



## MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE DANISH HELMAND PLAN 2011-2012

- A major change of effort from combat to training of Afghan security forces will be implemented in the first six months of 2012. This change of effort will take place in the ratio 1:1, i.e. it will not change the force level of the Danish contribution to ISAF.
- The plan includes longer term perspectives for the engagement towards the end of 2014. This ensures continuity and enables the Danish soldiers to finish their task
- A wide range of Denmark's military capabilities will be employed, including air force capabilities

### Military Aspects of Denmark's Helmand Plan

The Danish Government and the Social Democrats, the Danish People's Party, the Social-Liberal Party and the Liberal Alliance have agreed on a two-year plan for the comprehensive Danish engagement in Afghanistan for 2011-2012 with a view towards 2014. The Helmand Plan builds on past achievements and the overarching Danish Afghanistan Strategy 2008-2012.



### Developments in 2011

The adjustment of the Danish troop contribution has already been initiated with the planned rotation of Danish troops in February 2011. The Artillery Locating Radar in the Danish Battle Group was taken out of service in Afghanistan by the end of 2010. Equally, a close protection unit and a military police section were terminated in February. These reductions allow for the following new capabilities to be deployed from February 2011:

- A Police Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (POMLT) of 21 persons, including civilian and military policemen, in addition to the already deployed Police Operational Mentor and Liaison Team in Gereshk city.
- A special operations team of approximately 15 persons deployed for four months from April 2011. The team will be affiliated with a

US-led Task Force near Kabul. The team will work in a military assistance role, primarily focussing on training of Afghan special police or other special forces.

- Two instructors assigned to the UK-led army infantry school in Kabul which is training Afghan army units.



- Continued contributions to relevant ISAF's land and air headquarters.
- In 2011 the Danish engagement will further focus operations on Gereshk City. This focus will allow an intensified effort on developing Afghan security forces.
- This changed focus of effort is also expected to create conditions for a hand over of additional forward patrol bases to the Afghan National Army, including bases in the so-called Patrol Base Line.





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- The intensified focus on capacity building allows a minor reduction of the total Danish troop contribution of around 30 soldiers.
- Similar to already announced minor troop reductions by USA and the UK, Denmark will aim to implement this reduction in a way that does not affect the main effort of the Danish engagement in Helmand.

### Developments in the Beginning of 2012

- From February 2012 a combat company and elements of the staff- and logistical structure will be replaced by trainers, mentors and enablers within an unchanged total number of troops.
- Denmark will deploy around 50 trainers and mentors with an additional close protection unit of 16-30 soldiers.
- 10-20 special operations forces will be deployed in a training- and partnering role, if possible in Helmand Province.
- Two Danish military instructors will be deployed to the Afghan Army signal school in Mazar-e-Sharif as a part of a joint Nordic contribution to the school.
- A mobile air operations centre with long-range air surveillance radar is deployed to conduct surveillance and coordination of air operations (up to 40 persons for up to one year).
- A C-130J transport aircraft will be deployed and made available for ISAF (up to 40 persons for up to one year, including a contribution to the operation of the relevant air base).



### Developments in the Second Half of 2012

- In the second half of 2012 the Danish Battle Group as such will cease to exist and will be replaced by a Danish led Training and Advisory Battalion.
- The overall Danish contribution will at that point be reduced to approximately 650 soldiers.
- The remaining infantry unit will stay in theatre in a Quick Reaction Force role. Among other tasks, this reserve force can back up Afghan security forces.
- Denmark seeks to deploy a transport helicopter unit by the end of 2012.
- A contribution with Danish special operations forces deployed in a training and partnering role will be continued.
- A contribution with a Danish C-130J transport aircraft will be maintained.

### Long Term Engagement

At the NATO summit in November 2010 the Afghan government reached an agreement with the international community that the Afghans themselves will assume full security responsibility by the end of 2014. 2011 will be pivotal in that respect when the transformation of responsibility is initiated.



NATO and the Afghan government also agreed on a long term partnership aiming beyond 2014. Therefore the new Danish Helmand Plan suggests a continued Danish contribution beyond 2014 consisting of trainers and enablers.