
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Defence Sub-Committee visit to the Middle East Area of Operations

Report of the Delegation to the MEAO 14 to 18 May 2011

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

March 2012
Canberra

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Cover photograph captions – left top to right bottom

Mr Stuart Robert MP, Ms Gai Brodtmann MP and LTCOL Stuart Kenny (at rear) arrive at PB Musaza'i Landing Zone, Mirabad Valley, Uruzgan.

The delegation at Al Mihad Airbase standing with a damaged Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle, which was damaged in Afghanistan by an Improvised Explosive Device.

Mr Stuart Robert MP meeting senior Afghan provincial officials in Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan, prior to the commencement of a Provincial Leaders Shura with the delegation.

The delegation with escort, COL Andrew McLean (in slouch hat), arrives at Multi-National Base Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan by RAAF C130J, is met by Commander CT-U, COL Jim Creighton



Contents

- Forewordvi
- Membership of the Committee x
- Membership of the Defence Sub-Committee.....xi
- Membership of the Delegation.....xii
- List of abbreviations xiv

- 1 Visit to the Middle East Area of Operations 1**
 - Background 1
 - Planning..... 2
 - Delegation Aims 2
 - Acknowledgements 4
 - Report Structure..... 8

- 2 Australia's Military Contribution to the Middle East Area of Operations 9**
 - Background 9
 - History of Australia's Military Commitment to Afghanistan 10
 - Current Military Commitment in Support of Operations in Afghanistan 11
 - Combined Team – Uruzgan 11
 - Special Operations Task Group 13
 - Australia's Wider Contribution in and to Afghanistan 13

3	Visit to Al Minhad Airbase, United Arab Emirates	17
	Background	17
	Purpose and Conduct of Visit to AMAB.....	18
	Visit and Briefing by HQ JTF 633.....	18
	Brief by Force Communications Unit	21
	Air Component Command.....	22
	Observations	23
4	Visit to Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan	25
	Background	25
	Purpose and Conduct of Visit to Tarin Kowt	26
	Observations from the CT-U Round Table Discussion.....	27
	Observations from the Shura and Dinner with Local Uruzgan Leaders.....	30
	Observations from the PRT-U Round Table Discussion	33
	Observations from the Round Table Discussion with CO SOTG.....	35
	Observations from the visit to Patrol Base (PB) Musaza'i, Mirabad Valley.....	35
5	Visit to Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar.....	41
	Background	41
	Purpose and Conduct of Visit to KAF	43
	Observations from the visit to Rotary Wing Group.....	44
	Observations from the visit to the Heron Detachment	45
	Observations from the visit to the Role 3 Hospital	46
	Observations from the AUSAID/OGA round table discussion	48
6	Visit to Kabul	51
	Background	51
	Purpose and Conduct of Visit to Kabul.....	52
	Observations from the visit to HQ ISAF Joint Command	53
	Observations from the round table discussions with Afghan Members of Parliament	55
	Observations from Visit to the Artillery Training Team- Kabul	58

7	Return to AMAB and Final Comments	61
	Exit Brief by Commander JTF 633	61
	Concluding comments — Dispelling the myths	62
	Appendix A – Delegation Program	65
	12 May 2011	65
	13 May 2011	65
	14 May 2011 Dubai / Al Minhad Airbase	65
	15 May 2011 AMAB / Tarin Kowt	66
	16 May 2011 Tarin Kowt / Kandahar Airfield (KAF).....	66
	17 May 2011 KAF / Kabul	67
	18 May 2011 Kabul / AMAB	68
	19 May 2011 Dubai	69



Foreword

In mid May 2011, a delegation of four members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade visited personnel from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and other Government agencies deployed on active service in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO).

Thanks to first class support by both the Diplomatic and Defence personnel in the Middle East, the Delegation was able to meet with the following organisations and agencies:

- Headquarters Joint Task Force (JTF) 633 at the Al Minhad Airbase in the United Arab Emirates;
- Force Communications Unit-4, based at Al Minhad Airbase, providing personnel and communications support to Australian Defence Force and other Government agencies elements deployed throughout the MEAO;
- Force Support Unit-4, based at Al Minhad Airbase, providing personnel and logistics support to ADF and other Government agencies' elements deployed throughout the MEAO;
- Air Component Command, based at Al Minhad Airbase, providing personnel and RAAF air support to ADF and other Government agencies' elements deployed throughout the MEAO;
- Headquarters Combined Team-Uruzgan, a United States of America lead Coalition formation level headquarters commanding Australian and other Coalition forces in Uruzgan;
- The Uruzgan Afghan leadership team of: Provincial Governor, Governor Omar Shirzad; Commander 4th Afghan National Army (ANA) Brigade, Brigadier General Zafar and the Provincial Chief of Police, Colonel Shirzad;

-
- The Uruzgan Provincial Reconstruction Team, a Australian led Coalition team conducting and coordinating development throughout the province;
 - Mentoring Task Force-2, conducting security and mentoring of the Afghan National Army in Uruzgan Province;
 - Special Operations Task Group 16, which is comprised of elements of the Special Forces Units in Special Operations Command (SASR, 1st and 2nd Commando Regiments and the Incident Response Regiment), conducting security operations in Southern Afghanistan;
 - Rotary Wing Group-6, operating CH47D Chinook helicopters from Kandahar Airfield in support of Coalition operations in Regional Command South;
 - Heron Detachment, operating the RAAF's Heron Unmanned Aerial Vehicle from Airfield in support of Australian forces in Southern Afghanistan;
 - Kandahar Role 3 Hospital, providing level three health support from Kandahar Airfield to Coalition forces in Southern Afghanistan;
 - Force Support Team Kandahar, based at Camp Baker at Kandahar Airfield and providing logistical support to Australian Forces in Southern Afghanistan;
 - AUSAID and Other Government Agency Personnel working within Headquarters Regional Command South;
 - The Deputy Chief of Staff-Plans, Headquarters ISAF Joint Headquarters: Major General Michael Krause, AM (Australian Army) and other Australian embeds within the ISAF Headquarters;
 - The Australian Embassy in Kabul hosted a visit to the Afghan Parliament for a discussion with three members of Parliament, Khalid Pastoon (Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Parliament), Fawzia Koofi (Chairwoman of the Defence and Territorial Affairs Standing Committee) and Hasham Watanwal (Representing Uruzgan Province and Deputy Chair of the Defence and Territorial Affairs Standing Committee);
 - The Artillery Training Team-Kabul, an Australian Army led Coalition artillery training and mentoring team to the Afghan Artillery School, Kabul.

The visit to ADF units in the MEAO forms part of the Committee's wider program of inspections to ADF units and Defence Industry sites. Where it is practical the Committee has also sought to visit ADF personnel while they conduct operations. In recent years the Committee has visited Australian Forces in Iraq, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

The delegation had three specific aims in undertaking the visit to the Middle East. Its primary purpose was to demonstrate the Parliament's strong bipartisan support, and the support of the Australian community, for Australian personnel deployed on these demanding operations.

Secondly the delegation, in meeting with ADF and other Government Agencies' personnel and with key Afghan leaders at Village, Provincial and National level, was able to review the current situation in Afghanistan first hand.

Finally, it was to provide the Committee with situational awareness of the ADF's operations in the MEAO, in order to allow members to be better positioned to review Australian Defence and Foreign Policy.

The comprehensive delegation itinerary allowed the members to achieve all three of these aims. The delegation thanks the ADF for developing and coordinating a visit program that ensured the safety of delegates while giving them exposure to a wide range of issues, personnel and locations. The delegation thanks the Australian National Commander in the MEAO, Major General Angus Campbell AM, and his staff for coordinating the visit and providing it with the access it required to meet its aims. In particular, the delegation thanks the Chief of Staff Headquarters Joint Task Force 633, Colonel Andrew Maclean, for hosting the delegation throughout the visit. Colonel Maclean provided the delegation the benefit of his considerable experience during the visit, leaving the members confident in the leadership and organisation of the Australian Forces in the Middle East.

The Committee would also like to thank the Australian Embassy staff in the United Arab Emirates and Kabul for supporting the program. In particular the delegation thanks the Australian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr Paul Foley, for hosting the delegation's visit to the Afghan Parliament and sharing his wealth of experience with Afghan politics to the delegation.


Finally, the delegation expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Committee's Defence Advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Kenny CSC, who accompanied the delegation and was intimately involved in the planning of the visit, and the officers and soldiers of 2nd Commando Regiment who provided the security to the delegation throughout its visit.

The delegation returned from the visit extremely impressed by the dedication, professionalism and competence of the ADF and other Government organisations' personnel conducting operations in the demanding and harsh environment in the Middle East. It was pleasing to hear of and observe the improving performance of the ANA's 4th Brigade in Uruzgan, and the increasing level of responsibility being taken by the formation under the tutelage of the Australian Mentoring Task Force. The delegation returned from the visit with cautious optimism about the progress of Australia's efforts in Uruzgan Province and ISAF's efforts across Afghanistan.

The Committee acknowledges with sadness the deaths of eight Australian soldiers in Afghanistan since the delegation returned from its visit. The Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the families of Sergeant Brett Wood MG, DSM, Lance Corporal Andrew Jones, Lieutenant Marcus Case, Sapper Rowan Robinson, Sergeant Todd Langley, Private Matthew Lambert, Captain Bryce Duffy, Corporal Ashley Birt and Lance Corporal Luke Gavin.


All Australians should be proud of the achievements of the Australian personnel on operations across the Middle East and the contribution they are making for peace and development in the region.

Senator Mark Furner
Chair of the Defence Sub-Committee



Membership of the Committee

Chair	Senator Michael Forshaw (to 30/06/11)	
	Mr Michael Danby MP (from 1/07/11)	
Deputy Chair	Mrs Joanna Gash MP	
Members	Senator Mark Bishop	Mr Nick Champion MP
	Senator David Fawcett (from 1/07/11)	Mr Michael Danby MP
	Senator the Hon Alan Ferguson (to 30/06/11)	Hon Laurie Ferguson MP
	Senator Mark Furner	Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
	Senator Sarah Hanson-Young	Mr Steve Georganas MP (to 24/03/11)
	Senator the Hon David Johnston	Mr Steve Gibbons MP (to 7/02/12)
	Senator Scott Ludlam	Hon Alan Griffin MP
	Senator the Hon Ian MacDonald	Mr Harry Jenkins MP (from 7/02/12)
	Senator Anne McEwen (from 1/07/11)	Dr Dennis Jensen MP
	Senator Claire Moore	Mrs Sophie Mirabella
	Senator Kerry O'Brien (to 30/06/11)	Hon John Murphy MP
	Senator Stephen Parry (from 1/07/11)	Mr Ken O'Dowd MP
	Senator Marise Payne	Ms Melissa Parke MP
	Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens (from 1/07/11)	Mr Stuart Robert MP
	Senator Russell Trood (to 30/06/11)	Hon Phillip Ruddock MP
	Hon Dick Adams MP (from 24/03/11)	Ms Janelle Saffin MP
	Hon Julie Bishop MP	Hon Bruce Scott MP
	Ms Gai Brodtmann MP	Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP
	Hon Anthony Byrne MP	Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP



Membership of the Defence Sub-Committee

Chair Senator Mark Furner

Deputy Chair Dr Dennis Jensen MP

Members	Senator Mark Bishop	Mr Nick Champion MP
	Senator David Fawcett (from 1/07/11)	Mr Michael Danby MP
	Senator the Hon Alan Ferguson (to 30/06/11)	Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
	Senator the Hon David Johnston	Mrs Joanna Gash MP
	Senator the Hon Ian MacDonald	Mr Steve Gibbons MP (to 7/02/12)
	Senator Stephen Parry (from 1/07/11)	Hon Alan Griffin MP
	Senator Marise Payne	Mr Harry Jenkins MP (from 7/02/12)
	Senator Russell Trood (to 30/06/11)	Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP
	Hon Dick Adams MP (from 24/03/11)	Mr Stuart Robert MP
	Hon Julie Bishop MP	Hon Bruce Scott MP
	Ms Gai Brodtmann MP	Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP



Membership of the Delegation

Chair	Senator Mark Furner
Deputy Chair	Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Members	Ms Gai Brodtmann MP Mr Stuart Robert MP
Defence Adviser	Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Kenny, CSC

Committee Secretariat

Secretary	Dr Margot Kerley (to 10/6/11) Mr Jerome Brown (from 26/7/11)
Inquiry Secretary	Mr Robert Little
Defence Advisor	Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Kenny, CSC
Administrative Officers	Ms Gillian Drew Mrs Sonya Gaspar Ms Jessica Butler



List of abbreviations

ACC	Air Component Command
ADF	Australian Defence Force
AMAB	Al Minhad Airbase
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANP	Afghan National Police
ATT-K	Artillery Training Team – Kabul
BG	Brigadier General
CIED	Counter Improvised Explosive Device
CO	Commanding Officer
CRAM	Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortars
CSU	Combat Support Unit
CT-U	Combined Team – Uruzgan
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DMO	Defence Materiel Organisation
FCU	Force Communications Unit
FSU	Force Support Unit
GIRoA	The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

HQ	Headquarters
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IJC	ISAF Joint Command
ISAF	International Stabilisation and Assistance Force
IT	Information Technology
JOC	Joint Operations Command (at Bungendore)
JSCFADT	Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
JTF	Joint Task Force
KAF	Kandahar Airfield
MEAO	Middle East Area of Operations
MNBTK	Multinational Base Tarin Kowt
MTF	Mentoring Task Force
NTM-A	NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan
OGA	Other Government Agencies
PRT - U	Provincial Reconstruction Team - Uruzgan
RAA	Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RAR	Royal Australian Regiment
RC(S)	Regional Command South
RSO+I	Reception, Staging, Onward Forwarding and Integration
RWG	Rotary Wing Group
SASR	Special Air Service Regiment
SOTG	Special Operations Task Group

UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
US	United States of America

Visit to the Middle East Area of Operations

Background

- 1.1 On 25 November 2010 the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Senator Michael Forshaw, officially wrote to the Minister of Defence, the Honourable Mr Stephen Smith MP, seeking his support for a Defence Sub-Committee visit to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO). The stated aim of the visit was to enhance the members' understanding of the situation in Afghanistan and Australia's role in the country.
- 1.2 The Minister of Defence supported the proposal of a visit by a Delegation from the Committee to the MEAO and recommended that the visit occur in May 2011, prior to the commencement of the fighting season. The Chair then sought approval from the Prime Minister and Presiding Officers on 10 February 2011 for the visit to occur as an Additional Parliamentary Delegation. On 1 March 2011 the Prime Minister approved the Delegation consisting of three members of the Defence Sub-Committee to travel to the MEAO. After discussions between the Opposition and the Minister of Defence the Committee Chair formally sought approval on 3 May 2011 from the Prime Minister for a fourth member of the Sub-Committee, from the Opposition, to become part of the Delegation. On 8 May 2011 the Prime Minister approved that the delegation was to be made up of four members, two from the Government and two from the Opposition.
- 1.3 In consultation with Defence, the period 14 to 18 May 2011 was selected for the visit. This window was prior to the commencement of the fighting season and prior to the Relief in Place between MTF-2 and MTF-3. The

visit would include briefings and visits to ADF elements based at Al Minhad Airbase in the UAE.

Planning

- 1.4 Planning for a delegation to a destination as dangerous as the MEAO, particularly Afghanistan, required significant amendment to the usual Parliamentary Delegation planning process and is worthy of discussion in this report.
- 1.5 Defence advised the Committee that they could only provide adequate security for the delegation while it travelled in the MEAO if the existence of the delegation was kept secret until after the event. Knowledge of the delegation's visit in advance had the potential to offer insurgents a target that if attacked could have influenced Australian public support or policy makers and endangered the members and the ADF personnel providing them protection.
- 1.6 As a result of the need for high levels of security regarding the visit, planning for the delegation was limited to a small group within the Parliamentary Relations Office and the JSCFADT Secretariat, the members themselves and a small number of their key staff, and Defence's Joint Operations Command staff.
- 1.7 These limitations presented significant challenges to both the organisers and the members of the delegation. That these challenges were overcome and a safe, effective visit to a dangerous and uncertain location resulted rings great credit to all involved.

Delegation Aims

- 1.8 The delegation had three specific aims in undertaking the visit to the MEAO, as follows:
 - Its primary purpose was to demonstrate the Parliament's strong bipartisan support, and the support of the Australian community, for Australian personnel deployed on these demanding operations.
 - Second, the delegation, in meeting with ADF and other Government agencies' personnel and with key Afghan leaders at Village, Provincial

and National level, was able to review the current situation in Afghanistan first hand.

- Finally, the visit was intended to provide the Committee with situational awareness of the ADF's operations in the MEAO, in order to allow members to be better positioned to review Australian Defence and Foreign Policy.

Figure 1.1: Green Zone of the Mirabad Valley, Uruzgan, Afghanistan



- 1.9 The comprehensive itinerary allowed the members to achieve each of these aims. The highlights of the itinerary were as follows:
- 14 May 2011 – JTF 633 Operational Update Brief covering intelligence, operations and personnel issues across the MEAO and a dedicated counter IED brief and walk through of the IED lane at AMAB.
 - 15 May 2011 – Visit Australian and Coalition forces in Uruzgan Province Afghanistan and the conduct of a round table discussion with the key Provincial Afghan leaders, including the Governor, Police Chief and Commander 4th ANA Brigade.
 - 16 May 2011 – Visit Australian and ANA forces at Patrol Base Musaza'i, Mirabad Valley, Uruzgan. This included a Musaza'i Shura with local leaders.
 - 16-17 May 2011 – Visit Australian and Coalition forces at Kandahar Airbase, including a round table discussion with Australian other Government agency personnel working at the Headquarters of Regional Command South.

- 17 May 2011 – Travel to Kabul to receive an ISAF operational brief from Major General Michael Krause AM (Australian Army), Deputy Chief of Staff- Plans Headquarters IJC. The delegation also visited the Afghan Parliament to hold discussions with three Afghan Parliamentarians: Khalid Pastoon (Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Parliament), Fawzia Koofi (Chairwoman of the Defence and Territorial Affairs Standing Committee) and Hasham Watanwal (Representing Uruzgan Province and Deputy Chair of the Defence and Territorial Affairs Standing Committee).
- 18 May 2011 – Visit the Australian Artillery lead coalition Artillery Training Team-Kabul at the Afghan Army’s School of Artillery.

1.10 To conclude the visit, Commander JTF 633, Major General Angus Campbell AM, provided a comprehensive classified exit brief providing an Australian assessment of the situation across the MEAO, but most notably within Afghanistan.

Figure 1.2: Delegation receiving an Operations Update at Combined Team Uruzgan HQ by its Commander COL Jim Creighton US Army



Acknowledgements

- 1.11 The delegation members greatly appreciate the considerable efforts made by ADF personnel, both in Australia and in the MEAO, to ensure that the visit was safe and successful.
- 1.12 The delegation was warmly received and professionally briefed and hosted at each location despite the demanding operational tempo faced by all members of the deployed force. The delegation found that all personnel

displayed an honest and frank approach to questions from the Sub-Committee members and were very positive regarding the purpose of the visit.

- 1.13 The delegation would like to thank Major General Angus Campbell AM, Commander JTF 633 and the Australian National Commander in the MEAO, who provided the Committee the access and resources it required to meet its aims and gave the benefit of his considerable experience of military operations in Afghanistan in general, and his impressions of the progress of those operations after almost six months in Command. In particular the delegation thanks Colonel Andrew Maclean, Chief of Staff Headquarters JTF 633, for hosting the members throughout the visit and for providing them with the benefit of his considerable experience and contacts. Thanks are also due to the Staff at Headquarters JTF 633 for coordinating the visit and providing it with the access it required to meet its aims.

Figure 1.3: Mr Stuart Robert MP, Ms Gai Brodtmann MP and LTCOL Stuart Kenny (at rear) arrive at PB Musaza'i Landing Zone, Mirabad Valley, Uruzgan



- 1.14 Thanks must also go to all the Australian, Coalition and Afghan personnel across all of the visited Force Elements in the MEAO, all of whom warmly received the delegation and were generous in giving their time during high tempo operations. The personnel impressed the delegation with their professional and frank explanations and discussions with members. While it is not possible to acknowledge all personnel who assisted and briefed the members, the delegation wishes to mention the following individuals:

- Air Commodore Oddie AM, CSC and the members of Headquarters JTF 633;
- Wing Commander Tony Houghton and the members of FCU-5;
- Lieutenant Colonel Ron Armstrong, Major Peake and the members of FSU-4 for providing force preparation training, administrative support and hosting the delegation at KAF;
- Group Captain Andrew Heap of the Air Component Command and the airmen and women of the command who professionally moved the delegation through the MEAO;
- Colonel Jim Creighton (US Army), Commander CT-U, and his deputy Colonel Denis Malone for hosting the delegation throughout its visit to Uruzgan Province;
- Mr Bernard Philip (DFAT), Director Provincial Reconstruction Team and his team for providing detailed briefings and in organising meetings with key Afghan leaders in the Province;
- Lieutenant Colonel Darren Huxley, CO of MTF-2, Captain's Kirby and Wallace, and the other officers and soldiers of MTF-2;
- Lieutenant Colonel 'G' (name protected), CO of SOTG-16 and the officers and soldiers of the SOTG;
- Wing Commander Paul Aggett, CO Multi-National Base Tarin Kowt and the officers, soldiers airmen and women of the unit;
- Lieutenant Colonel Neil Monaghan, CO RWG 6, and the other officers and soldiers of RWG 6;
- Wing Commander McMullan, CO Heron Detachment, and the other personnel of the detachment;
- Mr Tim Millikan, DFAT Representative, and other non-military personnel embedded with RC(S);
- Major General Michael Krause AM, Deputy Chief of Staff- Plans, HQ IJC and the other officers embedded within HQ IJC;
- Lieutenant Colonel Marty Griffiths, Chief of Staff HQ JTF 633-A and the other personnel of the HQ;
- Lieutenant Colonel Kane Mangin, CO ATT-K and the other officers and soldiers of the Australian element of the Artillery Training Team; and
- The officers and soldiers of 2nd Commando Regiment who provided the security to the sub-committee throughout its visit.

- 1.15 The delegation also wishes to thank the Australian diplomatic staff in the United Arab Emirates and Kabul for supporting the program. In particular, the delegation thanks the Australian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr Paul Foley, for hosting the delegation's visit to the Afghan Parliament and sharing his wealth of experience on Afghan politics with the delegation.

Figure 1.4: Delegation standing with a CH-47D of Rotary Wing Group, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, L-R Senator Mark Furner, Ms Gai Brodtmann MP, Dr Denis Jensen MP and Mr Stuart Robert MP



- 1.16 The delegation thanks Commander Joint Operations Command and his Operations Staff for facilitating the visit from Australia. In particular, the delegation thanks Colonel Craig Furini CSC and Lieutenant Lucy Frauenfelder RAN who were the Committee's interface throughout the planning phase.
- 1.17 Finally, the delegation expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Committee's Defence Advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Kenny CSC, who accompanied the delegation and was intimately involved in the planning of the visit.

Report Structure

- 1.18 This report provides a record of the main issues arising from the various components of the visit. Many aspects of the visit involved classified briefings and displays which cannot be reported in this delegation report because of the requirement to protect the safety of deployed ADF personnel and their coalition and Afghan partners.
- 1.19 The report is structured as follows:
- Chapter 2 provides an overview of Australia's current commitment across the MEAO.
 - Chapter 3 describes the contributions and operations of Australian and coalition forces in Uruzgan Province and the conditions on the ground.
 - Chapter 4 describes the Australian capabilities at Kandahar Airfield and Australian contributions to ISAF's Regional Command South.
 - Chapter 5 discusses the Australian contribution in training the ANA in Kabul.
 - Chapter 6 discusses the observations made by the delegation in discussions with Australian and Afghan leaders in Kabul and at AMAB.
 - Appendix A includes the delegation's itinerary.

Australia's Military Contribution to the Middle East Area of Operations

Background

- 2.1 The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has deployed forces to the Middle East almost continually since the 1991 Gulf War. For the majority of this period the forces deployed were part of the naval blockade enforcing UN sanctions on Iraq. Following the terrorist attacks in the US on 11 September 2001 Australia has deployed maritime, land and air forces across the Middle East, most notably to the Arabian Gulf, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan.
- 2.2 Australia's military contribution to the International Stabilisation and Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan is deployed under Operation SLIPPER. Australia's military contribution includes around 1,550 ADF personnel who are deployed within Afghanistan. 1,241 personnel are deployed in Uruzgan Province and around 300 in Kabul, Kandahar and elsewhere in Afghanistan. These numbers vary depending on operational requirements and shifting seasonal conditions. 830 personnel provide support from locations within the broader Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO), including our maritime commitment.
- 2.3 In keeping with the ISAF strategy to strengthen civilian engagement in Afghanistan and to better integrate civilian and military efforts, in April 2010 the Australian Government announced a 50 per cent increase in Australia's civilian contribution to Afghanistan. Australia now has around 50 civilians working in Afghanistan, in addition to around ten Defence civilians.

- 2.4 Australia's substantial military, civilian and development assistance focuses on:
- training and mentoring the Afghan National Army (ANA) 4th Brigade in Uruzgan province to assume responsibility for the province's security;
 - building the capacity of the ANP to assist with civil policing functions in Uruzgan;
 - helping improve the Afghan Government's capacity to deliver core services and generate income-earning opportunities for its people; and
 - operations to disrupt insurgent operations and supply routes utilising the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG).

History of Australia's Military Commitment to Afghanistan

- 2.5 Following the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States, Australia announced an ADF contribution to coalition operations against terrorism and a Special Forces Task Force was deployed to Afghanistan. The initial deployment of the Task Force finished in December 2002. There were no Australian units deployed to Afghanistan from December 2002 to September 2005. The Task Force was redeployed to Afghanistan for a single twelve month period in September 2005 in support of international efforts to target key insurgents.
- 2.6 In March 2006, Australia deployed two Chinook Helicopters to support the Task Force. In April 2007, the Chinooks were withdrawn for upgrades. The Rotary Wing Group returned to Afghanistan in February 2008, and has continued with seasonal eight month rotations since.
- 2.7 In August 2006, the first of four Reconstruction Task Forces deployed to Uruzgan Province, comprising both security and reconstruction personnel. It worked on community-based projects as part of the Netherlands-led Task-Force Uruzgan. In April 2007, the SOTG was redeployed to Afghanistan to enhance security in Uruzgan Province by disrupting Taliban command and control and supply routes.
- 2.8 From August 2007 to July 2009, the Australian Control and Reporting Centre deployed to Kandahar Airfield to assist in managing Afghanistan's airspace.

- 2.9 In October 2008, the first of two Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Forces (Australian Task Forces 5 and 6) replaced the Reconstruction Task Force. The deployment reflected Australia's new role in providing mentoring support to the 2nd Infantry Kandak of the ANA's 4th Brigade in Uruzgan. In May 2009, the size of this deployment was increased, with additional mentoring, security and engineering elements. In July 2009, a 120 person Election Support Force was deployed to provide security in Uruzgan during the Afghan Presidential Elections.
- 2.10 In February 2010, the Mentoring Task Force replaced the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force. The Mentoring Task Force included additional Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams, and has gradually assumed responsibility for all six kandaks and the Headquarters of the ANA's 4th Brigade in Uruzgan.¹

Figure 2.1: Senator Furner at lunch with members of Australian units based at Al Minhad Air Base



Current Military Commitment in Support of Operations in Afghanistan

Combined Team – Uruzgan

- 2.11 Consistent with Australia's mission in Afghanistan, efforts are focused on training the Afghan National Security Forces to assume responsibility for security in the southern province of Uruzgan, and supporting

¹ Australian Department of Defence, *History of Australia's Military Commitment to Afghanistan, Fact Sheet 4*.

improvements in development and governance in the province. In Uruzgan, Australia works in partnership with the United States, New Zealand, Singapore, and Slovakia as the ISAF's Combined Team – Uruzgan (CT-U), which commenced on 1 August 2010 following the Dutch withdrawal.

- 2.12 Australia contributes 861 ADF personnel, 21 Australian Federal Police (AFP) personnel and nine civilian personnel to CT-U. There are also a small number of Defence civilians in support. The following paragraphs describe Australia's contribution to CT-U.
- 2.13 **Headquarters CT-U:** Australia provides 70 staff to the CT-U HQ, including the Deputy Commander. CT-U provides command over all ISAF forces in Uruzgan Province.
- 2.14 **Mentoring Task Force:** Australia provides a force of 724 personnel providing six military *Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams* who live with, train, mentor and provide support to their ANA 4th Brigade colleagues.
- 2.15 **Provincial Reconstruction Team:** Australia provides a Senior Civilian Representative, who leads the Uruzgan Provincial PRT, which includes 30 Australian Civilian staff and 67 ADF staff. It is responsible for coordinating all ISAF civilian activities in the province. The ADF contribution to the Uruzgan PRT consists of a dedicated Force Protection Element as well as personnel for the Trade Training School and the Australian Defence Force Managed Works Team.
- 2.16 **Australian enabling support in Uruzgan:** A range of enabling capabilities are dedicated to Uruzgan to assist in planning and executing operations. These include tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, electronic warfare support, counter Improvised Explosive Device technology, intelligence support, and medium artillery and mortar support. Coalition forces (largely the US) also provide logistics and engineering support in Uruzgan, along with a Medical facility. These capabilities are coordinated by HQ CT-U and are available to Australian personnel when required. Australia also contributes a number of enabling capabilities to support the ISAF units and Afghan Security Forces operating in Uruzgan as follows:
- 2.17 **Garrison Support:** 17 ADF personnel provide Force Protection support for Multinational Base–Tarin Kot.
- 2.18 **Scan Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Detachment:** 17 ADF personnel operate the SCAN EAGLE UAV, which provides an overland surveillance capability to Australian forces in Uruzgan.

2.19 **Engineer Support Element:** 28 ADF personnel manage accommodation and infrastructure requirements for Australian personnel in Tarin Kot.

Figure 2.2: Senator Furner and Dr Jensen MP at PB Musaza'i, Mirabad Valley, Uruzgan



Special Operations Task Group

2.20 While not part of CT-U, the ADF's SOTG contributes significantly to security in Uruzgan Province by targeting the insurgent network in and around the province. These activities reduce the threat to ISAF and Afghan Security Forces, helping them extend the reach of essential government services into those areas. It consists of 318 ADF personnel primarily drawn from the Special Air Service Regiment and the 2nd Commando Regiment, and enabling and support areas. The SOTG is partnered with the Provincial Response Company of the ANP.

Australia's Wider Contribution in and to Afghanistan

2.21 Australia's efforts are focused on a whole-of-government effort in Uruzgan province in southern Afghanistan, but are complemented by activities in Kandahar, Kabul and supported from the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere in the Middle East. ADF personnel and Australian officials in Kandahar support Regional Command (South), which has a key role in directing ISAF activities across southern Afghanistan. Australia also has ADF and civilian personnel deployed in Kabul, the hub of policy and decision-making for all provinces. The United Arab Emirates hosts the Australian headquarters that provides ADF oversight of and theatre

support to Operation SLIPPER. Details of the ADF commitment beyond Uruzgan are described below.

Kandahar

- 2.22 **Rotary Wing Group (RWG):** The ADF provides 64 personnel, located in Kandahar, to operate two CH-47D Chinook Helicopters in support of ISAF operations for eight months of each year. The RWG returned to Afghanistan in March.

Figure 2.3: Senator Furner in the Heron UAV Hangar, Kandahar Airfield, with Commanding Officer Heron Detachment, Wing Commander McMullan



- 2.23 **Air Component - Heron Detachment:** The ADF provides 41 personnel, located at Kandahar and in Uruzgan province, who operate Heron UAVs in support of Australian and other ISAF forces in RC(S).

Kabul

- 2.24 **Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 - Afghanistan:** Located in the Afghan capital city Kabul, the headquarters comprises around 50 personnel who provide national command of ADF elements deployed within Afghanistan, and coordinate the ADF's efforts with the ISAF Headquarters.
- 2.25 **Embedded Staff within Coalition Headquarters and ANA Training Institutions:** The ADF provides 151 personnel embedded across a number of Coalition headquarters throughout the MEAO, overwhelmingly in Kabul and Kandahar, providing critical specialist staff in support of operations. This number also includes ADF members embedded as trainers and advisors within ANA Training Institutions such as the Afghan Artillery School.

United Arab Emirates

- 2.26 **Headquarters Joint Task Force 633:** Located in the UAE, the headquarters comprises 92 personnel and provides national oversight for Operation SLIPPER (Australia's military deployment to Afghanistan and the Middle East).
- 2.27 **Air Component.** The Air Component is made up of 287 ADF personnel providing the following capabilities:
- Air Component HQ;
 - 2 x AP-3C Orion;
 - 3 x C-130J; and
 - C-17.

Deployed throughout the Theatre

- 2.28 The ADF has a number of units which are deployed both within Afghanistan and UAE to support ADF operations throughout the Middle East. This units are outlined in the following paragraphs.
- 2.29 **Force Communications Unit:** The ADF provides 119 personnel across the MEAO to provide communications between all ADF elements of Coalition forces in Afghanistan, and links back to Australia.
- 2.30 **Force Support Unit:** Based across the MEAO, 141 personnel provide logistic support to deployed ADF elements.
- 2.31 **Liaison Officers:** The ADF provides approximately 6 liaison officers to various Headquarters and organisations around the Middle East to support ADF operations. These liaison officers are separate to our embedded personnel in North Atlantic Treaty Organization and ISAF (Afghanistan) Headquarters.

Maritime Forces

- 2.32 The RAN continues to rotate a major fleet unit on operations to support coalition operations in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, the Indian Ocean and the Somali Basin. At the time of the Delegation's visit HMAS Stuart was tasked to the JTF 633. These ships are tasked with protecting shipping, anti-smuggling operations and counter piracy operations. The RAN also provides staff officers to the Coalition Maritime HQ in Bahrain and rotates through command of this HQ.

Visit to Al Minhad Airbase, United Arab Emirates

Background

- 3.1 Al Minhad Airbase (AMAB) is located in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and is a host nation operational military base where Australia has its Middle East air head and HQ based on the invitation of the Government of the UAE. The ADF has been located at the airbase since 2003 when the airfield was utilised to base RAAF AP-3C Orion maritime surveillance aircraft. In late 2009 HQ JTF 633 moved to the AMAB from Baghdad as a result of the withdrawal of Australian combat forces from Iraq.
- 3.2 AMAB is also the ADF's base for the Reception, Staging, Onward Forwarding and Integration (RSO&I) of all forces deploying into the MEAO, with the exception of the Maritime Forces' ships company. This RSO&I provides Australian force elements and individuals with time to deal with jet lag, acclimatise to the conditions and it is where additional theatre specific training is conducted and additional equipment is issued.
- 3.3 The following ADF elements are based in the AMAB:
 - HQ JTF 633
 - Air Component Command
 - Force Communications Unit, rotation 4 (FCU-4)
 - Force Support Unit, rotation 4 (FSU-4)
 - Combat Support Unit, rotation 5 (CSU-5)

Purpose and Conduct of Visit to AMAB

- 3.4 The purpose of the visit to AMAB was to visit the HQs and units based at the airbase, be provided with update briefs on issues affecting ADF operations in the MEAO and to conduct abbreviated force preparation training prior to deploying into Afghanistan. The delegation was provided formal briefings from most ADF elements based at AMAB. Some of these briefings were of a classified nature and will not be discussed in this report.

Visit and Briefing by HQ JTF 633

- 3.5 On arrival at Dubai International Airport the delegation was met by the Australian Defence Attaché for the UAE and Gulf States, Captain Phil Warrick RAN who helped escort the delegation from the airport and conducted informal discussions with the members on the situation in his area of responsibility.
- 3.6 On arrival at HQ JTF 633 the delegation was briefed by the Deputy Commander JTF 633, Air Commodore Oddie and the key staff of the HQ. Air Commodore Oddie introduced the role and structure of HQ JTF 633. The HQ provides the National Command of Australian Forces deployed across the MEAO. This responsibility does not include the Australian military contingents deployed with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt) or the Multinational Force Observers in the Sinai. The main effort and focus of the HQ is towards those forces deployed in Afghanistan.
- 3.7 The JTF 633 Area of Operations is vast, covering some 10 per cent of the globe, and includes Afghanistan, Iraq, the Gulf States, the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Indian Ocean and the Somali Basin. The Maritime Area of Operations is 2.5 million square miles, equivalent to an area the size of Continental USA.

Figure 3.1: Delegation receiving MEAO Brief from Deputy Commander JTF 633 at AMAB. L-R Commodore John Oddie (back of head), LTCOL Stuart Kenny, Dr Dennis Jensen MP, Mr Stuart Robert MP and Senator Mark Furner



- 3.8 The delegation was then provided classified and unclassified briefings by the following key staff officers on HQ JTF 633.
- 3.9 **Intelligence Officer.** Commander Hogan conducted a classified briefing to the group providing a summary of the threats throughout the region, which included an overview the insurgency in Afghanistan, an overview of the threats in the Maritime Environment, which includes Piracy and the Smuggling of weapons and drugs to arm and finance terrorism and the insurgency. A key issue raised during this briefing was the lack of a national policy for the detention of pirates faced by our Naval forces.
- 3.10 **Operations Officer.** Lieutenant Colonel Miles described for the delegation the laydown of Australian forces in the MEAO, with key locations being Afghanistan, UAE, Baghdad, Bahrain and the areas of maritime operations. He discussed the impending hand over of responsibility for security of the Australian Embassy in Baghdad from Defence to a DFAT contractor. This hand over was to be completed by mid 2011. He also provided the following details regarding counter piracy operations in the period 15 May 2010 to 14 May 2011:
- Number of merchant vessels attacked by pirates: 245
 - Number of vessels pirated: 40
 - Number of vessels released for ransom: 27
 - Number of vessels released by other means without ransom: 3

Figure 3.2: Delegation receiving Improvised Explosive Device (IED) related awareness training at AMAB with LTCOL Matthew Jones (third from left)



- 3.11 **Counter IED (CIED).** The Director of CIED HQ JTF 633 provided a classified briefing on the IED threat and Counter IED operations. The key unclassified points were as follows:
- Discussed methods to defeat IEDs: attack the IED system (eg the bomb makers), find the IED before it detonates and the development of force protection measures to protect (eg more armour).
 - The Bushmaster PMV has been very effective at defeating the effects of IED on the vehicle's crew.
 - A key issue in the CIED fight is the time taken to deliver CIED capability to the field versus Army/ DMO's desire to apply normal acquisition processes. He assessed it was better to deliver an 80% solution now rather than a 95/100% solution too late.
- 3.12 **Personnel.** Squadron Leader Nansen provided the delegation with an overview of the personnel plans and issues within the MEAO. The key points were as follows:
- Discussed numbers of ADF and other government agency numbers deployed to the MEAO.
 - Provided the number of Non Battle Casualty figures for 2011 as at 14 May as follows:
 - ⇒ MTF and SOTG: Injury 13, Illness 38, Total 51
 - ⇒ All other Task Groups/ Units: Injury 11, Illness 40, total 51

- Discussed plans for the conduct of 'Decompression' of formed units returning from Afghanistan to UAE, in order to assist soldiers to better reintegrate into Australia on return from the MEAO.

3.13 As part of the visit to HQ JTF 633 the delegation also undertook an abbreviated RSO&I program. This program was offered to provide the delegation with an understanding of the threats in Afghanistan and the process which all service personnel pass through prior to deploying into Afghanistan. The program for the delegation included Explosive Hazards Awareness and Protection, basic combat first aid familiarisation, health risks in the MEAO and the issuing of personal protection equipment.

Figure 3.3: Ms Gai Brodtmann MP affixes a combat bandage to Mr Stuart Robert MP's simulated sucking chest wound during abbreviated Combat First Aid training in the RSO&I training at AMAB



Brief by Force Communications Unit

- 3.14 The delegation was provided a classified brief from the Commanding Officer of Force Communications Unit- 4 (FCU-4), Wing Commander Houghton. FCU-4 is a Tri-Service unit of 119 personnel and has its personnel spread across all locations in the MEAO where there are Australian forces. It is tasked to provide secure communications and IT systems across the force to enable communications from unit locations back to HQ JTF 633 and back to Australia.
- 3.15 A key issue raised by FCU-4 is the reluctance of the Chief Information Officer Group (CIOG) to spend money to fix IT related issues to ensure

interoperability between Australia's Defence Secret Network and the Multi-National Secret Systems due to cost and compliance of a national interface.

Figure 3.4: Dr Dennis Jensen MP being coached by members of Force Support Unit 4, firing the F88 Steyr on the small arms range at AMAB as part of the abbreviated RSO&I package



Air Component Command

- 3.16 The Air Component Commander, Group Captain Heap, hosted the delegation airside prior to their departure into Afghanistan on 15 May. He provided a classified brief on the Air Component to JTF 633.
- 3.17 Air Component Command commands all Australian Air capabilities in the MEAO less the CH47's of the Army's Rotary Wing Group, the Army's Skylark UAV and the RAN helicopter aboard HMAS Stuart. The command is made up of:
- **Air Component HQ:** 133 personnel coordinate the operations of RAAF air elements, and liaise with Coalition air forces in the MEAO.
 - **AP-3C Orion:** The RAAF provides two AP-3C Orion aircraft for overland surveillance of Afghanistan, and maritime surveillance of the Arabian Gulf, Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, and the Gulf of Aden.
 - **C-130J:** The RAAF provides three C-130J Hercules aircraft which conduct troop and equipment transportation across the Arabian Gulf and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan they provide support to both Australian and Coalition Forces.

- **C-17:** The RAAF provides C-17 aircraft from Amberley (Queensland) for routine strategic lift support to Australian Forces in the MEAO including Afghanistan.
- **Heron UAV Task Unit:** Heron UAV based at Kandahar Airfield and provides overland surveillance in RC(S) Afghanistan.

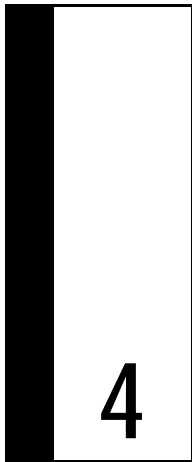
Observations

3.18 The delegation made the following observations during their visit to AMAB:

- HQ JTF 633 is well lead by a very capable group of officers and SNCOs and is manned by quality staff working hard to provide command support. Air Commodore Oddie should be commended for his efforts to ensure the delegation's visit was successful and for his frank and informative briefings to the delegation.
- The Air Component Command provides excellent support to the force, and the operations conducted by the task elements of the command make a significant contribution to both Australian and Coalition operations across the MEAO. The Command is well lead by Group Captain Heap and morale seemed high across the command with the airmen and women focused on the important task at hand.
- Force Communications Unit is a widely dispersed unit providing a vital enabling service to the ADF across the MEAO. They provide excellent support in harsh conditions and are well trained and lead.
- The food and facilities provided at AMAB for those based at the location, and for those personnel transiting through the base, are of a very high standard.
- The RSO&I package is thorough and professionally conducted, providing a high standard of final preparation to Australian Service Personnel prior to deploying into their respective locations throughout the MEAO.
- HQ JTF 633 raised the following issues which need to be addressed:
 - ⇒ There is a lack of a National policy for the detention of pirates faced by our Naval forces.
 - ⇒ There is an issue with how long it takes to deliver CIED capability to the field versus Army/DMO's desire to apply normal acquisition

processes. It was stated that JTF 633 would prefer an 80% solution delivered now rather than a 95/100% solution too late.

- FCU-4 raised the issue that CIOG is reluctant to spend money to fix IT related issues to ensure interoperability between Australia's Defence Secret Network and the Multi-National Secret Systems due to cost and compliance of a national interface.



Visit to Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan

Background

- 4.1 Tarin Kowt is the Provincial Capital of Uruzgan Province in southern Afghanistan. The province is one of the poorest and the population the least educated of all Afghanistan's provinces. The province is dominated by the mountains and valleys of the southern edge of the Hindu Kush. To its west is the violent Helmand Province and to its south Kandahar Province, the birth place of the Taliban.
- 4.2 Uruzgan Province is the focus of Australia's main effort with the major concentration of Australian forces based from Multinational Base Tarin Kowt (MNBTK), on the outskirts of the capital. The base was established by the Dutch-led Task Force-Uruzgan, which oversaw ISAF efforts in the province from March 2006 until August 2010. The base provides easy access into Tarin Kowt and has a recently upgraded tarmac airfield capable of C17 operations.
- 4.3 ISAF Operations in Uruzgan are commanded and controlled by Combined Team Uruzgan (CT-U). CT-U is US lead, with Australian personnel and formed bodies throughout the team. The following ADF elements were based in Uruzgan at the time of the visit:
- CT-U HQ, with Australian personnel integral to the HQ;
 - Mentoring Task Force 2 (MTF 2);
 - Special Operations Task Group 16 (SOTG-16);
 - Provincial Reconstruction Team Uruzgan (PRT-U);
 - Elements of Force Support Unit 4 (FSU-4);

- Elements of Force Communications Unit 4 (FCU-4);
- Scan Eagle (UAV) Detachment; and
- Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortars 1 (CRAM-1).

Purpose and Conduct of Visit to Tarin Kowt

4.4 The purpose of the visit to Tarin Kowt was to visit the HQs and units based in Uruzgan, develop an understanding of the issues affecting ADF operations in the province, to meet with provincial Afghan leaders and gain an appreciation of the true conditions of the situation in the province and obtain an understanding of the progress of operations. Some of these briefings were of a classified nature and will not be discussed in this report.

Figure 4.1: The delegation with escort, COL Andrew McLean (in slouch hat), arrives at Multi-National Base Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan by RAAF C130J, is met by Commander CT-U, COL Jim Creighton



- 4.5 The delegation was hosted by the Commander of CT-U, Colonel Jim Creighton (US Army), and spent 20 hours in Uruzgan. The conduct of the visit was as follows:
- The delegation flew by RAAF C130J aircraft from AMAB to Tarin Kowt where it was met by Colonel Jim Creighton, Colonel Dennis Malone (Australian Army), Deputy Commander CT-U, and Lieutenant Colonel Darren Huxley, Commanding Officer (CO) MTF-2;
 - the delegation attended a classified operational briefing in HQ CT-U, followed by a round table discussion with the key leaders within CT-U;

- the delegation walked to PRT House on MNBTK where members attended a Shura and Dinner with local Uruzgan leaders;
- the delegation returned to HQ CT-U for a briefing and round table discussion with PRT-U;
- the delegation walked to HQ SOTG for a classified discussion with CO SOTG;
- the delegation stayed overnight in the transit lines;
- the delegation had breakfast with members of MTF-2;
- the delegation flew by US Blackhawk helicopters to Patrol Base (PB) Musaza'I, Mirabad Valley, where the delegation received a ground brief and situation brief by Captain Kirby, Commander Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) Combat Team-B (CT-B);
- the delegation then met with local senior village leaders from the villages surrounding PB Musaza'I; and
- on return to MNBTK, the delegation had morning tea with members of CT-U and MTF-2 before departing by C130J to Kandahar.

Observations from the CT-U Round Table Discussion

4.6 The key personnel in attendance at the CT-U round table discussion were:

- Commander CT-U: Colonel Jim Creighton (US Army);
- Deputy Commander CT-U, outgoing: Colonel Dennis Malone;
- Deputy Commander CT-U, incoming: Colonel David Smith;
- CO MTF-2: Lieutenant Colonel Darren Huxley;
- CO MNBTK: Wing Commander Paul Aggett;
- CO 4-70 Armour Battalion (US Army): Lieutenant Colonel David Oeschger (US Army);
- Director PRT-U: Mr Bernard Philip (DFAT); and
- Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy Kabul: Adrian Morrison.

4.7 CT-U is a US led formation, however it is a multi-national combined team made up of personnel from US, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Netherlands, Slovakia and Afghanistan.

- 4.8 CT-U is responsible for mentoring and developing all Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the Province, including the Province's ANP and the ANA's 4th Brigade of 205th Corps (4/205).
- 4.9 CT-U has made significant progress in security since taking over from the Dutch. CT-U has expanded the security coverage, expanded from 18 x PB to 36 x PB, in the last 12 months.
- 4.10 The local Afghan leadership is key to the development of a secure and safe province. The current Provincial Governor, Omar Shirzad, and Provincial Chief of Police (PCoP), Colonel Shirzad, are very effective which has led to improved governance and development, thus improved security.
- 4.11 CT-U has had a very effective winter campaign; a mild winter has allowed successful operations where CT-U has increased the area under ISAF/ Afghan control and security. SOTG has been key to the winter gains, as they have taken 19 x mid and low level Taliban Leaders off the field.
- 4.12 CT-U focus for the 2011 fighting season is to hold onto what has been gained over the winter period.
- 4.13 Key points raised by CO MTF-2 were as follows:
- MTF-2 is currently mentoring four Afghan National Army (ANA) infantry Kandaks (battalions) and one Combat Support Kandak (Recon, Artillery and Engineers).
 - One of the Kandaks being mentored by MTF-2, is now assessed as able to operate independently. However it still requires mentoring for key enablers.
 - MTF-2's current focus is on developing unit HQs, particularly personnel management and logistics. ANA access to leave and travel home are a key issue for retention, MTF-2 are mentoring HQs on this issue.
 - ANA literacy is a key issue to develop a professional army; for example, making it difficult to train them in specialist enabling skills such as artillery.
 - The force structure and numbers within MTF-2 were just adequate for tasks allocated to the force, and the unit struggled during the periods where personnel were released for their Relief Out of Country Leave (ROCL).
- 4.14 Key points raised by CO 4-70 Armour Battalion (US Army):
- 4-70 focus is on Afghan National Police (ANP) Training and Mentoring.

- There are approx 2,500 ANP officers in Province.
- ANP is two years behind in the mentoring program in comparison to the ANA due to neglect. They have now received one year of concentrated mentoring by 4-70, which has seen an improvement.
- The new ANP Provincial Commander is leading the ANP effectively. He is enthusiastic and has addressed a number of logistical issues affecting the ANP including:
 - ⇒ provision of winter uniforms to all personnel;
 - ⇒ weapons and ammunition availability; and
 - ⇒ vehicle fuel and maintenance.

4.15 Key points raised by the Director PRT-U:

- Uruzgan is a difficult area for development due to its remote nature and harsh terrain, it is the poorest province in Afghanistan and its demographics are challenging:
 - ⇒ literacy is a challenge; 10% literacy across the province and 0.2% for women;
 - ⇒ school attendance in Uruzgan is 20%, whereas it is 50% nationally;
 - ⇒ in Uruzgan 37% of children do not live to five years of age; and
 - ⇒ typically 50% of each village is under 18 years of age.
- The security situation is the most vital public need for the local population, followed by the proper administration of justice.
- Justice concerns focus on:
 - ⇒ land ownership disputes;
 - ⇒ commercial/inheritance disputes; and
 - ⇒ corruption.
- Uruzgan's economy is dominated by agriculture, which in turn is currently dominated by poppy. However, Uruzgan produces good quality almonds (supported by AusAID), wheat, pomegranates and watermelons.
- ISAF does not conduct poppy eradication, even though the drug trade provides key funding for the insurgency. The Afghanistan Government is responsible for eradication and is currently conducting these operations in the Province. A key issue facing the Government and ISAF is identifying a substitute crop. The PRT had ordered wheat seed for this planting season; however it arrived five weeks too late to plant.

- A key issue affecting the agricultural economy is access to markets due to very poor transport/road infrastructure. The Dutch Government has funded the development of a bitumen road from Tarin Kowt up the Chora Valley. This road has had multiple benefits for the Province; it assists the economy, provides better access to health and schooling and supports security measures.
- The PRT is benefiting from work previously done by the Dutch and their continuing funding and efforts in the Province.

Observations from the Shura and Dinner with Local Uruzgan Leaders

4.16 The delegation attended an Uruzgan Provincial Leaders Shura and Dinner at PRT House. The key personnel in attendance were as follows:

- Provincial Governor: Governor Omar Shirzad;
- Commander 4th ANA Brigade (Bde): Brigadier General (BG) Zafar;
- Provincial Chief of Police (PCoP): Colonel Shirzad;
- Provincial Chief of the National Directorate of Security (NDS): Aziz Zakhariya;
- Director Rural Rehabilitation and Development (RRD): Engineer Mohammed Hashim; and
- CT-U personnel in attendance reflected the same group which attended the CT-U Round Table discussion.

Figure 4.2: Mr Stuart Robert MP and Senator Mark Furner meet Uruzgan's Provincial Governor, Omad Shirzad at PRT House MNBTK



4.17 During the Shura and dinner the key discussion points were as follows:

- Governor Shirzad thanked ISAF, particularly Australia and Netherlands, for the efforts and sacrifices to date in the province and for Australia's ongoing commitment to the Province.
- The people of Uruzgan are very pleased at the development to the Tarin Kowt airfield to an all-weather airfield and the opportunities that this facility will provide for trade and travel.
- The Governor's priority for development of the province is the building of the all-weather road system throughout the key valleys of the province, in order to provide the people with improved access to markets for their goods and access to health and education.
- There was general consensus that by 2014 the ANSF needs to be able to stand up on their own for the security of the Province, and that there will also be a need for good governance and development in the Province by the national government to support this.
- All stated that the efforts of ISAF in the province in the past 12 months, particularly this winter, had led to an improved security standard in the Province which has allowed improved freedom of movement to Afghan Government agencies. Six years ago NDS and other Government agencies were unable to travel more than 500m from their compounds in Tarin Kowt due to the poor security situation, now they can travel to most places within the Province.

- It was recognised that there are three key areas of strength in the Uruzgan security apparatus between Afghan and ISAF:
 - ⇒ Communication
 - ⇒ Coordination
 - ⇒ Cooperation
- The Provincial Chief of Police, Colonel Shirzad, claimed that the relationship between ISAF and the ANSF was the best example of cooperation and coordination that he had seen between these forces in any of the six provinces that he has served in previously.
- The Provincial Governor recognised that as the security situation in Uruzgan has improved, the people should now expect that the national government should provide the key government services of education, health, a legal system and good governance.
- Women's issues in the Province were discussed, with key points being:
 - ⇒ Observing female Australian soldiers working in the Province has provided a great example to the people of Uruzgan and has sent a strong message to the men of villages that these women have travelled from many miles away to help their villages.
 - ⇒ In Tarin Kowt female doctors, nurses and maternity and fertility health programs exist, with the people in Tarin Kowt having good access to health services. However, in remote areas there is little access to health services and consequently there is a significant risk to maternal and child health.

Figure 4.3: Delegation at the Uruzgan Leadership Shura with Uruzgan's Provincial Governor, his deputy, the Provincial Chief of Police and Commander ANA 4th Brigade



Observations from the PRT-U Round Table Discussion

4.18 The delegation attended a round table discussion with PRT-U leaders at CT-U HQ. The key personnel in attendance were as follows:

- Director PRT-Uruzgan: Mr Bernard Philip, DFAT;
- Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy Kabul: Adrian Morrison;
- Executive Officer PRT: Commander Jay Hildebrandt (US Navy);
- Political Adviser: Joel McGregor (DFAT);
- Development Adviser (AusAID): Michelle Tickle;
- Development Adviser (Netherlands): Wiesje Ellferich;
- Operations and Security Officer PRT: Major Ash Cogdon;
- Senior Project Engineer, PRT: Captain Ryan Orders; and
- Commander CT-U: Colonel Creighton.

Figure 4.4: The Delegation at the PRT round table meeting, attendees include the Director PRT Mr Bernard Philip (DFAT) and other Australian Government agency representatives and ADF members of the team



4.19 The first subject of discussion was the political situation within Uruzgan. It was argued that the quality of political leadership within the Province can only be improved through mentoring the political leaders and their advisors. A key to mentoring is having an understanding of the complexity of the political situation in the Province. This complexity is due to the following issues:

- the influence of tribal loyalties and inter-tribal allegiances, rather than allegiances to the Province or to the nation and its government;
- the effect of 'Power Brokers' at all levels; and
- too much influence by the Beluchzi tribe; decreasing this influence is key for transition.

4.20 The next subject of discussion was the progress of development in Uruzgan. This discussion included the key development needs, the engineering capacity in the PRT and funding.

- There are four key development needs in Uruzgan:
 - ⇒ Changing agriculture from poppies to other crops, which is being addressed through the Developing Rural Alternative Program. Key to this is improving the almonds supply chain and provision of wheat seeds.
 - ⇒ Improving the administration of justice and adherence to the rule of law. Judges and prosecutors exist in the Province, however there are no defence lawyers.
 - ⇒ Development of all-weather roads, which are being constructed by Dutch and Australian Government aid programs.
 - ⇒ Health programs, with AusAID providing funding to 'Save the Children' to improve the health system.
- The PRT's military engineering capability is refocusing effort away from vertical construction to roads and bridges in accordance with the Provincial Governor's priority.
- The funding for development of projects in Uruzgan Province comes from the following sources:
 - ⇒ AusAID has \$30M available to spend in Uruzgan.
 - ⇒ The US Government has \$6M USD for development of roads in the Province.
 - ⇒ NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) is building a \$150M USD ANA Headquarters in MNB-TK.
- Mr Benard Philip stated that the current funding available from AusAID, the Dutch and the US Governments for development in Uruzgan is about right for now. There is very little economic capacity for any additional funding. However, he argued that the Australian Government should remain flexible to ensure that funding is available for opportunity programs.

- 4.21 The final item of discussion was the development of the Afghan National Police (ANP) in Uruzgan Province. The key points from the discussion were as follows:
- ⇒ The AFP's role in Uruzgan is to train the ANP at the Tarin Kowt Police Training Centre.
 - ⇒ The Training Centre is funded by NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan (NTM-A), and the course syllabus is directed by NTM-A.
 - ⇒ The AFP conducts a six week ANP Recruit training course, and are teaching and mentoring the ANP to conduct this course without assistance.
 - ⇒ AFP is slowly changing focus to ANP leadership training for both senior non-commissioned officers and ANP senior leadership.
 - ⇒ AFP provides liaison and support to the US Army's 4-70 Armour Battalion mentoring of the ANP.
- 4.22 Colonel Creighton stated that the PRT efforts are a key component to the CTU mission success as the PRT is the lead on two of CTU's lines of operation.

Observations from the Round Table Discussion with CO SOTG

- 4.23 Late in the evening the delegation moved to the SOTG camp within MNBTK to receive a classified brief from the CO SOTG Rotation 16. This briefing and subsequent discussion provided an in depth understanding of the capabilities that reside within the SOTG and those ISAF capabilities in which they were able to call upon in planning and conduct of their operations. The CO also provided an excellent briefing on the effect that SOTG were having in the Province and to its approaches.

Observations from the visit to Patrol Base (PB) Musaza'i, Mirabad Valley

- 4.24 On the morning of 16 May the delegation moved to the MNBTK airfield where the members were provided a tactical and safety brief and then flew by two US Army S-70 Blackhawk helicopters to PB Musaza'i in the Mirabad Valley, which houses the Operational Mentoring and Liaison

Team (OMLT) from Combat Team-Bravo (CT-B). The key personnel who accompanied the delegation were:

- Commander CT-U: Colonel Jim Creighton (US Army);
- Deputy Commander CT-U, outgoing: Colonel Dennis Malone; and
- Deputy Commander CT-U, incoming: Colonel David Smith; and
- Director PRT- Uruzgan: Mr Bernard Philip, DFAT.

Figure 4.5: Delegation at PB Musaza'i receiving a ground brief from the OC OMLT CT-B, CAPT Kirby



4.25 On arrival at the Helicopter Landing Zone (LZ) at PB Musaza'i the delegation was met by the Officer Commanding the OMLT, Captain Kirby and the CT-B Intelligence Officer, Captain Wallace. The LZ was outside of the protective walls of the Patrol Base and thus security was provided by the Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAVs) of CT-B. On the short walk down to the valley Captain Kirby provided the delegation a ground brief to point out the key geographical locations surrounding the Patrol Base, including the 'Green Zone', the main supply route and the local villages.

4.26 On arrival in PB Musaza'i the delegation moved to the Patrol Bases' Operations Room and received a classified Operations Brief on the Mirabad Valley. The key points from this briefing were as follows:

- In April 2010 the only way for MTF-1/ISAF to effectively move up the Mirabad Valley from TK was by helicopter. Now, with the improved security situation, ISAF can move up the valley in vehicles.

- PB Musaza'i was built in September 2010 by MTF-1, over a two week period, under hostile fire from the Taliban.
- Since February 2011 Insurgent/Taliban offensive actions against the PB have been very sporadic, with no effective action against MTF-2 elements for three months.
- The local insurgency is community/rural based, with fathers, uncles and brothers involved. It is very much an opportunity based insurgency.
- Due to increased Government and ANA effectiveness and the effect of increased ISAF numbers, the insurgency has lost relevance in the local area. However this is very tenuous due to the need for further economic and social development and the possible effects of the Afghan Government's Poppy Eradication Program.
- The effectiveness of the ANA in the Mirabad Valley has improved. Some elements of the local ANA Kandak now operate independently of Australian Mentors. Of the four PBs in the valley, two are now manned by ANA only. However it should be noted that MTF-2 elements provide tactical overwatch and support as required.

4.27 On the completion of the Operations Brief and a question and answer session the delegation moved to a fortified meeting area on the outside of PB Musaza'i for a Security and Development Shura with local leaders in the near vicinity of the PB. The following locals attended the Shura:

- Malim Habibullah - Village/ Local Leader/Elder;
- Malim Manan;
- Mohammed Sadiq;
- Haji Akatullah Khan; and
- Haji Ishaqzai Aka.

Figure 4.6: Delegation at the PB Masaza'i, Mirabad Valley local Security Shura



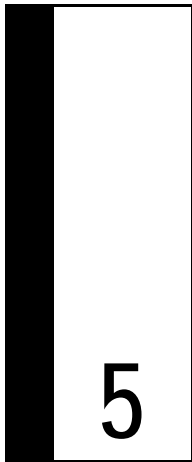
4.28 The key discussion points and observations are as follows:

- The local leaders discussed the positive outcomes of the MTF/ISAF and ANA presence in the Mirabad Valley and the improved security situation.
- The local leaders stated that they are very pleased with the Australian Army's professionalism and positive approach, which provided the local population with confidence.
- The local leaders are concerned that the international coalition will withdraw their forces too early, before the job is done and before Afghanistan is ready to stand on its own feet.
- The delegation confirmed that Australia had the political will and agreement between both major parties to stay the course.
- The local leaders believe that the visit of the Australian Parliamentarians sets a very good example to Afghan politicians about accountability and the need to see what is occurring 'on the ground'.
- The leaders are concerned about Pakistani and Iranian interference in Afghanistan's security and allege that these countries are harbouring terrorists. They asked that the delegation take back to the Australian Parliament the need to apply pressure on Pakistan and Iran to stop their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.
- The leaders discussed the issue of the Afghan Government's lack of commitment to look after the remote and poor. They are concerned

about the Government's accountability and provision of services such as health, education and the judiciary. They also spoke of the desire for an all-weather road to be built up the valley to provide better access to markets, education and health services.

- When questioned by Bernard Phillip on why some farmers grew poppies, Malim Manah explained that due to the destruction of Afghan society and institutions and the lack of alternative livelihoods and options, farmers grow poppies to get money to survive. The Shura acknowledged that growing poppies and its products were against Islamic teachings; however, some people just did not have the choice.
- A key observation from the Shura was that the local leaders never spoke of their concerns for security; it was a notable absence from the discussion.

- 4.29 At the end of the Shura, COL Creighton informed the delegation of the unintended effects of growing opium poppies. Most poppy farming families have all members of the family involved in the growing process, including the harvesting of the poppy resin. This process requires the poppy to be cut and then the oozing resin collected. During this process the person conducting the operation is required to handle both the mature poppy and the raw opium resin. This opium resin is absorbed through the skin and symptoms of addiction develop. It has been the experience of ISAF medics that they need to provide large doses of morphine to wounded Afghans, including children.
- 4.30 Opium addiction in women was also raised at SOTG. It is understood there is a high level of addiction among the female population in Uruzgan who use opium as a pain killer, particularly during child birth.
- 4.31 On completion of the Shura, the delegation returned to MNBTK by US helicopters. On arrival at MNBTK the delegation were taken to Scan Eagle Hill and provided a ground brief of the layout of the base. The delegation then returned to the Australian canteen where they had morning tea with ADF personnel from across the Australian contingents in TK.



Visit to Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar

Background

- 5.1 Kandahar is the Provincial capital of Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan. Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban and was the seat of Government when they ruled Afghanistan. The north of the province is dominated by the mountains and valleys of the southern edge of the Hindu Kush and the south by desert. To its west is the violent Helmand Province, to its North is Uruzgan Province and to its south and east it shares a border with Pakistan's restive tribal areas.
- 5.2 Kandahar Airfield (KAF) is the main ISAF base in Afghanistan's south, housing approximately 35,000 ISAF troops, and is the main airfield for ISAF's airpower in the south. HQ Regional Command South (RC(S)), the two star HQ commanding all ISAF forces in the Southern Region, is located on KAF. The airfield was initially developed by the Soviet Union during its occupation of Afghanistan and surrounded by legacy Soviet minefields. The base provides easy access into Regional Command South and its tarmac airfield is capable of C17 and jet fighter operations.
- 5.3 The ISAF capabilities resident on KAF are as follows:
- HQ RC(S), this is a Two Star General/ Divisional HQ currently based around the US Army's 10th Mountain Division;
 - HQ Combined Team-Kandahar;
 - Elements ISAF's air component, which includes fixed wing transport; rotary wing transport, aero-medical evacuation, reconnaissance and attack; UAVs and jet fighters;

- ISAF forces to protect KAF (and also responsible for the security of the province and for mentoring the ANSF);
- ISAF logistics units; and
- An ISAF Role 3 (surgical) Hospital.

5.4 Australia's force elements in KAF are based at CAMP Baker, which provides hardened accommodation for the members. Those based at CAMP Baker work in locations spread across the airfield. The following ADF elements were based on KAF at the time of the visit:

- Rotary Wing Group (RWG);
- Heron Detachment;
- Force Support Team;
- Elements of SOTG;
- Elements of FCU; and
- ADF, Defence Civilian and Other Government Agency (OGA) Embeds in various HQs on KAF.

Figure 5.1: Senator Furner, Dr Jensen MP, LTCOL Kenny and COL Maclean discussing CAMP Baker, KAF, with MAJ Peake, OC Force Support Team



Purpose and Conduct of Visit to KAF

- 5.5 The purpose of the visit to KAF was to visit the ADF units and embeds based in KAF, develop an understanding of the issues affecting ADF operations from KAF and obtain an understanding of the progress of operations. Some of these briefings were of a classified nature and will not be discussed in this report.
- 5.6 The delegation was hosted by the Officer Commanding the Force Support Team/ Camp Commandant CAMP Baker, Major Neil Peake, and the delegation spent 25 hours at KAF. The conduct of the visit was as follows:
- The delegation flew by RAAF C130J aircraft from Tarin Kowt to KAF where it was met by Major Neil Peake;
 - the delegation had lunch at the Cambridge Dining Facility with members of the Force Support Team;
 - moved by ground convoy to RWG at Mustang Ramp, convoy journey provided an opportunity for a windscreen tour of KAF;
 - tour of RWG and viewing of US Army aviation capabilities;
 - moved by ground convoy from RWG to the Heron Detachment;
 - Heron operational brief and tour of Heron facilities;
 - moved by ground convoy from Heron Detachment to the KAF Role 3 Hospital;
 - operational briefing and tour of the Role 3 Hospital;
 - moved by ground convoy from the Role 3 to CAMP Baker;
 - dinner with Australian personnel at CAMP Baker;
 - overnight in hardened accommodation at CAMP Baker;
 - AUSAID and OGA round table discussion;
 - tour of CAMP Baker and Force Support Team operational briefing; and
 - departed KAF by RAAF C-130J for Kabul.

Figure 5.2: Ms Brodtmann MP receiving a brief on the self-protection capabilities of a RWG's CH47D.



Observations from the visit to Rotary Wing Group

5.7 The key personnel hosting and briefing the delegation were as follows:

- Commanding Officer RWG: Lieutenant Colonel Monaghan;
- Executive Officer RWG: Major Lewis;
- Officer Commanding Technical Support Troop: Captain Wing;
- Troop Commander and Pilot: Captain Weatherstone; and
- Pilot: Captain Hodda.

5.8 On arrival at Mustang Ramp the delegation was met by Lieutenant Colonel Monaghan. He led the delegation for a tour of the RWG facilities, followed by a CH47D capability briefing and walk around of the aircraft. Key unclassified discussion points were as follows:

- RWG only has 2 x CH47D (Chinooks) in theatre and they operate as part of a larger US Army Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) based out of KAF. The CAB is made up of lift helicopters, reconnaissance and attack aviation capabilities and provides support to all RC(S) ISAF units.
- RWG only deploy for 9 months of each year to coincide with the summer fighting season.

- RWG raised the issue that they are only allocated 720 flying hours between two airframes for the deployment. These hours are not an additional operational allocation, rather they come out of the normal budget allocated for raise, train and sustainment of the capability in Australia.
 - This constraint is due to the servicing requirements of the CH47 and its associated costs. The deep maintenance servicing is only conducted in Australia, whereas the US Army conducts its equivalent servicing at KAF via a contractor, thus negating the need to return the aircraft to the US for this service.
 - RWG personnel discussed the impending replacement of the CH47D with CH47G in 2014 for the Australian Army. The current 6 x CH47D will be replaced by 7 x CH47G. The staff raised the preference for 13 x CH47G which would provide a more sustainable capability. The additional airframes would improve the current raise, train and sustain issues being faced by their home unit due to the operational tempo of the airframes and this increase would provide the Australian Government with additional flexibility for operations in the future.
- 5.9 The delegation was also provided a classified brief by embedded Australian Staff within the HQ of the CAB. This was followed by a walk around and brief on the US Army's Apache attack helicopter and its Kiowa Warrior reconnaissance helicopter.

Observations from the visit to the Heron Detachment

- 5.10 The key personnel hosting and briefing the delegation were as follows:
- Commanding Officer Heron Detachment: Wing Commander McMullan;
 - Administration Officer: Flight Lieutenant Rinaldi; and
 - Senior Intelligence Officer: Flight Lieutenant Wilson.
- 5.11 On arrival at the Heron Detachment's location the delegation was met by Wing Commander McMullan. The delegation was provided a classified brief followed by a tour of the Detachment's classified capabilities and facilities.
- 5.12 The key unclassified discussion points were as follows:

- The Heron is an unmanned aerial vehicle used for over ground Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), and is tasked to only support Australian forces in Uruzgan and surrounding provinces.
- RAAF have 3 x Heron airframes on lease in theatre.
- The capability available can fly 2 x Heron airframes simultaneously.
- The Detachment's pilots have to comply with normal ADF flight rules, e.g. flying hours per day.
- The Heron Airframe has a very effective day and night capability.

Figure 5.3: The Delegation observing the Heron UAN Ground Control Station



Observations from the visit to the Role 3 Hospital

5.13 The key personnel hosting and briefing the delegation were as follows:

- Nursing Officer: Flight Lieutenant Danby (RAAF); and
- Hospital Administrator: Lieutenant Commander Boland (US Navy).

5.14 A Role 3 Hospital has specialist surgical and medical capabilities, diagnostic resources and capabilities, preventative medicine, dentistry and operational stress management teams. It has the holding capacity to allow for diagnosis, treatment and holding until able to return to duty or be on forwarded to a higher level of care.

5.15 The key discussion points were as follows:

- The Role 3 Hospital at Kandahar is a Multinational Medical Unit and a world class trauma hospital, which provides significant surgical capability including in Neurosurgery.
- The hospital building was built by NATO, however it is run predominately by the US Navy and reinforced by professional staff from Canada and the Netherlands. It is the only Role 3 Hospital in Southern Afghanistan.
- The hospital has a 98% survival rate for all soldiers who enter the hospital alive.
- The hospital also treats local nationals injured due to the war.
- The Dutch and Canadian staff depart the hospital later this year. This will provide an opportunity for the ADF to provide staff, if deemed appropriate. These impending vacancies could provide an opportunity to train and develop ADF medical staff in trauma treatment.

Figure 5.4: Delegation at the KAF Role 3 Hospital being briefed on its capability.



Observations from the AUSAID/OGA round table discussion

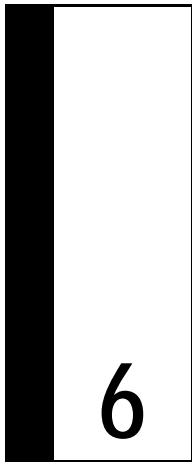
5.16 The key personnel at the round table discussion were:

- Tim Millikan: DFAT Representative and Embed at HQ Regional Command South (RC(S));
- Liz Abbott: Defence Department Liaison Officer (LO) and Embed at HQ RC(S);
- Chloe Robison: Defence Department LO and Embed at HQ RC(S);
- Rita Erfurt: Defence Department LO and Embed at HQ RC(S); and
- Tyson Sara: IP Division and Special Advisor to Commander RC(S).

5.17 The round table discussion was held at CAMP Baker with the AUSAID and OGA Staff that are deployed as embeds within RC(S). The key discussion points were as follows:

- The key terrain districts in Southern Afghanistan, that make up the main effort of ISAF to clear, hold and develop, are those districts within and surrounding the city of Kandahar and in Central Helmand province.
- The key challenge to develop the key terrain districts is to ensure that 'Governance' capabilities from the Government of Afghanistan are placed in behind the ISAF and ANSF once they have secured the districts. The Afghan Government has a challenge in recruiting appropriately skilled officials, from district governors to school teachers. Currently only five of ten District Governor positions in Kandahar City are filled.
- Those districts in Southern Afghanistan which are successful/improving tend to be only one person deep. This situation means that the loss of that one key player could cause those districts to regress significantly.
- A vital governance requirement for Afghanistan and the success of the COIN strategy is the requirement for the development of the rule of law. However the success of the administration of the justice system is effected by the following:
 - ⇒ Centralised law decided by central government versus local law. In Afghanistan local law has historically taken precedence.
 - ⇒ The effect of the Pashtun cultural practices of 'Pashtunwali', where such things as 'Honour Killings' are practiced.

- ⇒ Many of the justice issues facing the Afghan Government and ISAF are not purely 'conflict' related; rather, they are often 'under developed nation' issues – much like many nations in Africa. These issues will take years to resolve and will not be resolved by the time ISAF transitions security to the ANSF.
 - AUSAID has a very good reputation in RC-S, however there is an issue of how long it takes AUSAID to commence a project due to the need for detailed research prior to project commencement.
 - Misuse of locally engaged staff by the international community and ISAF through the human resource management practices of these organisations. These include paying interpreters and drivers more than doctors and teachers. These practices lead to educated people working outside of their profession, at the expense of nation building.
- 5.18 On the completion of the round table discussion the delegation was provided with a short brief on CAMP Baker and then moved to the air terminal for its flight by RAAF C130J to Kabul.



Visit to Kabul

Background

- 6.1 Kabul is located in the eastern half of Afghanistan at 1800m above sea level, wedged between the Hindu Kush and situated in the narrow Kabul River Valley. Kabul has a population of approximately four million people. As the national capital of Afghanistan it is the economic and cultural hub of the nation and the home of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). The city also has the nation's key international airport, Kabul International Airport (KAIA). Kabul hosts key ISAF military HQs, UN HQ and international embassies, including the Australian Embassy.
- 6.2 The key ISAF HQ and units in which Australian personnel are embedded in Kabul are as follows:
- HQ ISAF, this is a Four Star General HQ located in Kabul City and is the senior NATO HQ in country which provides strategic guidance and interface between NATO, GIROA and the deployed forces.
 - HQ ISAF Joint Command (IJC), this is a Three Star General HQ located at KAIA and is NATO/ ISAF's senior tactical HQ coordinating the operations of ISAF throughout all the regional commands in Afghanistan.
 - HQ NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A), this is a Three Star General HQ located in Kabul City and is responsible for the training and development of the Afghan security ministries and the training of the Afghan National Security Forces.
 - Counter Insurgency Academy.

- ANA School of Artillery.
- Consolidated Fielding Centre.
- HQ UN Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA), located in Kabul City and is tasked to assist Afghanistan to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.
- HQ JTF 633- Afghanistan (JTF 633-A), the Australian National Command element in Afghanistan.

Purpose and Conduct of Visit to Kabul

- 6.3 The purpose of the visit to Kabul was to visit the ADF units and embedded personnel based in vicinity of Kabul, to visit the Australian Embassy and to conduct a round table discussion with Afghan politicians at the Afghan Parliament House. These visits were intended to provide an opportunity to further develop an understanding of the issues affecting ADF operations and an understanding of the progress of development and governance in Afghanistan. Some of these briefings were of a classified nature and elements of these will not be discussed in this report.
- 6.4 The delegation was hosted by the Chief of Staff HQ JTF 633-A, LTCOL Marty Griffiths and the Australian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr Paul Foley. The conduct of the visit was as follows:
- The delegation flew by RAAF C130J aircraft from KAF to Kabul where it was met by LTCOL Marty Griffiths and Mr Paul Foley;
 - the delegation had afternoon tea with ADF personnel embedded at HQ IJC at KAIA;
 - received a detailed ISAF operational update brief from MAJGEN Michael Krause;
 - the delegation moved by ground convoy to the Afghan Parliament House to conduct its meeting with the Afghan Members of Parliament;
 - the delegation moved by ground convoy from the Afghan Parliament House to the Australian Embassy;
 - had dinner with the members of the Australian Embassy Staff and embed ADF personnel from HQ ISAF;
 - the delegation stayed overnight in Kabul;
 - the delegation moved by ground convoy from the Embassy to CAMP Alamo;

- visited the ANA School of Artillery and the Australian Army Artillery Training Team Kabul (ATT-K);
- moved by ground convoy from CAMP Alamo to KAIA; and
- departed KAIA by RAAF C-130J for AMAB via Kandahar.

Observations from the visit to HQ ISAF Joint Command

6.5 The key personnel hosting and briefing the delegation were as follows:

- Deputy Chief of Staff-Plans HQ IJC: Major General Michael Krause (Australian Army);
- Chief of Staff HQ JTF 633-A: Lieutenant Colonel Marty Griffiths;
- ADF personnel embedded at HQ IJC; and
- Members of HQ JTF 633-A.

Figure 6.1: Ms Gai Brodtmann MP meeting with ADF members at ISAF Joint Command



6.6 On arrival at HQ IJC, at KAIA, the delegation were hosted by MAJGEN Krause at afternoon tea to meet with ADF personnel based at KAIA. The delegation had an opportunity to meet with ADF personnel and members were impressed by their experiences and positive outlook on ISAF's operations in Afghanistan.

6.7 MAJGEN Krause provided an overview on ISAF operations. The key unclassified discussion points were as follows:

- Transition: There is an international expectation that the ANSF will take the lead throughout Afghanistan by 2014, however they will still require to have access to ISAF support for the key enablers such as:
 - ⇒ Close Air Support from fighter jets;
 - ⇒ Joint Fires coordination and control;
 - ⇒ UAVs; and
 - ⇒ Electronic Warfare.
- The enemy: The enemies of the Afghan People are:
 - ⇒ The insurgency: Not all attacks are made by the Taliban/Insurgents, some are criminal related.
 - ⇒ Poor leadership in the ANSF: ISAF/ Afghans have replaced 300 mid-level leaders within the ANSF in past 12 months, therefore there has been an improvement in security leadership.
 - ⇒ Criminal patronage networks: Linked to drugs and corruption. This is an Afghan issue needing an Afghan solution.
 - ⇒ Poor international practices: These alienate the people and include collateral damage and paying interpreters more money than key professionals such as doctors and teachers.
- Progress of operations and the ANSF:
 - ⇒ ISAF has taken 300% more weapons caches in the Christmas 2010 northern winter period than in any other previous period. This has had a marked effect on the insurgent capability. As a result the insurgency is now low on weapons and ammunition in some areas of Afghanistan.
 - ⇒ The ANSF is the real hope for the development of a secure society in Afghanistan. Both the ANA and ANP have improved markedly in past 12 months. There has been a large improvement in the ANP due to new leadership and improved pay.
- Key risks to the success of ISAF's efforts in Afghanistan:
 - ⇒ The development of ANSF capability will be a risk. The ANSF will require time to mature from the lowest unit through to higher command. This will require leadership, coaching and mentoring and will take years to professionalise the ANSF at all levels.
 - ⇒ Ineffective governance by the Afghan Government is a risk to the resources, time and effort of the international community and could negate all efforts by the ISAF.
 - ⇒ Porous borders with Pakistan allows for the infiltration and exfiltration of insurgents and their equipment, with ISAF unable to influence or halt the effect of the safe haven. The international

community needs to apply pressure on Pakistan to effectively control its borders.

⇒ The success or failure of the 2011 poppy season will have a direct influence on the funding of the Taliban and thus their success in insurgency action.

6.8 On the completion of the brief from MAJGEN Krause the delegation conducted a protected road convoy move from KAIA to the Afghan Parliament House.

Observations from the round table discussions with Afghan Members of Parliament

6.9 The key personnel at the round table were as follows:

- Deputy Speaker of Afghan Parliament: Khalid Pastoon;
- Chairwoman of the Defence and Territorial Affairs Standing Committee: Fawzia Koofi;
- Representing Uruzgan Province and Deputy Chair of the Defence and Territorial Affairs Standing Committee: Hasham Watanwal; and
- Australian Head of Mission: Mr Paul Foley.

6.10 On arrival at the Afghan Parliament House the delegation were meet by the Afghan Delegation and moved to a committee meeting room for introductions and discussions.

6.11 Mr Paul Foley stated that this was the first formal meeting between an Afghan and Australian parliamentary delegation, which he hopes becomes a regular occurrence.

Figure 6.2: The Delegation meeting with the delegation of Afghan Members of Parliament in the Afghan House of Parliament, Kabul



- 6.12 The key points of discussion from the Afghan delegation were as follows:
- The group spoke of the importance of the military intervention to defeat terrorism, however they were concerned that the main focus is on security and that there is a lack of effort on developing civil capacity.
 - Fawzai Koofi spoke of the importance of women's affairs in the development of the modern Afghan society.
 - The group are concerned about the mixed messages regarding transition versus withdrawal of ISAF forces. Some nations are discussing their exit strategy as a conditional withdrawal linked with when local forces are capable to taking over security. Other nations have developed and discussed unconditional withdrawal plans based on a set date. This second plan provides no guarantee that security will be in place prior to their withdrawal.
 - Fawzai Koofi is concerned that the 2014 withdrawal/exit strategy plan will have one of two effects on Afghanistan, which both will have a bad effect on the women of the nation:
 - ⇒ The re-Talibanisation of Afghanistan, which will result in the return of poor human rights for women; or
 - ⇒ Civil war between key power brokers.
 - The Afghan people need the international community to be clear about what is meant by the military exit strategy. They must provide the Government and the people with some guarantees that international support will continue as required.
 - The international narrative is focused on the transition of responsibility for security to ANSF leadership; however it is not clear how the ANSF

is going to be funded, as the Afghan Government will not have sufficient revenue to pay the ANSF post 2014.

- The Afghan parliamentarians acknowledged that up to 50% of aid money and national revenue is 'going into people's pockets' and they are concerned that the Government's Finance and Taxation Departments do not have the skills, processes or capabilities to build and maintain a budget.
- There is a need to train and develop the Afghan Financial Institutions to provide for the nation, rather than rely on aid.

6.13 The delegation discussed the following points:

- Emphasised Australia's support to Afghanistan, both in security and development and that Australia's military operations in Afghanistan had bipartisan support.
- Emphasised that Australia's planned military draw down date was expected to be 2014, however this is conditional on the standards of 4th ANA Bde in Uruzgan. The 2014 date will be military draw down only not a withdrawal of civil aid and support.
- Emphasised Australia's aid figures to Afghanistan, a total of \$165M with only \$30M earmarked for Uruzgan.
- Possible opportunity for Afghan MPs to visit Australia to view and discuss the Australian Parliamentary process in order to provide them a chance to see how our system worked.

6.14 After the completion of the round table discussion the two delegations moved to the Lower House and had a group photo session.

6.15 The delegation then conducted a protected road convoy to the Australian Embassy for dinner with embassy staff and ADF embedded staff from HQ ISAF. These embedded staff included two previous Defence Advisors to the Committee, Colonel Rupert Hoskin and Wing Commander David Ashworth.

6.16 AusAID raised legitimate concerns that the provision of agricultural advice seemed to be dominated exclusively by the Europeans. Considering Australia's significant expertise in agriculture, the delegation believes that AusAID should have the opportunity to contribute this Australian expertise.

Figure 6.3: The Delegation at the Australian Embassy with the Head of Mission, Mr Paul Foley (back row second from right) and two ex-defence advisors to the Committee, Wing Commander Ashworth (second from left) and COL Hoskin (back row first on right)



Observations from Visit to the Artillery Training Team-Kabul

- 6.17 On the morning of 18 May 2011 the delegation conducted a protected road convoy from their overnight accommodation to the Afghan Artillery School at CAMP Alamo, on the outskirts of Kabul, to visit the Australian Artillery Training Team Kabul (ATT-K).
- 6.18 Key Personnel at the Afghan Artillery School were:
- Commanding Officer ATT-K: Lieutenant Colonel Kane Mangin.
 - Regimental Sergeant Major ATT-K: Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1) Shaun Graham.
 - Commanding Officer Afghan Army School of Artillery: Lieutenant Colonel Amin (ANA).
- 6.19 On arrival at CAMP Alamo LTCOL Mangin, LTCOL Amin and WO1 Graham met the delegation, took members on a tour of the classroom facilities and allowed the group to observe training. The delegation then conducted a round table discussion with LTCOL Mangin, LTCOL Amin and WO1 Graham followed by a meeting with Australian soldiers of ATT-K.

6.20 The key points observed and discussed were as follows:

- The ATT-K was established in mid 2010 by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Vagg, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, from scratch and is now considered a model ANA school.
- ATT-K is an Australian Artillery led coalition team with nine nations providing personnel and equipment. The Australian Army provides 20 personnel to the Team.
- The ATT-K mission is to facilitate the training, advice and mentoring of ANA Field Artillery soldiers and officers so that they become capable of sustaining a professional ANA Field Artillery independent of Coalition support.
- Key to training ANA to become Artillery soldiers and officers has been improving literacy. ATT-K has embedded literacy training throughout all of its courses and their model is now being exported by NATO Training Mission Afghanistan to all of the other ANA schools.
- Most Afghan soldiers arrive at basic artillery training without being able to read or write. By the end of their basic course they are able to read and write up to a grade 1 standard. Each subsequent course will increase this level of literacy.
- During the visit the delegation observed an ANA Gunner, aged in his fifties, write and read as part of his training. When this older man joined the ANA, some 10 weeks previously, he was unable to read or write.
- A key challenge for ATT-K is that the ANA do not respect or value their non-commissioned officers (NCOs), as is the practice in the Australian Army. This situation is mainly due to the previous Soviet influence on the ANA Officer Corps and the illiteracy of the NCOs.
- To address the issue of NCO respect, Lieutenant Colonel Mangin has requested that the ANA Commanding Officer and his Command Sergeant Major visit the Australian School of Artillery in Puckapunyal in order to see how important and respected NCOs are in the Australian Army and how a modern School of Artillery operates.

- 6.21 On the completion of the visit the delegation conducted a protected road convoy move from CAMP Alamo to KAIA, for return by RAAF C130J to AMAB via Kandahar. The road convoy moves throughout Kabul were of great benefit to the delegation as they provided a unique opportunity for the delegation to experience and observe the crowded city of Kabul and its environs.

Return to AMAB and Final Comments

Exit Brief by Commander JTF 633

- 7.1 On returning from Afghanistan to AMAB, UAE, the delegation was met by Commander JTF 633, MAJGEN Angus Campbell. After returning the delegation's personal protection equipment MAJGEN Campbell escorted the delegation to his office to conduct an exit brief to the group. The following key personnel were in attendance:
- Commander JTF 633: Major General Angus Campbell;
 - Deputy Commander JTF 633: Air Commodore Oddie; and
 - Chief of Staff HQ JTF 633: Colonel Andrew Maclean.
- 7.2 The key discussion points were as follows:
- CT-U now provides security to approximately 70% of the Uruzgan population.
 - It is assessed that the construction of roads in Uruzgan are key for the economic and social development of the province, which in turn will also improve the security situation.
 - ⇒ Tarmac roads provide all weather access for trade and to government services such as health and education.
 - ⇒ Tarred roads are very difficult for insurgents to emplace IEDs.
 - The key observations for the 2011 fighting season are:
 - ⇒ The fighting season has not kicked off as expected, there has been lower levels of violence throughout Afghanistan compared to previous years.

- ⇒ There has been a very good poppy season due to the mild winter, therefore it is expected that the Taliban will have additional funds available for 2011.
- ⇒ The level of violence throughout the northern summer will indicate how effective ISAF's winter campaign has been, autumn will be the time to make that judgement.
- The Afghan Government needs to continue its discussion with the middle and lower level leaders of the Taliban about reconciliation and reintegration. MAJGEN Campbell does not believe that the higher level leadership of the Taliban will ever reconcile due to their extreme views and the long history of conflict.
- Key to transition of security is the need to ensure that we leave an ANSF that has the skills and capabilities to deal with those insurgents that have sat in their secure bases in Pakistan to wait out ISAF until 2014.
- The Afghan Government must develop governance to an appropriate level that it won't disaffect the local population; they do not have the capacity to develop their governance to western standards.
- It is not sufficient that Afghanistan has an effective security apparatus (ANA and ANP) whilst the government is weak. However it is recognised that for good governance and government services to be functioning in many areas of Afghanistan there must be a satisfactory level of security.
- As the international community decreases its support in the security sphere it must shift its focus and resources to increasing the capacity of the Afghan Government and the country's development.
- The Taliban's sophistication should not be underestimated or taken for granted. The Taliban monitor the international media via the internet so that they are aware of the concerns of citizens of other countries. Attacks are planned around certain events in the political cycle of the countries with forces in Afghanistan so as to put pressure on the governments of those countries to withdraw their troops.

Concluding comments — Dispelling the myths

- 7.3 The delegation arrived in the MEAO unsure of the progress in Afghanistan, particularly Uruzgan Province. However, by the time members left the MEAO, the group as a whole felt cautiously optimistic about the prospects for the success of the mission.

7.4 The delegation notes that significant progress has been achieved for the Afghan people as a direct result of the UNAMA and ISAF operations over the past decade. Some evidence of this follows:

- school enrolment has grown from 900,000 in 2002, with virtually no girls attending, to 7.3 million in 2009 – among them, 37 per cent (2.7 million) are girls;
- the number of teachers has grown eightfold from 20,700 in 2002 to 158,000 in 2008, of which almost 29 per cent are females;
- more than 4,480 schools have been established since 2002. Nearly 3,500 school buildings have been constructed or rehabilitated and a further 924 are currently under construction;
- founded in 2008, the Afghan Independent Bar Association has seen a threefold increase in members, from 400 to almost 1,200 at present, evidencing a growing recognition of the role and the importance of an independent legal profession among law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the courts;
- around 85 per cent of the Afghan people now have a healthcare facility in their local area, compared to under 10 per cent in 2002;
- 1.6 million more Afghans now have access to safe drinking water;
- 1,231 kilometres of roads have been constructed, connecting 264 villages to district centres and markets where products can be traded and services accessed;
- wages for 3.74 million employment days have been provided to local skilled and unskilled Afghans during the construction of infrastructure projects, with a further 2 million days already planned for ongoing projects;
- 95 districts have experienced the benefits of disbanding illegal armed groups by receiving specialised funds to put towards a district-level development project of their choice;
- with micro-hydropower plant construction, 131,988 more Afghans can access power for lighting, communications and business ventures;
- economic growth has been strong, with a predicted 8 per cent average growth this year. The economy is estimated to have grown by 22 per cent last year due to good harvests. Government tax revenues exceeded \$1 billion for the first time last year;

- opium cultivation is declining and the country as a whole is becoming less dependent on growing poppies, which now constitute just 5 per cent of the size of the legal economy.¹
- 7.5 The visit was a remarkable opportunity to meet with the men and women of the ADF and other Government agencies involved in a complex military operation in a challenging and harsh environment. As a result of the visit the delegation now has a better appreciation of the challenges faced by our people in the MEAO and a better understanding of the nature of operations.
- 7.6 The delegation was very impressed by the dedication, pride and professionalism of the Australian personnel in the MEAO. The delegation are proud of the efforts of the Australian personnel in Afghanistan who are working in challenging environmental and social conditions, with many in Uruzgan living in very austere conditions and placing themselves in harm's way every day.
- 7.7 The visit provided an important opportunity to convey directly to all Australian personnel deployed in the MEAO, to our coalition partners and to the Afghan government the bipartisan support of the Parliament of Australia towards the mission in Afghanistan.

Senator Mark Furner
Defence Sub-Committee Chair and Delegation Leader

Mr Michael Danby, MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

¹ Information obtained from the: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, accessed 3 February 2012, <www.unama.unmissions.org>; UK Department of International Development, accessed 3 February 2012, <www.dfid.gov.uk/afghanistan>; and UN Development Program Afghanistan, accessed 3 February 2012, <www.undp.org.af/>.



Appendix A – Delegation Program

12 May 2011

Defence Advisor, LTCOL Kenny departs Australia by civil airline from Canberra

13 May 2011

Defence Advisor arrives at Al Minhad Airbase

Delegation departs Australia by civil airline from Canberra, Brisbane and Perth

14 May 2011 **Dubai / Al Minhad Airbase**

0530/0540 Delegation arrive at Dubai International Airport, met by Defence Attaché Gulf States – Captain Phil Warwick, RAN

0800 Delegation arrive by road at AMAB, met by Deputy Commander JTF 633 (DCJTF 633)- Air Commodore Oddie

0830 Breakfast at AMAB with JTF 633 and resident unit's Command Team

0900 Meeting with DCJTF 633, followed by Operational briefings by JTF 633 key staff and tour of Australian Compound

1030 Personal Protection Equipment sizing

1115 Lunch with members of Force Support Unit, Force Communications Unit and HQ Air Component Command

1300 Abbreviated Reception, Staging, Onward Forwarding and Integration (RSO&I) activities

1800 Dinner with DCJTF 633 and Command Team

1930 Social event with the troops at 'Beaches'
Overnight at AMAB

15 May 2011 AMAB / Tarin Kowt

0800 Breakfast with the troops

0920 Brief by Commanding Officer (CO) FCU, Wing Commander Antony Houghton

0950 Return to accommodation and prepare to depart

1010 Move to Air Terminal

1030 Brief by Air Component Commander followed by C130J safety brief and Personal Security Detachment brief

1145 Board RAAF C130J and depart for Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan

1550 Arrive Tarin Kowt, met by Commander CT-U, Colonel Jim Creighton (US Army) and Deputy Commander CT-U, Colonel Dennis Malone (Australian Army)

1610 Move to HQ CT-U followed by round table discussion with CT-U and Command Team

1720 Move to PRT House followed by dinner and talks with the Provincial Governor, Governor Omar Shirzad and his Provincial Leadership Team

1850 Return to HQ CT-U followed by round table discussion with the PRT

2100 Move to CAMP Russell followed by a classified round table discussions with CO SOTG

2230 Move to hardened overnight accommodation

16 May 2011 Tarin Kowt / Kandahar Airfield (KAF)

- 0630 Breakfast at Dining Facility (DFAC) Tarin Kowt
- 0720 Move to Whiskey Ramp for movement by US Blackhawk Helicopter to Patrol Base (PB) Musaza'i
- 0740 Arrive PB Musaza'i, met by OMLT Commander, Captain Kirby, provided ground and operational briefs followed by a local Shura with Local Leaders of the Mirabad Valley
- 1100 Depart PB Musaza'i by US Blackhawk Helicopter for Tarin Kowt
- 1110 Morning tea with Troops of CT-U and MTF
- 1200 Board RAAF C130J for departure to KAF
- 1240 Arrive KAF and met by OC Force Support Team, Major Neil Peake and move by road to CAMP Baker
- 1300 Lunch at Cambridge DFAC
- 1340 Depart CAMP Baker by road for Rotary Wing Group (RWG) at Mustang Ramp
- 1410 Arrive at Mustang Ramp, met by CO RWG, Lieutenant Colonel Monaghan followed tour and discussions with RWG
- 1510 Depart Mustang Ramp for Heron Detachment
- 1525 Arrive Heron Detachment, met by CO Heron Detachment, Wing Commnder McMullan. Provided brief followed by tour of facilities
- 1625 Depart Heron Detachment for the KAF Role 3 Hospital
- 1640 Arrive Role 3 Hospital met by Flight Lieutenant Danby, followed by a tour of the facilities
- 1745 Depart Role 3 Hospital for CAMP Baker
- 1800 BBQ Dinner with Australian Personnel at CAMP Baker
- 1930 Overnight at CAMP Baker

17 May 2011 KAF / Kabul

- 0700 Breakfast
- 0830 Other Government agency round table discussions
1200 Lunch
- 1310 Depart KAF for Kabul by RAAF C130J
- 1420 Arrive Kabul International Airport, met by Chief of Staff JTF 633-A,
Lieutenant Colonel Marty Griffiths and Head of Mission, Mr Paul
Foley
- 1430 Move to Dingo Flats, change and freshen up
- 1500 Move to HQ IJC for afternoon tea with Australian Embed Personnel
at HQ IJC
- 1545 Move to Major General Krause's office for an operations update
- 1645 Protected road convoy move to Afghan Parliament
- 1730 Arrive Afghan Parliament House followed by round table
discussions with three Afghan Members of Parliament
- 1830 Protected road convoy move to the Australian Embassy
- 1900 Dinner at embassy with whole of Government staff, hosted by Head
of Mission, Mr Paul Foley
- 2100 Protected road convoy move to overnight accommodation

18 May 2011 Kabul / AMAB

- 0730 Breakfast
- 0815 Protected road convoy move to CAMP Alamo to visit the Australian Artillery Training Team- Kabul (ATT-K)
- 0900 Arrive CAMP Alamo and met by CO ATT-K, Lieutenant Colonel Mangin and Warrant Officer Class One Shaun Graham, followed by tour of school, observation of lessons and round table discussions
- 1015 Protected Road Convoy move to KAIA
- 1045 Board RAAF C130J and depart for AMAB via KAF
- 1630 Arrive AMAB and met by Commander CJTF 633, Major General Angus Campbell, hand back personal protection equipment
- 1700 Exit brief by Major General Campbell
- 1800 Depart by road to Dubai, overnight in Hotel in Dubai

19 May 2011 Dubai

- 0630 Breakfast in Hotel
- 0740 Depart Hotel by vehicle to Dubai International Airport
- 0800 Arrive Airport
- 1005 Depart Dubai for Brisbane, Sydney and Perth, Lieutenant Colonel Kenny return to AMAB
- 1100 Lieutenant Colonel Kenny arrive AMAB, complete visit administration
- 1500 Road move to Dubai International Airport
- 1810 Depart Dubai for Canberra via civilian airline