



Canadian Forces

Supporting Canada's Mission



Canadian military personnel serve in Afghanistan on a rotational basis. One of Canada's newest aircraft, the C-17 Globemaster, is used to transport large amounts of troops and equipment into and out of Afghanistan.

© ENDMDN

Operation ATHENA

Operation ATHENA is Canada's contribution to the 43-nation, UN-mandated, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, comprising more than 2,800 Canadian personnel. Focused on Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan since the fall of 2005, the priorities of Operation ATHENA are:

- building capacity and capabilities in the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to enable the Afghan government to maintain its authority and defend its people in Kandahar province;
- supporting infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, schools, and municipal facilities to help the Afghan government serve its people in Kandahar province; and
- suppressing insurgency against the democratically elected government of Afghanistan, and preventing acts of terrorism.

Military equipment

Canadian Forces men and women deployed to Afghanistan have top-of-the-line equipment such as 155-mm M777 Howitzer artillery guns, Leopard 2A6M battle tanks, and Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV III) armoured personnel carriers. Due to the extreme conditions, high temperatures, and difficult terrain, the in-theatre transport and combat vehicle fleet is constantly maintained to ensure the safety of the crews and passengers, and maximize the success of their missions.

The Joint Task Force Afghanistan Air Wing, operational since early 2009, improves the effectiveness of Canada's military and civilian contingent by reducing the reliance on ground transport and by helping get to remote locations more quickly. Having an Air Wing with helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles meets one of the major recommendations of the Manley Panel.

