

## **How this Afghan National Security Forces Order of Battle was created**

To our knowledge, no complete Afghan National Security Forces Order of Battle is available from official sources. This OOB was created to fill that void. To create it, a large number of individual bits of information were collected from open sources over the last several years. This was assembled into an OOB that is internally consistent and consistent with known military organizations.

Data were collected in large numbers from open sources. This includes, for example, press briefings of officials, official reports and media articles. The OOB includes reports on the creation of units and their activities and announcements on changes in status. Literally hundreds of individual reports were collected. Data collected includes:

- “Bottom-up data”: individual units, locations, equipment.
- “Top-down data”: articles identify overall size and structure of ANSF including major branches and total number of subordinate units.

Over time, these data were arranged into an OOB. The criteria used for data inclusions are:

- Data are consistent with the general structure of known military organizations as a model.
- Data are internally consistent. For example, top-down data agree with bottom-up data.

While it is not possible to know if this OOB is perfect, we have made a strong effort to make it as accurate and complete as possible.

- The sources used are generally considered reliable. It includes a large amount of data from official reports.
- In almost all cases, multiple sources were available for each data point.
- The resulting OOB is consistent with the general structure of known military organizations.
- Top-down data generally agrees with bottom-up data.
- These data were collected over time. Given that the OOB will change as the ANSF develops, there will always be some lag and inconsistencies that cannot be avoided. We continually collect data and update the OOB in order to keep it as up to date as possible.