

**Province:** Farah  
**Governor:** Rohul Amin  
**Provincial Police Chief:** Brig. General Khalilullah Rehmani

<b>Population Estimate:</b> 925,016		Urban: 64,751	Rural: 860,265 <sup>1</sup>
Area in Square Kilometers: 48,471		Capital: Farah	
Names of Districts:	Farah, Bakwa, Gulestan, Pur Chaman, Bala blook, Khak-i-safeid, Anar-darah, Qala-i-kah, Lash Jaween, Sheib koh, Posht Road, Delaram		
Composition of Population: <sup>2</sup>	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun 80% Tajik 14% Other 6%	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni Muslim (95%), Shi'ite (5%)	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Alizai, Barakzai, Nurzai, Baluch, Hazara, Aimak, Taimuri
Occupation of Population	Major: Agriculture, Herding		Minor: Small Business
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Opium, Wheat, Rice, Maize, Barley		Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Horse, Donkey, Camel, Poultry
Literacy Rate Total: <sup>3</sup> 15%			
Number of Educational Institutions: <sup>4</sup>	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: 149 Secondary: 49	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u>	
Number of Security Incidents, 2007:	January: 5 February: 7 March: 13 April: 6	May: 8 June: 9 July: 5 August: 5	September: 7 October: 3 November: 7 December: 2
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation: <sup>5</sup>	2006: 7694 ha	2007: 14,865 ha	
NGOs Active in Province:	UNICEF, UNHCR, UNAMA, UNOPS, UNFAO, UN-Habitat, WHO, IOM, WFP, DACAAR, HELP, OI, ALISIE, WVI, CHA, VARA, SWRCA, HRS, MSDO, SRO, ADA		
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> Total Projects: Planned Cost: \$ Total Spent: \$ Per Capita 2007: \$250 <sup>6</sup>	Total PRT Projects: Complete: 312 / \$4,066,941 Ongoing: 416 / \$6,338,493 Planned: 1 Total: 729 / \$10,405,434	Other Aid Projects: Planned Cost: \$112,020,000	
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> Shindand to Nahri-Sarraj Highway <u>Secondary:</u> Bala Boluk to Farah Road Shindand to Farah Road <u>Tertiary:</u> Numerous		
Electricity:	Mainly originates in Iran's Khorasan Province.	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> less than 10% <sup>7</sup>	
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> None	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 12	
Primary Sources of Drinking Water: <sup>8</sup>	Piped water, Public tap, Protected well, spring, or rain water		Availability of Potable Water: 47%

<sup>1</sup> Central Statistics Office Afghanistan, *2005-2006 Population Statistics*, available from <http://www.cso-af.net/cso/index.php?page=1&language=en> (accessed May 7, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> Afghan Information Management Services, Farah District Profiles, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=364> (accessed May 7, 2008)

<sup>3</sup> *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 164.

<sup>4</sup> Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Education: 2007 Schools Survey Summary Report, 34.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007, 153.

<sup>6</sup> ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.


<sup>7</sup> USAID South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Report, [www.sari-energy.org/PageFiles/Countries/Afghanistan\\_Energy\\_Overview.asp](http://www.sari-energy.org/PageFiles/Countries/Afghanistan_Energy_Overview.asp) (accessed May 12, 2008)

Rivers: Farah Rud (east to west across center of province), Khash Rud (east to west across southern border of province)	
Significant Topographic Features	Desert plains south of Farah Rud. Increasingly mountainous north and east of Farah City Hamun-e-Saber and Hamun-e-Pazuk Reservoirs in southwest corner of province

### **Political Landscape:**

#### ***Political Leaders:***

#### **Governor:**

	Rohul Amin	Governor Rohul Amin replaced Ghulam Mohaidun Balouch as the governor of Farah province in late May, 2008. One of his first accomplishments as governor was laying the foundation for a new library in Farah City on June, 4. He also authorized a 25-km road to be built in Farah city that will cost \$4.5 million.
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#### **Deputy Governor:**

Picture Forthcoming	Muhammad Younis Rasouli	Little information is available on Muhammad Younis Rasouli at this time.
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#### **Chief of Police:**

Picture Forthcoming	Brig. General Khalilullah Rehmani	Khalilullah Rehmani served as Farah's police chief since the spring of 2008. He has been accused of corruption and abuse by Haji Khodaydad, the Bala Baluk district police chief. Khodaydad claims Rehmani has prevented resupply convoys to Bala Baluk, a charge Rehmani denies. <sup>9</sup>
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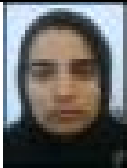



#### **Wolesi Jirga Members:**<sup>10</sup>

	Mohammad Naeem Farahi	Independent	Mohammad Farahi is a former Interior Ministry official and representative of Afghan refugees in London during the Soviet occupation.
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<sup>8</sup> *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 166.

<sup>9</sup> Aryn Baker, "Policing Afghanistan," *Time Magazine*, October 21, 2008, available at <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1852296,00.html> (accessed November 12, 2008)

<sup>10</sup> *Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005*, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/results.asp?ElectionID=1&ProvinceID=25&Order=Ballot> (accessed May 18, 2008). Chart contains number and percentage of votes received.

	Malalai Joya	Independent	Malalai Joya was 4 years old when her family fled Afghanistan in 1982 to the refugee camps in Iran and later Pakistan. After the Soviet withdrawal, Malalai Joya returned to Afghanistan in 1998 during the Taliban's reign. As a young woman she worked as a social activist and was named a director of the non-governmental group, <i>Organisation of Promoting Afghan Women's Capabilities (OPAWC)</i> in the western provinces of Herat and Farah. As an elected member of the Parliament from Farah province, she has publicly denounced members she considers warlords and war criminals. She is currently ostracized from the Parliament.
	Obaidullah Halali	Independent	
	Ainuddeen	Independent	
	Mamur	Hezb-e-Afghan Melat	










### Meshrano Jirga Members: <sup>11</sup>

	<b>Ghulam Farooq Farahi</b> Senator, Farah Province Mobile: 0799 889 912	Permanent Meshrano Jirga Member	Senator Ghulam Farooq Farahi, son of Haji Abdul Qudos, was born in 1965 in the village of Dahzak in Balabulok district of Farah province. He completed high school.  Sen. Farahi is a former police colonel. He has traveled to Pakistan and Iran. He speaks Dari and Pashto. He was indirectly elected to the Meshrano Jirga through the 2005 provincial council elections in Farah. He is married and has eight children.
	<b>Nafas Gul Khidmat</b> Senator, Farah Province Mobile: 0799 544	Transitional Meshrano Jirga Member	Senator Nafas Gul Khidmat, daughter of Mohammed Sarwar, was born in 1968 in the village of Bashtoy in Farah province. In 1973 she enrolled in Mirman Nazo Ana High School. She skipped two grades and

<sup>11</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/resultsMJ.asp?list=mj&offset=45> (accessed May 18, 2008).

	576	<p>graduated with high honors in 1984.</p> <p>Sen. Khidmat enrolled in a one-year nursing program in 1987 and at the Intermediate Medical Institute of Farah in 1988. In 1990, she was principal of Nazo Ana High School.</p> <p>In 1991, she became a refugee in Iran where she lived for 11 years. When she returned to Afghanistan, she was appointed senior teacher at Nazo Ana High School. In 2002, she enrolled in the Teachers' Training Institute of Farah and graduated with an emphasis on chemistry. In 2003, she was invited to Kabul to participate in the Teachers' Day celebration. She was awarded a first-class appreciation letter by President Karzai. She was an elected representative to the Constitutional Loya Jirga.</p> <p>Sen. Khidmat was elected to the Farah Provincial Council following the 2005 elections. She was subsequently introduced to the Meshrano Jirga as a temporary senator. She is not a member of a political party. She is married and has nine children.</p>
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**Provincial Council Members:** <sup>12</sup>

	Abdul Baqi		Mohammad Ibrahim Atufi
	Abdul Qadeer Daqiq		Hangama Sadid
	Mohammad Nazeer Khidmat		Belqees Roshan
	Haji Abdul Baseer		Keshwar Shayeq Sarwari
	Haji Ziauddeen		

**Primary Political Parties:**

<sup>12</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=2&pcv=2&ProvinceID=25&ShowFemaleOnly=False&Language=E> (accessed June 16, 2008)

**Harakat-e Islami (NUF):**

A Shia party originally led by Muhammad Asif Muhsini, the Harakat-e Islami fought the Soviets with support from Tehran. Known for having many Hazara as well as non-Hazara members, this Shiite party refused to join the Hazara coalition Hizb-i Wahdat in the ensuing civil war. Since 2005 they have been led by Hojjatolislam Seyyed Muhammad Ali Jawed, a minister in Karzai's first cabinet.

**Jamiat-e Islami (Islamic Society of Afghanistan):**

Led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, Jamiat-e Islami is predominately a Tajik party active in the anti-Soviet jihad and a major political player in the Northern Alliance. Today Rabbani supports Karzai. Yunus Qanuni's political party Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween broke away from Jamiat-e Islami.

**Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):**

Led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, HiG is Mujahideen party active since the Soviet invasion. Famous for its shifting loyalties, HiG was the favorite party of Pakistan's ISI until the rise of the Taliban. Former members continue to wield considerable influence. Thus far, HiG has been actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai. In Nangarhar, he is less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugianis, such as Haji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.<sup>13</sup>

**Mahaz-e Melli (Pir Gailani):**

Primarily (but not exclusively) a Pashtun party, Mahaz-e Melli are followers of the Sufi holy man Pir Ishaq Gailani. It has a reputation for moderate thought and the traditional, mystical and introspective tenets that characterize Sufism.

**PARTY ELECTIVE REPRESENTATION AS OF 2005<sup>14</sup>**

PARTY	DISTRICT GOVERNORS	DEPUTY GOVERNORS	DEPARTMENTS
Harakat-e-Islami	3		
Jamiat-e-Islami	3	2	7
Hizb-e-Islami	2		6
Mahaz-e-Mili	1		
Nijat-e-Mili	1	1	4
Hizb-e-Khalq		2	8
Parcham		1	
Afghan Milat			1
Hizbullah-Iran			2
Independent	1	4	22

**Human Terrain:**

**Pasthun:** Pashtuns are located throughout the districts of Farah province. The largest single ethnicity of Afghanistan, the Pashtun, and in particular the largest tribe, the Ghilzai, formed the backbone of the Taliban movement. Traditionally beholden to the moral code of *Pashtunwali* ("the way of the Pashtun"), they can be deeply offended by breaches of the code and remember the breach for generations. The Pashtuns are fiercely independent. As the largest ethnicity in the country, the Pashtuns consider themselves the rightful leaders of Afghanistan and must be included in any efforts to secure and develop the country. They suffered much during the Soviet invasion.

<sup>13</sup> Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

<sup>14</sup> Afghan Information Management Services: Farah District Profiles. Available at: <http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=364>, accessed (June 17, 2008)

**-Alizai:** Major branch of the Panjpay Durrani Pashtuns with two main sub-tribes, **Jalozai** and **Hasanzai**. Clashes between the Jalozai and Hasanzai have been a major source of tension in northern Helmand province. The feud between Abdul Wahid and the father of Sher Mohammad dates back to the Jihad period.

**-Barakzai:** Durrani Pashtuns, they rose to prominence with Dost Mohammad Shah (the British East India Company's adversary in the first Anglo-Afghan War) and furnished a string of kings through the current aspirant to the throne, Heir Apparent Ahmad Shah. Accordingly, they are one of the most respected tribes in the country.

**-Noorzai:** Although usually categorized and self-identified as Panjpay Durrani, many Zirk Durrani dismiss the Noorzai as Ghalji or Ghilzai, not Durrani at all. At this point in time, it is not clear whether this is a long-standing belief or has arisen out of the turmoil of the past three decades, particularly the close partnership between the Noorzai and the Ghalji-dominated Taliban leadership. Given the numbers and importance of the Noorzai in the south, this attitude may have consequences for long-term tribal politics in southwestern Afghanistan.

**Baluch:** The Baluch, thought to number over a million in Afghanistan, are an Indo-Iranian ethnic group spread over Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. Significant numbers also exist in other countries. In Pakistan, Baluchi independence groups have fought with Islamabad over the revenues from natural resources in Baluchistan. The capital of the Pakistani province Baluchistan is Quetta, where many of the Taliban are thought to have fled after their fall from power. Kalat, south of Quetta, has traditionally been the seat of the Baluch Khans. The Baluch are overwhelmingly but not entirely Sunni Muslims. Their feudal power-structures headed by khans, are generally perceived to be more concentrated than those of the more decentralized Pashtuns. In Afghanistan they are primarily nomadic, roaming the southernmost districts of the three southernmost provinces with small numbers present in southern Farah Province.

**Tajiks:** Tajiks are the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan after the Pashtuns and comprise between 25-30% of the population. The Tajiks in Afghanistan tend to live in settled communities. Pashtuns refer to them as *Farsiwan*, or speakers of Farsi, the lingua franca of Afghanistan (50% of Afghanistan speaks Farsi, as opposed to only 35% for Pashtu). There has been significant animosity between the Tajiks and Pashtuns in recent years. Forming the backbone of the Northern Alliance, they held out fiercely against the Taliban. Most Tajik are Sunni Muslims, but a few are Shi'a. Tajiks made up the majority of the Northern Alliance, both in terms of membership and leadership. Tribal ties have largely broken down among the Tajiks; therefore, social organization is defined primarily by geography. Despite their lack of cohesiveness the Tajiks are often brought together due to the perceived common threat posed by the Pashtuns.<sup>15</sup> In Farah Province, Tajiks reside primarily in Farah District and are interspersed among the Pashtun in the western districts.

**Hazara:** The Hazara are a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan who are often the target of discriminatory and violent repression. Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. The vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shia Muslim faith. Due to these differences, "the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of modern Afghanistan."<sup>16</sup> As the traditional lower class of Afghan society, Hazara work for Pashtuns as servants and laborers resulting in an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: those who live in and outside the Hazarajat region. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is "centered on Bamian province and include[s] areas of Ghawr, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province."<sup>17</sup> The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif and Samangan province. The few Hazara in Farah Province are in the far northeastern corner of the province in Por Chaman District. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazar-e Sharif; this massacre

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<sup>15</sup> 2007 CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html> (accessed June 28, 2007).

<sup>16</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>17</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.



was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. Due to the atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large are opposed to the Taliban. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat

**Aimak:** The Aimak are a Persian-speaking nomadic or semi-nomadic tribe of mixed Iranian and Mongolian descent who inhabit the north and north-west highlands of Afghanistan and the Khorasan Province of Iran.<sup>18</sup> They are closely related to the Hazara, and to some degree the Tajiks. They live in western Hazarajat in the provinces of Ghor, Farah, Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Jowzjan and Sar-e Pol. The term Aimak derives from the Mongolian term for tribe (Aimag). They were originally known as *chahar* or the four Eimaks, because there were four principal tribes: the Taimani (the predominating element in the population of Ghor), the Ferozkhoi, the Temuri, and the Jamshidi. The best estimates of the Aimak population in Afghanistan hover around 1-2 million. The tally is made difficult since, as a consequence of centuries of oppression of the Hazara people in Afghanistan, some Aimag Hazaras are classified by the state as Tajik, or Persian instead of Aimaks.

**-Chanar:** The Chanar Aimaks are believed to be of Turco-Mongolian origin. This assessment is based on their physical appearance and the style of dwellings they utilize which closely resemble Mongolian style yurts. The Chanar speak a Persian dialect (Dari) unlike their Turco-Mongolian kinsmen in other areas.<sup>19</sup> Farah's Chanar are located in Por Chaman District.

### **Security Landscape:**<sup>20</sup>

#### **General Level of Security:**

Violence in southern Afghanistan has spread to Farah province in recent months in the form of roadside bombs, ambushes, highly destructive raids by hundreds of Taliban fighters and high profile assassinations. Violent activity usually associated with Helmand and Kandahar provinces have become more common in Farah indicative of the spread of Taliban influence in this previously quiet province.

Farah province includes 1,600 ISAF soldiers, mostly US, Spanish and Italian troops in addition to ANA and ANP forces who are based Farah City. The main highway from Kabul to Kandahar (Highway 1) continues westward through Farah and eventually cuts north into Herat. Previously, violence in Helmand and Kandahar has disrupted this vital highway's flow from time to time, but recent Taliban actions have spread into Farah's stretch of Highway 1. Currently poppy is the most important crop in Farah. Localized Taliban pressure combined with government sponsored poppy eradication programs have pushed impoverished residents of Farah into the arms of the growing insurgency.

#### **Enemy Tactics in Order of Commonality (September 2006 - Present):**

1. Targeted roadside bombing
2. Targeted ambush
3. Targeted suicide bombing
4. Large size assault (50-400 in strenght)
5. Kidnapping foreign workers
6. In-house police assasinations

#### **Enemy Targets in Order of Commonality (September 2006 - Present):**

1. ANP stations
2. ANP vehicles/convoys/checkpoints
3. ANP leadership
4. District Centers (using large size assaults)
5. Foreign workers (using kidnapping)

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<sup>18</sup> Janata, A. "AYMĀQ". *Encyclopædia Iranica*. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. United States: Columbia University.

<sup>19</sup> "Afghanistan". *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Ultimate Reference Suite. Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, 2008.

<sup>20</sup> For coverage of the security situation in Farah Province, see: <http://www.longwarjournal.org/> (accessed June 17, 2008)

6. Collateral Damage (ex: school damaged, students killed by roadside bombing) (Just want to note that the definition of collateral damage is damage that is not the targeted, it is slightly odd to be on a list of enemy targets. Maybe we could make a note saying that collateral damage is acceptable instead of having it on this list)

**Districts of Primary Concern (September 2006 - Present):** Farah, Gulistan, Bakwa, Bala Bluk

### **Security Chronology:**

**September 2006:** ISAF's wide ranging Operation Medusa wraps up in western Kandahar leaving scores of Taliban killed and hundreds of fighters displaced. Analysts reveal a large number evacuated westward into Helmand and Farah provinces.

**September 8:** A roadside bomb targeting an ISAF vehicle injures four Italian soldiers in Farah City.

**September 14:** In Gulistan district, a Taliban force of 200 attack and defeat a weakly armed police contingent. The district headquarters is looted and burned. In a separate attack, nearly 150 heavily armed Taliban attacked Bakwa district's city center. Two officers and 2 Taliban died in the assault.

An attack on a police patrol left 4 officers killed and 4 Taliban killed as the police patrol was moving south from Herat into Farah.

**October 9:** IED cell broken up north of Farah City by Coalition soldiers. Mullah Najibullah and Mullah Nasir are among those arrested.

**January 1, 2007:** Taliban kill district police chief Khak-e-Safid and dump his body in a nearby village. The Taliban attacked the district center of Khak-e-Safid with several pickup trucks full of armed fighters. This district is in western Farah and borders Iran.

**February 13:** Police post in Dilaram district comes under fire from Taliban militants. Two policemen and a senior officer die during the clash.

**February 16:** Police patrol returning from anti-poppy operations in Bakwa is hit by a roadside bomb. The vehicle is destroyed and seven policemen suffer wounds in the attack.

**February 18:** Taliban militants attack Bakwa district's city center and successfully take it over. The local administrator and police chief flee before the Taliban enter leaving the remaining police force to fend for themselves. The Taliban loot the headquarters before being evicted by police reinforcements and ISAF soldiers.

**February 26:** District chief Mohammad Ali and police chief Haikal Khan are sacked and then arrested for their role in surrendering Bakwa district and abandoning their posts prior to the Taliban take-over on February 18th. A new police chief is appointed.

**March 1:** Police convoy hits a roadside bomb injuring two officers and damaging their vehicle in Farah City. Nearly 50 bystanders, 10 of them children, are injured in the blast that took place near a school.

**March 10:** Attack on a police convoy near Farah City kills one policeman and injures three others. The attack nearly succeeded in killing the chief of police Regional Command West General Ekramuddin Yawar.

**March 11:** Newly appointed police chief of Bakwa district is killed along with 8 policemen by roadside bomb targeting a police convoy.

**March 15:** Suicide bomber targeting an ANA convoy on the Farah City/Bakwa highway detonates prematurely killing only himself.

**March 17:** Two police officers died in gunfight during Taliban attack in Bakwa. The police were manning a checkpoint on Highway 1.

**March 18:** A gun battle erupts between a PRT team and suspected Taliban militants in Bala Buluk district leaving one child killed and four civilians wounded. The PRT members were defusing two roadside bombs when they were ambushed.

**March 26:** Police and local villagers kill a Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Ali and several others after the militants launched an attempt to kidnap 4 Indian engineers working in the Farahrod area. A suspected Taliban commander who was wounded during the fighting was also arrested after the gun fight.

**March 28:** A police commander is shot to death in Farah City by fellow policemen. Salam Jan, the chief of the Lash Wa Jawen district, was killed while visiting family in Farah City according to Pajhwok Afghan News. There is speculation of inter-agency rivalry as the motive behind the killing.

**April 3:** Afghan police raid a madrassah in Bala Buluk district seizing 22 individuals thought to be training for suicide bomb attacks. Intelligence indicated the school was run by mid-level Taliban leader Mullah Hayatullah Khan. Mullah Kahn escaped arrest by not being at the school at the time of the raid.



**April 4:** Taliban claim responsibility for kidnapping two French nationals and their Afghan hosts during a blitz on their vehicle on the Farah/Nimroz highway.

**April 7:** Suspected Taliban militants shoot up a convoy belonging to an American de-mining company. Six employees are killed in the attack and several more injured.

**April 11:** Seven suspected Taliban were killed by police during an overnight clash at a security post on Highway 1 in Farah District.

**April 19:** US Special Forces kill 3 Afghan police in Farah's Shozabad Khurmai area according to local officials. No reason was given for the deadly nighttime clash.

**May 5:** Three police die and another 3 are abducted after militants attack a police checkpoint in Bala Baluk district. A suicide car bomb also detonates in Farah after police chased the suspect.

Taliban raiders attack the Bakwa district center leaving 8 police dead and one abducted. Four police vehicles were also burned by the militants. Taliban suffer 17 killed. It is thought that over 100 Taliban participated in the assault.

**May 6:** A suicide bomber prematurely detonated his bomb vest near a Coalition-Afghan convoy killing himself and one Afghan policeman.

**May 18:** NATO air strikes kill 8 Taliban fighters in the Bakwa district.

**May 28:** Three Afghan policemen died and several more were wounded after insurgents shot up a UN food convoy and its Afghan security detail.

**June 5:** A band of Taliban militants attacked the Bakwa district headquarters during the afternoon sparking a gun battle that killed 8 Afghan police and up to 17 Taliban raiders.

**June 14:** Gunmen shoot two foreign contractors to death in the Farah Rod district. The two men worked for a company that repairs Afghan police vehicles and were driving from Herat when they were gunned down.

**June 24:** Roadside blast tears into a 30 vehicle security convoy killing one ANA soldier and wounding two others in the Narkh district.

**July 1:** Afghan police arrest three men planting explosives along a roadway in the Farah Rod district.

**July 5:** ANA soldiers uncover a hidden weapons cache in the Balabluk district.

**July 7:** US-led Coalition forces and ANA soldiers thwart ambush 42-kilometers northeast of Fire Base Farah. US forces claim 30 Taliban fighters were killed in the counter-attack.

Residents later allege over 100 civilians died in the battle. Afghan government officials denied these claims and said 40 Taliban were killed and 11 Afghan police died in the clash.

**October 30:** Up to 400 Taliban militants and foreign fighters attacked western Farah province overnight leaving several police and scores of militants killed.

**November 1:** Taliban attack Bakwa district Headquarters . The Headquarters is retaken by ANA troops November 19.

**November 5:** Taliban in 40 pickup trucks overrun the Khaki-Safid district Headquarters, loot the ammunition depot and burn down the building

**November 7:** NATO troops arrest 20 and kill 10 Taliban in Khakie-Safid

**November 23/24:** Taliban and ANA forces battle in Gulistan. Taliban evicted from district center.

**December 3:** The police commander of Farah's Bakwa district died along with 8 other policemen after a roadside bomb detonated near his three vehicle convoy. The attack happened 24 hours after another bombing attack in Farah which left one policeman dead and three others injured. The target of that attack was the chief of the police Regional Command West Gen Ekramuddin Yawar according to *Pajhwok Afghan News Service*.<sup>21</sup>

**January 26, 2008:** Large cache of Iranian land mines in Anar Dara found at residence of regional Taliban commander Abdul Ghani.

**February 18:** Taliban commander Mullah din Muhammad killed during a raid on a police check point in Bala Baluk district.

**February 24:** Failed suicide bomber attack against police commander Haji Khudaidad results in death of bomber only.

**May 6:** Iranian citizen accused of training Taliban in Farah arrested in Nimroz province.

**May 15/16:** Burqa clad suicide bomber kills 19, including Afghan police commander in Delaram. Operation Bazaar of Swords begins in Bala Baluk.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Agha.com-News-Afghanistan. Matt Dupee. Available at: <http://www.afgha.com/?q=node/2282> (accessed May 22, 2008)

<sup>22</sup> For a description of Operation Bazaar of Swords see:

[http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2008/06/coalition\\_and\\_taliba.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2008/06/coalition_and_taliba.php) (accessed June 17, 2008)

## Taliban/Insurgent Commanders in Farah:

**Mullah Bismillah:** Senior regional leader in southwestern Farah Province. Base of operation located in Bala Buluk District.

**Mullah Baz Muhammad:** Leader in southwestern Farah Province. Also located in Bala Buluk. Coordination with Mullah Bismillah not confirmed.

**Mullah Abdul Manan:** Former Taliban era Police Chief from Nimroz. Base of operations in Bakwa District.

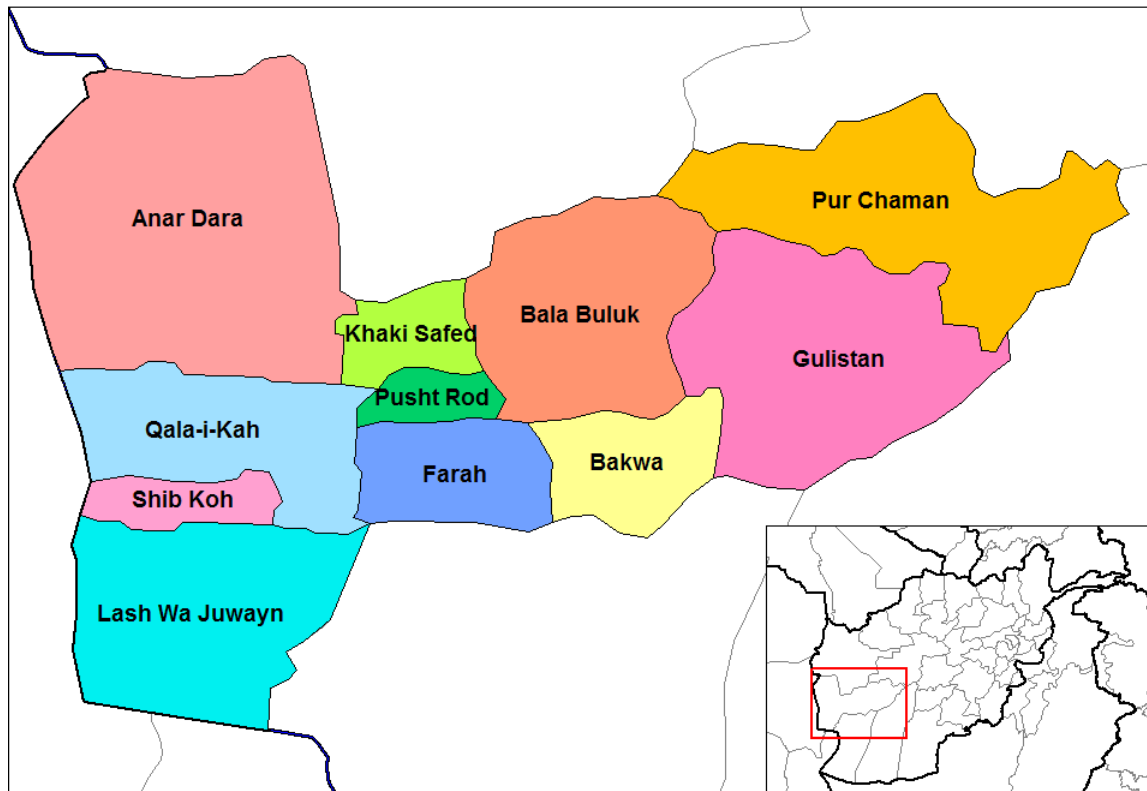
**Abdul Muhaf:** Subcommander of Mullah Abdul Manan.

**Mullah Abdul Ghani:** Responsible for smuggling Iranian arms to Taliban. Base of operations in Anar Darar district.

**Mullah Ibrahim:** Insurgent commander in Bakwa District.

**Mullah Khodaidad:** Insurgent commander. Responsible for kidnapping and robbing of a 20 man Arab and Afghan hunting party in February 2008.<sup>23</sup>

**DISTRICTS:** Bakwa, Gulistan, Pur Chaman, Bala Buluk, Khaki Safed, Anar Dara, Qala-i-Kah, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shib Koh, Delaram<sup>24</sup> and Pusht Rod.



<sup>23</sup> The Long War Journal, Matt Dupee, Available at: [http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2008/06/coalition\\_and\\_taliba.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2008/06/coalition_and_taliba.php) (accessed June 17, 2008)

<sup>24</sup> Delaram district is a new addition to Farah province. It was formerly a part of Nimroz province and is not displayed on the map below.

