Impressive Civil Society
 - Think Tanks
 - Independent Media
 - No Idea About Depth, Breadth
- ANA Three Years Ahead of ANP?

Three small photographs are shown on the right side of the slide. The top photo shows a group of men in military or official attire in a meeting. The middle photo shows a man in a suit sitting at a table. The bottom photo shows a man in a uniform sitting at a table. Arrows point from the text 'Think Tanks' and 'Independent Media' to the middle photo, and from 'No Idea About Depth, Breadth' to the bottom photo.

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Optimal Corruption

- Goal is not Canada of the Himalayas
- How Much Corruption to Tolerate?
- But Need Popular Support for Government
- Karzai's Brother is Who? He Does What?

A poster is shown on the right side of the slide with the text 'CORRUPTION Your NO counts'. The word 'CORRUPTION' is in large red letters, and 'Your NO counts' is in a speech bubble.

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Conclusions

- Complex Situations Should Be Confusing
- Theory is Useful to Simplify—See What's Key
 - Rule of Law—ANA, ANP, Min of Interior
- Progress: A-Stan > Iraq
- Difficult to Sustain NATO Effort
 - Domestic Politics in Canada, Germany, Netherlands
 - But US, UK will stick around
- If Canada Wants Influence, Wants to Make a Difference, This is a Good Place
 - If It Just Wants to Show Up, and Have Flag in Background

A photograph is shown on the right side of the slide showing a man standing next to a tall stack of wooden signs or markers.

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