



Main titles from the study:

- *Establishment of ISAF forces*
- *Under NATO command in PRTs*
- *Southern challenges*
- *Advancing British*
- *The Dutch decision*
- *Coordination and new structures*
- *Our changing responsibilities in the Afghan military mission*
- *Conclusion*
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Annotation

The Bonn Conference provided for the establishment of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in support of the settlement in Afghanistan, approved by Resolutions 1386 and 1402 on 20 December 2001 by UNSCR. Although set up with UN approval in and around Kabul, it is not a blue-helmeted mission.

Hungarians have been participating in ISAF 3, and in early 2003 the first 37 Hungarian health and liaison officers and a press officer arrived. A Hungarian doctor treated Zahir Shah, the former ruler. The expertise of Hungarian doctors has also gained international recognition within the framework of ISAF. Following the deployment of NATO Headquarters from Portugal to Kabul, civilian officers, deep reconnaissance battalions and CIMIC officers, air traffic controllers and some other experts have been involved in ISAF since the summer of 2004.

In the South, ISAF's activities are complemented by Operation Enduring Freedom, a coalition force fighting under US leadership with the forces of armed resistance groups.

In June 2004, NATO decided at the Istanbul Summit to take over the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, extending it beyond Kabul. This is NATO's first such action outside its area of operation, as well as outside Europe, in response to new international security challenges and new definitions of indirect and direct security. Its role outside NATO's area of operation has been the subject of debate within the organization ever since.

Disagreements over NATO's involvement dominated the security policy conference in Munich on 4 February. Both German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who gave the opening speech, and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld believed that the military alliance should not limit its activities to its own territory. Instead, it must play an active role in the fight against international problems, especially Islamic terrorism. In contrast, the French defense minister, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, the alliance's secretary general, believed that NATO should remain in its actual areas of responsibility, in Europe and North America. Merkel's speech marks a significant change.
