well as from an inability to protect themselves from insurgent attacks, due to inadequate leadership, training, and equipment. More Afghan police than soldiers die fighting insurgents. To rectify shortcomings in operational readiness of the Afghan National Police, units are now being retrained through the Focused District Development program that commenced in February 2009.

Plans to generate additional Afghan combat forces—increasing the size of the Afghan National Army to 134,000 personnel and of the Afghan National Police to nearly 97,000—will require several years (at minimum) to achieve. ISAF commander Stanley McChrystal’s assessment calls for eventual further increases up to 240,000 and 160,000 army and police personnel, respectively. However, expansion faces several constraints, including trade-offs between the speed and quality of training, shortage of international military and police trainers, a lack of depth from which to build an experienced national officer corps, high rates of illiteracy and of attrition, and overall financial unsustainability. Recurrent costs for 400,000 Afghan National Security Forces is estimated at $10 billion per annum, or more than 80 percent of Afghanistan’s current (licit) gross domestic product.

The NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A) was established in June by the North Atlantic Council and commenced activities in late 2009 to oversee higher-level training for the Afghan National Army and development of the Afghan National Police. The NTM-A unifies the existing NATO Directorate for Afghan National Army Training and Equipment and the