Subject: Afghanistan: Operational Effectiveness of the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade.

Purpose:
To advise you on the current and projected operational effectiveness of the Afghan National Army (ANA) 4th Brigade.

Key Points:

Background

1. 

2. The ISAF Integal model aims to progressively place ANSF units in the lead for provincial security operations, including planning, executing and sustaining operations. The ADF Mentoring Task Force (MTF) is currently providing tactical overwatch to the 4th Brigade. This involves focusing mentoring efforts at the Kandak level. The MTF will transition to providing operational overwatch during 2012, which will see mentoring efforts focussed primarily at provincial (Brigade) level with direct ISAF assistance limited to supporting ANSF operations only where requirements exceed capacity.

Definitions, Terminology and Assessment Methodology

3. ISAF uses the following standard assessment terminology to describe the effectiveness of Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) units:
   a. Established. ANSF unable to accomplish assigned missions with significant partner unit assistance.
   b. Developing. ANSF capable of accomplishing assigned missions with ISAF lead and significant partner unit assistance.
   c. Effective with Assistance. ANSF capable of accomplishing assigned missions with ANSF lead and partnered ISAF assistance.
   d. Effective with Advisors. Capable of accomplishing assigned missions with only advisor support and enablers.
   e. Independent. Capable of accomplishing assigned missions without ISAF assistance.

4. The ADF uses the ISAF definitions to broadly describe ANA 4th Brigade capability, but in addition uses a subjective system of assessing capability to determine 'operational viability'. The ADF defines operational viability as...
5. ISAF assesses the capability of the 4th Brigade through the Commanders Unit Assessment Tool every two months. The ADF assesses the 4th Brigade's capability quarterly, utilising the objective data from the Commanders Unit Assessment Tool and through subjective reports from assigned ADF mentors and deployed Operational Assessment Staff. These assessments feed into ADF Campaign Plan Assessments and revisions and contribute to the regular Defence campaign updates to Government.

Current 4th Brigade Capability Assessment
Projected Brigade Capability Assessment

12. This timeline reflects the growing confidence and demonstrated capability of the ANSF to lead operations in Uruzgan, within the 2014 timeframe set by the international community.

Recommendations:
That you:

i. note that there is
   Noted / Please Discuss

ii. note that the MTF plans to transition to providing operational overwatch to the ANA 4th Brigade from
    Noted / Please Discuss

iii. note that ADF and ISAF estimates concur that ANA 4th Brigade could be rated as 'independent' by ISAF from
    Noted / Please Discuss

Approved By

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Sep 2011

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/ / 2011

Resources:
13. N/A.

Consultation:
14. Joint Operations Command (J5) and International Policy Division (AS AFPAK) have been consulted in drafting this submission.

Conflict of Interest:
15. N/A.