

Appendix 2: Chronology: Australia's military involvement in Afghanistan, 2001–present

The following timeline has been adapted from the timeline produced by the Parliamentary Library.¹

Milestones	Details
14 September 2001	Prime Minister John Howard announced that the government was invoking Article IV of the ANZUS Treaty in response to the terrorist attacks against the United States.
4 October 2001	The government directed the Chief of the Defence Force to have a range of military assets, including special forces, available to support the US under the ANZUS Treaty.
22 October 2001	The first contingent of the Special Forces Task Group was officially farewelled in Perth as it departed to assist the US-led International Coalition Against Terrorism.
25 October 2001	The government announced the deployment of Royal Australian Navy, Army and Air Force assets and personnel in support of coalition operations. The Army's 16th Air Defence Regiment (16AD Regt) was officially farewelled from Adelaide to support the Australian maritime element in the war against terrorism.

¹ Australian Parliamentary Library, 'Australia's military involvement in Afghanistan since 2001: A chronology', www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BN/1011/MilitaryInvolvementAfghanistan (retrieved 21 January 2019).

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- 9 November 2001 A contingent of four F/A-18 Hornets was officially farewelled from RAAF Base Williamtown as part of Australia's contribution to the fight against terrorism. Although it was not disclosed at that time, the detachment was based at Diego Garcia.
- 27 November 2001 The remaining soldiers from the Special Forces Task Group, making a total of 150 personnel, departed Perth to assist the coalition in Afghanistan.
- 3 December 2001 The Australian Defence Force (ADF) advance party arrived in Afghanistan and was operating under Australian command in theatre.
- 5 December 2001 Additional ADF personnel arrived in Afghanistan to assist the advance party.
- 15 January 2002 Minister for Defence Robert Hill confirmed that around 150 special forces personnel were in Afghanistan.
- 24 January 2002 The Australian Government announced that Brigadier Gary Bornholt would replace Brigadier Ken Gillespie (later Chief of Army) as Australian Force Commander of Australia's contribution to the coalition in March 2002.
- February 2002 The second contingent of approximately 80 personnel, forming the Hornet detachment, was officially farewelled for operations in support of the coalition in mid-February.
- 17 February 2002 The first contingent of Hornet personnel was officially welcomed home to Williamtown following a three-and-a-half-month deployment.
- 1–17 March 2002 Australian Special Forces Task Group soldiers took part in Operation ANACONDA involving US, Afghan and coalition forces.
- 15 March 2002 The first contingent of B-707 Tanker Transport aircraft, aircrew and support personnel from RAAF 84 Wing prepared to depart for Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. The aircraft would provide air-to-air refuelling support for operations in Afghanistan.
- 28 March 2002 The second contingent of the Special Forces Task Group was officially farewelled in Perth.

- March–April 2002 On 28 March, the first B-707 aircraft arrived at Manas, and was shortly followed by a second RAAF tanker. A small team of RAAF mechanics and technicians and a team of logistics experts were deployed as part of the detachment. After six months in theatre, the first contingent of the Special Forces Task Group in Afghanistan was replaced by the second contingent.
- 3 April 2002 The first contingent of the Special Forces Task Group was officially welcomed home from Afghanistan at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, WA, following its six-month deployment. One member was presented with the Distinguished Service Cross.
- 19 April 2002 Australia's continued military commitment to the war against terrorism was assured by the Minister for Defence, Robert Hill.
- 7 May 2002 It was announced that the Hornet detachment deployed to Diego Garcia had completed its mission and would return to Australia. This was the second air combat contingent under Operation SLIPPER, and it was not replaced.
- 16 June 2002 Minister for Defence Robert Hill announced: '[A] third rotation of Special Forces Task Group soldiers will deploy to Afghanistan in August as part of Australia's ongoing contribution to the international coalition against terrorism.' The authorised strength of special forces personnel operating in Afghanistan at that time was 150.
- 18 June 2002 A second B-707 contingent was officially farewelled from RAAF Base Richmond, NSW, to support air-to-air refuelling operations in Afghanistan from neighbouring Kyrgyzstan.
- 3 July 2002 The first contingent of B-707 aircrew and support personnel officially returned to Richmond following a three-and-a-half-month deployment in support of the coalition.
- 22 July 2002 ADF personnel deployed to Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and the Gulf in support of coalition operations had reached around 850 to 1,300.

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- 30 August 2002 Six months after departing Australia, the second contingent of the Special Forces Task Group was officially welcomed home from Afghanistan at Campbell Barracks.
- 29 September 2002 Approximately 80 RAAF personnel returned to Richmond following a three-and-a-half-month deployment to Kyrgyzstan. This was the final deployment of the RAAF's B-707 aircraft to Kyrgyzstan as the fleet of B-707s were progressively retired from service. Responsibility for air-to-air refuelling operations was transferred to Australia's European coalition partners. The RAAF prepared to deploy two AP-3C Orion aircraft for maritime operations in the Gulf.
- 20 November 2002 As the focus of coalition operations in Afghanistan moved towards reconstruction efforts, the government announced: '[The] third rotation to Afghanistan will complete Australia's special forces contribution. The SASR Task Group will begin withdrawing from Afghanistan in late November ...'. The minister noted that operational tasking for Australia's special forces elements in Afghanistan was insufficient to justify their continued deployment.
- 17 December 2002 The third contingent of the Special Forces Task Group officially returned to Perth. On their return, the Meritorious Unit Citation was awarded to the SAS Regiment.
- 21 February 2003 By February 2003, approximately 2,000 ADF personnel were reportedly involved in two operations in the Middle East: Operations SLIPPER and BASTILLE (the latter involved the forward deployment of ADF elements to the Middle East). Australia's military commitment in the Middle East at that time comprised an Australian command team 'in tactical control of the multinational interception force in the Persian Gulf' to support the enforcement of UN sanctions against Iraq. Australia maintained tactical control of six coalition vessels, including HMA Ships *Anzac*, *Darwin* and *Kanimbla*. In addition, a RAAF Orion detachment had been deployed to the Middle East in January 2003 and continued to conduct maritime patrols in the Gulf.

- 18 April 2003 Following the withdrawal of special forces elements at the end of November 2002, it would appear that Australia's military contribution to Afghanistan had been reduced to an Army officer deployed to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan under Operation PALATE.
- November 2003 An Army engineering officer was deployed to Afghanistan to contribute to the coalition Mine Action Coordination Centre.
- 13 July 2005 The government announced Australia's renewed military commitment to Afghanistan with a deployment of 150 special forces personnel to conduct similar tasks undertaken during the 2001–02 deployment. The special forces deployment was approved for a 12-month period.
- 24 August 2005 The first contingent of the Special Forces Task Group was deployed to Afghanistan; the first since Australian forces withdrew in September 2002. The task group comprised approximately 190 personnel from the SAS Regiment, 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, Incident Response Regiment and logistics support. The task group's mission was to conduct combat patrols in remote areas as well as reconnaissance and surveillance operations in collaboration with other contributing countries. The mission was scheduled to run until September 2006.
- 16 September 2005 The ADF flagged that a military provincial reconstruction team might be deployed to Afghanistan around mid-2006. It was also noted that Army mine clearance specialists had been deployed to Afghanistan since 2003 and continued to assist in the removal of unexploded ordnance under Operation SLIPPER. An Army officer role, deployed to the United Nations in Afghanistan under Operation PALATE, has also remained in place since 2003.

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- 10 January 2006 The government announced that an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter detachment would be deployed to Afghanistan in March 2006. The detachment was expected to remain in Afghanistan for the duration of the Special Forces Task Group deployment (until September 2006). However, should Australia deploy a reconstruction task force, the detachment's mission could be extended.
- 21 February 2006 The government announced that Australia would contribute a 200-strong reconstruction task force to Afghanistan for a period of two years.
- 25 February 2006 After returning to Australia from Afghanistan in January 2006, west coast-based Special Forces Task Group members were officially welcomed home. Two members of the SAS Regiment received the Medal for Gallantry. The second contingent of the Special Forces Task Group took over from the first contingent sometime in early 2006. The Special Forces Task Group mission was expected to remain in Afghanistan until September 2006.
- 4 March 2006 East coast-based Special Forces Task Group members were officially welcomed home from Afghanistan.
- 13 March 2006 Some 110 members of the 5th Aviation Regiment were deployed to Afghanistan with two Chinooks. The contingent was to provide heavy troop and medical evacuation airlift support to the 200-strong Special Forces Task Group already operating in Afghanistan.
- 8 May 2006 The first Australian reconstruction task force for Afghanistan, expected to comprise a 240-personnel deployment in July 2006, was announced. The Chinook helicopter mission was extended until April 2007 to support the insertion of the reconstruction force.
- 13 June 2006 The government announced that, from July 2006, the ADF would contribute a reconstruction task force to Uruzgan Province in Afghanistan. The first Reconstruction Task Force (RTF1) was expected to deploy in July 2006.

- 25 July 2006 The first rotation of personnel from the Australian Army's Chinook detachment departed for Afghanistan. The Army helicopter commitment was scheduled to cease in July 2007.
- 9 August 2006 The government announced that an additional 150 personnel would deploy to reinforce RTF1 and provide increased protection. This would bring the total RTF commitment to 400 personnel.
- 23 August 2006 The RTF1 advance party departed for Afghanistan.
- 18 September 2006 Approximately 400 personnel forming RTF1 arrived in Afghanistan.
- 26 November 2006 East coast-based members of the 200-strong Special Forces Task Group were officially welcomed home in Sydney. Two members received gallantry awards (Star of Gallantry and the Medal for Gallantry), and a Unit Citation for Gallantry was awarded to combat elements of the task group. The task group as a whole received the Meritorious Unit Citation. The Special Forces Task Group was deployed for a period of 12 months and conducted three rotations (each approximately four months in duration).
- 2 December 2006 West coast-based members from the Special Forces Task Group were officially welcomed home. Four members received gallantry awards and a unit citation for gallantry was awarded to combat elements of the task group. As a whole, the task group received the Meritorious Unit Citation.
- 22 February 2007 Minister for Defence Brendan Nelson noted that the Special Forces Task Group had returned to Australia in September 2006. Nelson also noted that Australia's military commitment to Afghanistan in February 2007 was approximately 400 personnel, including trade, engineer and infantry personnel.
- 8 April 2007 Members from the 5th Aviation Regiment, comprising 110 Australian Army personnel and two Chinooks, returned to Australia following their deployment to Afghanistan.

- 10 April 2007 Prime Minister John Howard announced that another Special Operations Task Group of around 300 personnel were to deploy to Uruzgan, this time for a two-year mission. The role of the Reconstruction Task Force Protection Company Group, around 120 personnel, was extended until August 2008. Seventy-five RAAF personnel were to deploy to Kandahar airfield to provide an air surveillance radar capability and assume control of a portion of Afghan operational air space from mid-2007. The overall military commitment to Afghanistan was expected to reach 950 personnel by mid-2007, eventually peaking at around 1,000 personnel in mid-2008.
- 15 May 2007 Special Operations Task Force deployed to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operations in Uruzgan. The task force was made up of personnel from the SAS Regiment, 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), Incident Response Regiment and logistics support.
- 29 May 2007 The main RAAF contingent, including members from Darwin-based 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit and the RAAF's Combat Support Group, was farewelled from Darwin shortly after a small advance party from RAAF 41 Wing (Williamstown) had arrived in Afghanistan.
- 3 September 2007 The government announced the addition of a 10-member mortar section, to support RTF operations in Afghanistan. Personnel were to be drawn from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.
- 4 October 2007 By October 2007, approximately 900 ADF personnel had been deployed to Afghanistan (predominantly in Uruzgan and Kandahar), and another 110 were expected to deploy in February 2008 with two Chinooks.
- 8 February 2008 Two of the 5th Aviation Regiment's recently upgraded Chinooks were deployed to Afghanistan.

- 19 February 2008 Minister for Defence Joel Fitzgibbon announced that the government would maintain its current commitment in Afghanistan but would place a new emphasis on training Afghan National Army members. Fitzgibbon announced that an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) would soon be embedded within an Afghan army battalion (known as a *kandak*).
- 20 February 2008 During the February 2008 Senate Additional Estimates hearing, the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, noted that Australia's contribution to Operation SLIPPER included, at that time:
- In addition, Operation SLIPPER receives support from the RAAF AP-3C aircraft and the C-130 Hercules aircraft which are dual assigned to both Operation SLIPPER and Operation CATALYST. This month we also redeployed two CH-47 Chinook medium-lift helicopters with associated flight crew and support staff, which totals 93 personnel.
- ... The government yesterday announced that further adjustment to the reconstruction task force is warranted to increase emphasis on the training of Afghani security forces. The provision of an operational mentoring and liaison team, or OMLT, will see us developing and mentoring an Afghan *kandak*, or infantry battalion. This adjustment will be achieved within our existing force capability; that is, an authorised establishment of 1,078.
- 13 March 2008 Fifteen soldiers from Darwin's 8/12 Medium Regiment, who spent six months in the United Kingdom as part of a bilateral program, were deployed in support of UK operations in Helmand Province.
- April–May 2008 In April 2008, the third Reconstruction Task Force (RFT3) completed its six-month tour of Afghanistan and was replaced by RFT4, comprising 400 combat engineers, infantry, cavalry and support staff.

- 4 June 2008 Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy announced that Army operational tours would be extended from six to eight months, beginning with the first Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF1), to be deployed to Afghanistan in October 2008.
- 29 June 2008 The Army's Chinook detachment was officially welcomed home after being replaced by elements from Townsville's 5th Aviation Regiment.
- 10 July 2008 RAAF personnel deployed to Afghanistan's Control and Reporting Centre in Kandahar for six months were officially welcomed home. The RAAF had provided personnel to this theatre of operations since April 2007. A third RAAF contingent had already deployed to Afghanistan, and a fourth contingent was commencing force preparation training.
- 15 July 2008 In his speech to the Brookings Institution, the Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, summarised Australia's contribution and rationale for operations in Afghanistan:
- Australia's contribution in Afghanistan is a substantial one. It includes a Reconstruction Task Force of some 400 personnel, a Special Operations Task Group of around 300 special forces soldiers, an Air Force Control and Reporting Centre, a Rotary Wing Group, logistics support and a national Command Element. More than 1000 personnel in all. This makes us the ninth largest troop contributor and the largest non-NATO force in Afghanistan
- ...
- 8 September 2008 Darwin-based troops from the Army's 1st Brigade (Light Armoured Brigade) deployed to Afghanistan as part of the MRTF1.
- 21 October 2008 The MRTF1 took over from RTF4 on 16 October 2008. In addition to reconstruction efforts in Uruzgan, the new rotation's role also included capacity-building and mentoring of the Afghan National Army. The RTF mission ran for more than two years with the first deployment commencing in August and September 2006. Four rotations took place during this time.

- 23 October 2008 Members of the RTF4 were officially welcomed home following their six-month deployment in Afghanistan.
- 2 November 2008 Two Army Chinooks and 65 personnel were officially welcomed home following their eight-month deployment to Afghanistan. A third rotation was expected to deploy in February 2009 and begin flying operations in March.
- 16 January 2009 Trooper Mark Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross: 'For most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in a circumstance of great peril in Afghanistan, as part of the Special Operations Task Group during Operation SLIPPER, Uruzgan, Afghanistan.'
- 23 January 2009 The first Force Support Unit (FSU-1) deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) to provide logistic support for all Australian military operations in the Middle East Area of Operations and MEAO Afghanistan.
- 29 April 2009 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced that Australia would increase its troop commitment in Afghanistan to 1,550 personnel. The increased troop level aimed to enhance the ADF's training mission so that the Afghan National Army could take responsibility for security in Uruzgan sooner. This announcement was the first statement made about Australia's future military drawdown. Some 120 additional personnel would be deployed as part of the Election Support Force.
- 5 May 2009 Australian Army officer Brigadier Damian Cantwell was appointed commander of the ISAF Election Task Force.
- 15 May 2009 Around 600 military personnel, predominantly from the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, were deployed to Afghanistan as part of the second MRTF contingent.
- 9 July 2009 The RAAF's two-year mission commanding the Control and Reporting Centre at Kandahar Airfield was officially completed. The command role was transferred to the United States Air Force.
- 8 August 2009 Personnel from the MRTF1 were officially welcomed home to Australia after their eight-month deployment to Afghanistan.

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- 12 August 2009 The contingent of 120 personnel, who had arrived in Afghanistan on 24 July 2009, commenced operations in support of Afghan national elections.
- 20 August 2009 Afghanistan's second presidential election was held, along with provincial council elections.
- 11 October 2009 Members of the RAAF's 41 Wing were officially welcomed home and acknowledged for completing the ADF's two-year commitment commanding the Control and Reporting Centre in Kandahar.
- 23 October 2009 The fourth Chinook detachment prepared to return home to Australia following their eight-month deployment to Afghanistan.
- 4 December 2009 The ADF's Force Communications Unit 3 (FCU3) was officially farewelled as part of Operation SLIPPER. FCU3 is a joint deployment with elements located in the MEAO and Afghanistan.
- 13 January 2010 Australia's first leased Heron Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle (UAV) commenced initial operations in Afghanistan. Five months previously, an Australian contingent of predominantly RAAF personnel had commenced working with the Canadian UAV detachment in Afghanistan to become familiar with the system.
- 20 January 2010 Members of the first Mentoring Task Force (MTF1) contingent, mostly made up from the Army's 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, deployed to Afghanistan at the same time as communication and logistic support elements were deployed to the MEAO. While the term 'reconstruction' has been removed from the title, MTF1 continues the same reconstruction activities that were previously conducted by MRTFs 1 and 2.
- 11 February 2010 Members of MRTF2 were officially welcomed home from Afghanistan following their eight-month deployment.
- 26 February 2010 Major General Ash Power was appointed the first Australian officer to serve as Senior Military Adviser to Afghanistan's Defence Minister, General Abdul Rahim Wardak.

- 3 March 2010 MTF1 trains the Afghan National Army's 2nd and 4th Kandaks.
- 18 March 2010 The Minister for Defence, John Faulkner, announced that the personnel strength currently deployed to Afghanistan will remain at 1,550 for the year. The government announced that 10 personnel will be drawn from within Defence's embedded Afghanistan staff 'to develop a training concept for Afghanistan's Combat Arms Artillery School' located in Kandahar.
- 30 March 2010 The fifth helicopter detachment comprising two Chinooks commenced operations in Afghanistan and is expected to remain for eight months.
- 17 April 2010 The second contingent of the Second Force Support Unit returned to Australia from the MEAO and Afghanistan after being replaced by the Third Force Support Unit, which commenced operations on 11 April 2010.
- 31 May 2010 The ADF's mentoring role training elements of the Afghan military was expanded when MTF1 assumed responsibility for mentoring the Afghan National Army's 4th Brigade and a *kandak* previously mentored by the Netherlands. The Dutch are expected to transition further *kandak* elements to the ADF as they withdraw from Afghanistan by August 2010. A French-mentored *kandak* will also transition to Australian responsibility later in the year.
- 23 June 2010 Minister for Defence John Faulkner announced that with the Dutch withdrawing in August 2010, ISAF have agreed to new arrangements establishing a US-led multinational command structure in Uruzgan, which will comprise military and civilian elements. He also foreshadowed that Australia's military presence in Afghanistan might be drawn down within the next two to four years.
- 9 July 2010 A RAAF C-130 Hercules detachment was officially welcomed home following a deployment to the MEAO in support of Operations SLIPPER and KRUGER. Their replacements had already commenced flying operations in the Middle East.

- 3 October 2010 Prime Minister Julia Gillard's first official travel was to Afghanistan, where she thanked troops for their bravery and dedication.
- 4 October 2010 The Prime Minister noted that progress was being made in training and through the Provincial Reconstruction Teams, and estimated a transition process of two to four years.
- 12 October 2010 The Prime Minister announced the date for a formal parliamentary debate on Afghanistan. A commitment to hold this debate was contained in the Australian Labor Party–Greens Agreement signed following the August 2010 federal election.
- 19 October 2010 Opening the parliamentary debate on Afghanistan, Prime Minister Julia Gillard highlighted Australia's exit strategy for Afghanistan, stating: 'The international community and the Afghan Government are agreed on a clear pathway forward.'
- 23 March 2011 In a parliamentary update, the Defence Minister Stephen Smith focused on the transfer of security responsibility in Afghanistan, emphasising that 'transition will be a process rather than a single event' and that 'we believe the Uruzgan transition process can occur over the next three years, between 2012 and 2014'.
- 13 October 2011 The Defence Minister stated that Afghan forces were 'on track' to take over security in Uruzgan 'by 2014'. He also confirmed that there would continue to be an Australian presence in Afghanistan after 2014.
- 21 November 2011 Prime Minister Gillard updated parliament on the progress of Australia's whole-of-government effort in Afghanistan. She reported on the progress made by ISAF and provided a plan for the next three years, whereby Australia would transition into more of a training role, with possible special forces mandate.
- 24 November 2011 Defence Minister Smith updated parliament on a number of aspects of Australia's commitment to the conflict, including detainee management and transfers and an update of detainee allegations.

- 28 November 2011 Following President Karzai's announcement of a second tranche of districts to be handed over to Afghan security responsibility, Prime Minister Gillard said that this 'underlines the progress made this year'.
- 3 February 2012 Defence Minister Smith indicated his belief that Afghan national security forces would play the lead security role in 'most if not all' of Afghanistan by mid-2013. Smith also noted there was a 'good prospect' that Uruzgan would be in the third tranche of territories to be handed over to Afghan security control.
- 9 February 2012 Defence Minister Smith emphasised that the international community needed to be making decisions about their post-2014 commitment to Afghanistan. Smith also outlined key issues that the government believed needed to be discussed at the upcoming NATO Summit in Chicago (20–21 May 2012).
- 18 March 2012 Defence Minister Smith again noted that Australia expected that Uruzgan would be part of the 'third tranche' of areas to be transferred to Afghan security control.
- 17 April 2012 Prime Minister Gillard foreshadowed the forthcoming NATO–ISAF meetings in Brussels and Chicago and emphasised the success so far of the counterinsurgency mission in Afghanistan. The PM also flagged forthcoming transition stages and the expectations for ongoing support in Afghanistan.
- 19 April 2012 In their statement to the NATO–ISAF Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers' Meeting (16–19 April 2012), the Foreign and Defence ministers outlined that Australia would be open to providing training and a special forces contribution—'under the right mandate'—in addition to financial contributions to the ANSF.
- 10 May 2012 In this parliamentary update, the Defence Minister focused on 'detainee management'. Smith detailed the detainee management process, how it is monitored and how allegations of mistreatment are dealt with.

- 13 May 2012 The Afghan Government announced a third set of geographical areas to start the transition process, including Uruzgan.
- 16 May 2012 In the lead-up to the NATO Summit in Chicago, the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence announced that Australia would contribute \$100 million annually for three years from 2015 ‘to help sustain and support Afghan National Security Forces beyond the transition process’.
- 20 May 2012 During the NATO Summit in Chicago, Prime Minister Gillard and Foreign Minister Bob Carr announced that Australian aid to Afghanistan would grow from \$165 million per year—the 2011–12 budget figure—to \$250 million per year by 2015–16. Also during the NATO Summit, Prime Minister Gillard and Afghan President Hamid Karzai signed the agreement to a comprehensive long-term partnership between Australia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- 24 May 2012 Defence Minister Smith updated parliament on a number of aspects of Australia’s commitment to the conflict, including outcomes from the NATO–ISAF Chicago Summit, ADF and civilian casualties, and detainee management issues.
- 31 May 2012 The government announced that Australia was taking on the leadership role of Combined Team – Uruzgan (CT-U). There would be no change in average troop numbers or ‘authorised strength’. Australia would take command of CT-U in late 2012.
- 8 July 2012 Australia signed a memorandum of agreement with the Aghanistan Government to facilitate Australia’s development assistance contribution between 2012 and 2017. This would focus on education, rural development and financial and electoral management.
- 17 July 2012 The Australian Government welcomed the formal start of the transition process in Uruzgan, noting that the transition ‘is on track for completion over the next 12 to 18-month period’.

- 16 August 2012 Defence Minister Smith again updated parliament on Australia's commitment to the conflict, including Australian and civilian casualties, high-profile attacks by the Taliban, green-on-blue incidents, detainee management and allegations of mistreatment made against Australian personnel.
- 29 August 2012 The Prime Minister made a public statement concerning the recent deaths of five soldiers in Afghanistan, owing to an insider attack and a separate helicopter crash.
- 9 October 2012 Defence Minister Smith's paid a fifth visit to Afghanistan, where he discussed the transition progress with ISAF commanders and local Afghan leaders.
- 14 October 2012 The Prime Minister addressed troops in Afghanistan, emphasising the importance of the mission in response to acts of terrorism, such as the 9/11 attacks and the Bali bombings of 2002.
- 31 October 2012 Prime Minister Gillard addressed parliament once more on Australia's commitment to the conflict, including the progress of transition arrangements, Australia's whole-of-government effort including AusAID and the AFP, and the need for resolve in supporting Afghanistan post-2014.
- 22 November 2012 Defence Minister Smith announced that all four infantry *kandak* of the Afghan National Army's 4th Brigade were now operating independently and had taken control of forward operating bases and patrol bases in Uruzgan.
- 7 February 2013 Defence Minister Smith addressed parliament on Australia's commitment to the conflict, including transition arrangements, the reconciliation process, Australia's post-2014 mission, and support for veterans, including mental health problems such as PTSD.
- 20 February 2013 Defence Minister Smith discussed the transition progress with senior Afghan officials (including President Karzai) and ISAF commanders. Also discussed was the reconciliation process and the post-2014 international commitment to Afghanistan.

- 26 March 2013 The Prime Minister and Minister for Defence welcomed the ISAF decision to close the Multi-National Base–Tarin Kowt at the end of 2013. Following this closure, the majority of Australian forces would return home from Afghanistan.
- 16 April 2013 Defence Minister Smith’s speech covered a range of topics, including the current status of the ADF transition in Afghanistan, Australia’s post-2014 mission, Australian relations with the United States and NATO, and support for veterans, particularly addressing mental health issues.
- 3 May 2013 Prime Minister Gillard provided a summary of the current ADF transition arrangements and indicated that Australia would be prepared to provide training (and possibly special forces) assistance post-2014.
- 16 May 2013 Defence Minister Smith once again updated the parliament on the status of Australia’s commitment to the conflict, largely regarding detainee management and his responses to allegations of misconduct by Australian personnel while in Afghanistan.
- 19 June 2013 Defence Minister Smith addressed parliament again on Australia’s commitment to the conflict, including current strategy and mission and transition arrangements, Australia’s post-2014 role, the Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process, and awards from operations in Afghanistan.
- 28 July 2013 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd visited Afghanistan to thank the troops and noted the improvements made in education and infrastructure.
- 6 August 2013 The Prime Minister attended the opening of an Afghanistan exhibition at the Australian War Memorial and provided personal reflections on Australia’s involvement in the conflict.
- 23 October 2013 Defence Minister David Johnston addressed the ISAF Defence Ministers’ meeting in Brussels, and discussed Australia’s ongoing training mission in Afghanistan during 2014 and probably beyond.

- 28 October 2013 Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited Afghanistan for a ceremony to mark Australia's drawdown in the conflict, and the cessation of the PRT. He also reaffirmed that Australia would support Afghanistan beyond 2014.
- 12 November 2013 The Prime Minister addressed parliament to discuss his recent visit to Afghanistan with the Opposition Leader, Bill Shorten. In acknowledging the progress made so far, he also presented some artefacts given by the Uruzgan governor as gifts.
- 11 December 2013 Defence Minister David Johnston updated parliament on the conclusion of operations in Uruzgan, as well as Australia's commitment to Afghanistan post-2014.
- 15 December 2013 The last combat troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan.
- January–December 2014 Four hundred ADF personnel remain on Operation SLIPPER in Kandahar and Kabul tasked with training, advising and assisting Afghan National Security Forces.
- December 2014 The final Heron UAV detachment leaves Afghanistan.
- 31 December 2014 Operation SLIPPER concludes, and the remaining troops undertaking train, advise and assist tasks with the Afghan National Security Forces are placed under Operation HIGHROAD.

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