



# AN EXIT STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN

A Test Case for the Strategic Economy of Force

# SITUATION:

- Longest War in US History.
- Second Most Expensive War in US History.
- > 2400 American Deaths.
- > 20,000 Wounded.
- >\$50b for DOD this Budget Cycle. More than entire UK Defense Budget
- The Afghan Army Cannot Presently Defeat the Taliban or ISIS.
- Taliban Now Controls 50% of the Country.

# MISSION

1. **Deny Terrorist Sanctuary:** Prevent attack on US homeland
2. **Curtail Endless Expenditure of US Blood and Treasure:**
  - Reduce troop requirements from 15,000 to 0
  - Reduce contractors from 26,000 to 0
3. **Enhance Afghan Forces:** Ensure AFG Government controls its own territory with a viable and effective Army.
4. **Afghanization:** Remove the irritant and stigma of foreign invaders while providing a strong skeletal structure with key aviation and governance enablers to ensure viability and success of ANSF.

# THREE PRONGS OF A NEW TURN KEY APPROACH

- **Military Mentor Teams:** Long term skeletal structure for ANSF units. Embedded in the field
- **Aviation Support Unit:** Full spectrum reliable air support to bolster ANSF with key enablers.
- **ANSF Governance Support:** Logistics, Medical and Intelligence support.
- **What is different than the last 16 years:**
  - Provide the Afghan security forces with the ability to conduct multiple offensive operations instead of being holed up and waiting to be attacked
  - The terrorist elements will be relentlessly pursued as in the weeks after 9-11 where a few hundred CIA and SOF personnel devastated the terrorists. The conventional DOD paradigm has gone backwards ever since.
  - Unrelenting pressure placed upon Taliban to force them to the bargaining table, annihilate ISIS
  - Over time, a strategic mineral resource extraction funded effort that breaks the negative security economic cycle.

# MILITARY MENTOR TEAMS

- **Composition:** 36-Man Teams embedded into each Afghan infantry battalion.
- **Qualifications:** Western SOF Veteran Contractors.
- **Mission:** Provide key enablers of Leadership, Communications, Intel, Medical, Weapons and Logistics expertise in the field. The Mentors will Eat, Sleep, Train and Operate with ANA forces at Platoon, Company and Battalion level.
- **Long Term Relationships:** Long term deployments keep the mentors attached to same ANSF unit for years. Low Turnover, maximum area experience.
- **Serve as adjuncts in the ANA:** Serving as adjuncts to Afghan Army, prevents their designation as mercenaries.
- **Village Stability Operations:** Utilize Army SOF VSO playbook to increase effectiveness of stability effort. VSO worked before, it will work again.

# AFGHAN AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT:

- **Immediate Turn-Key Capability:** Bolster the lacking airpower capabilities of ANSF, badged as ANAF with Afghan aboard making any weapons decisions.
- **Practical Aircraft:** Much Lower Cost Structure. Appropriate air frames for high operational tempo.
- **Key Capabilities:**
  - ISR
  - Close Air Support, Fixed and Rotary wing
  - Medevac
  - Battlefield Mobility
  - Air Logistics
- **Prevent Training/Maintenance Delay:** Western Trainers/ Pilots/ Mechanics arrive with aircraft.

# ANSF GOVERNANCE SUPPORT UNIT:

- **Provide Battalion Level Logistics** : Ensure combat support to all units attached: Food/Fuel/ Munitions/Parts.
- **Payroll Assistance**: Prevent “Ghost Soldiers” and skim of junior soldiers pay by the officers.
- **Merit Based Promotions**: Mentors provide valid evaluations for promotions of the best Afghans, not based on bribes or tribes.
- **Combat Medicine**: Average of nearly 1,000 ANSF KIA and 600 WIA per month. Afghans need to know they will be cared for quickly if injured.

# PHASE ONE: TEST CASE IN TWO STRATEGIC PROVINCES

- **NANGAHAR:**

- Egress Route to and from Pakistani Safe Haven
- Both Haqqani Network and ISIS Stronghold
- Significant Rare Earth Element and lithium deposits
- Infamous Tora Bora Region and Tunnel Networks

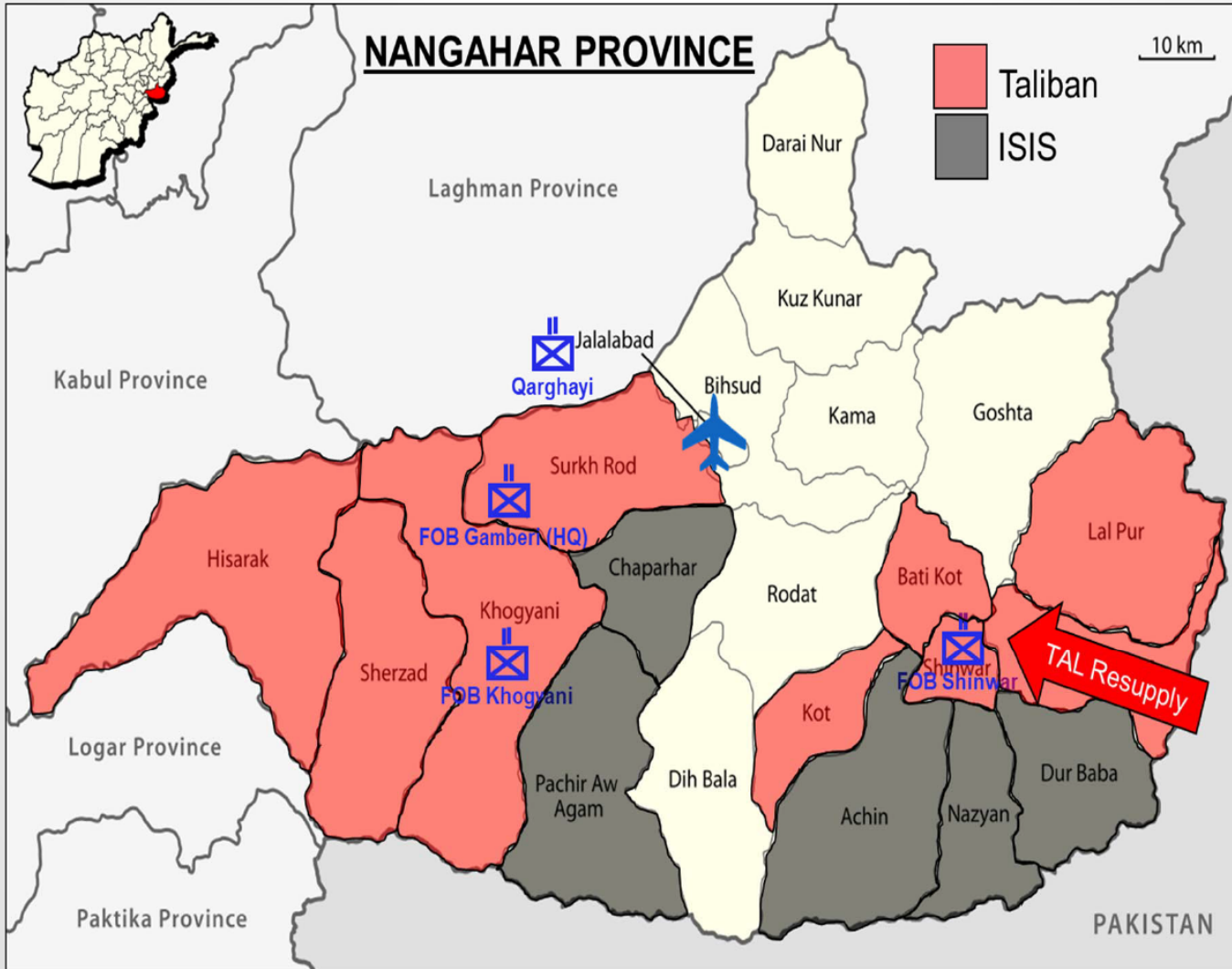
- **HELMAND:**

- Taliban Center of Gravity and Primary Source of Revenue
- Egress Route to and from Pakistani Safe Haven
- Taliban Center of Gravity
- Numerous Rare Earth Elements



# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF PHASE ONE

- **Offensive Posture:** The ANA is surrounded and in a defensive posture in most districts. Mentored units with Robust Air Support, Medevac and Troop Transport will put them back on Offense.
- **Reduce Defections:** ANA soldiers are rapidly defecting. With proper support, defections will end. As the tide turns, defectors will likely change sides and come back to the ANA.
- **Deny Sanctuary:** Maneuver capabilities will deprive Taliban and ISIS forces of sanctuary within Afghanistan.
- **Proof of Concept:** Phase One will confirm that the ANA can be supported sufficiently to shoulder the burden of its own domestic security.
- **Verify a New Approach:** Prove vendors' capabilities to provide USG with Key Enablers of CSAR, Force Protection, QRF, and Combat Medevac
- **Initiate Strategic Mining:** Develop and Produce key Rare Earth Minerals to restore US high tech manufacturing supply chain.



# NANGARHAR PROVINCE GROUND FORCES:

- **Base Camp/LOG Support/Medical:** A Province Base Camp shall be established at the Jalalabad Airport.
  - Intel JOC
  - Aviation Deconfliction Cell
  - Combat Logistics Cell
  
- **Mentor Teams:** A 36-man Mentor Team co-located with each of the four ANA Battalions in Nangarhar.
  - FOB Shinwar
  - FOB Khogyani
  - FOB Gamberi
  - FOB Qarghayi

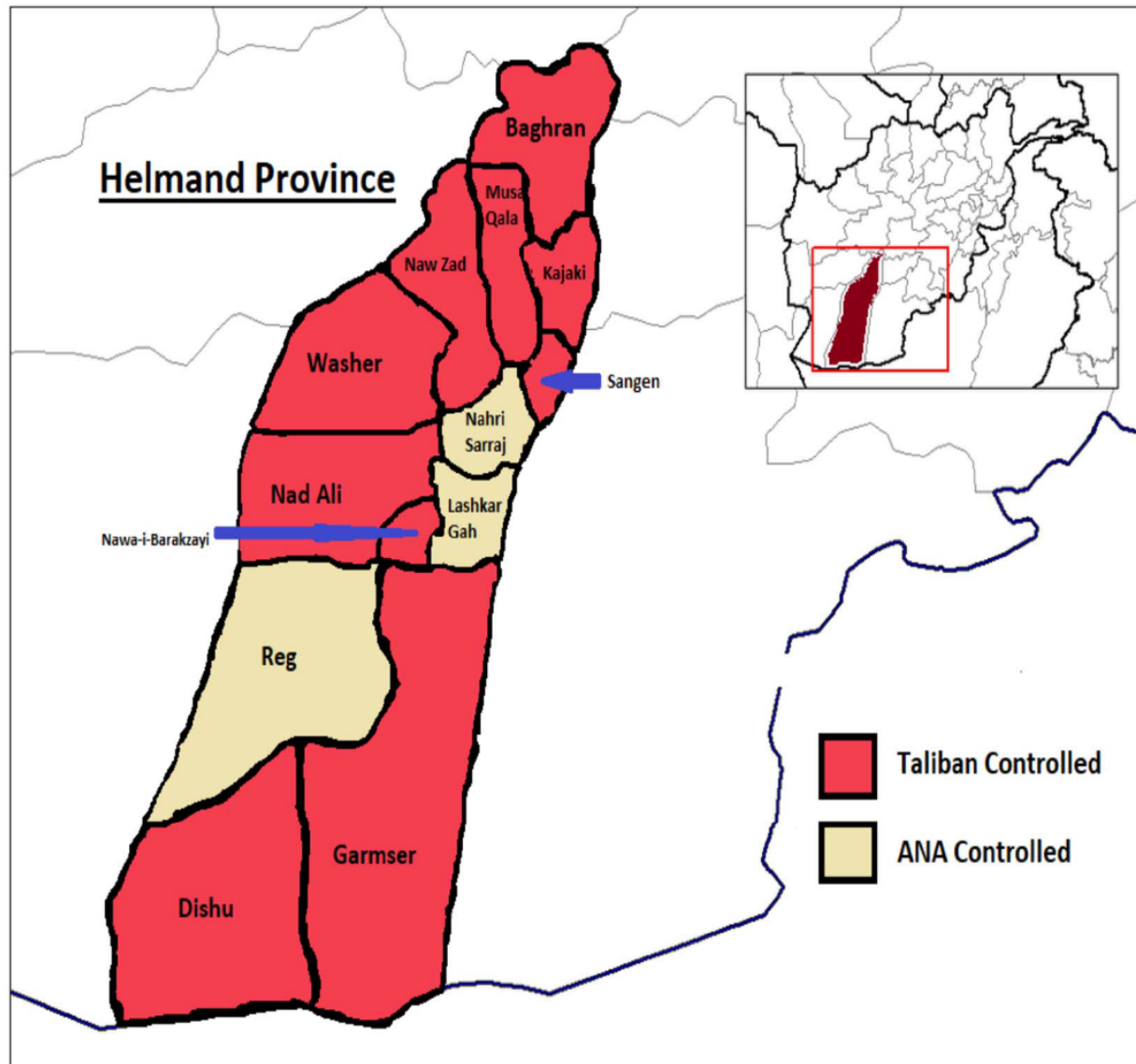
The Nangarhar Province Base Camp shall be staffed by 99 Specialists

144 men working in 4 Mentor Teams shall be used to secure Nangarhar Province.

# NANGARHAR PROVINCE AVIATION FORCES

- **ISR:**
  - 1 x Diamond DA-62
  - 4 x Lionseye UAV
- **Armed Reconnaissance:**
  - 2 x T-Bird ISR Aircraft
- **Close Air Support:**
  - 2 x AN-26 side fire Gunship
  - 3 x A-4 Skyhawk
  - 4 x AH-1 Cobra
- **Air Logistics:**
  - 1 x AN-26 Curl-A
- **Air Mobility/CSAR:**
  - 4 x EC-225 Super Puma
- **Aerostat:**
  - 4 x Aerostat

- 73 Pilots and Mechanics operating 19 Aircraft, Aerostats and UAV's shall be used to secure Nangarhar Province.
- 21,120 Flight hours



# HELMAND PROVINCE GROUND FORCES:

- **Base Camp:** A Province Base Camp shall be established at the Lashkar Gah Airport.
  - Intel JOC
  - Aviation Deconfliction Cell
  - Logistics Cell
  - Business Administration Cell
  
- **Mentor Team Distribution:** A 36-man Team will be co-located with each of the 13 ANA Battalions in Helmand.

The Helmand Base Camp shall be staffed by 107 Specialists

475 men divided into 13 teams of 36 men shall be used to secure Helmand Province.

# HELMAND PROVINCE AVIATION FORCES

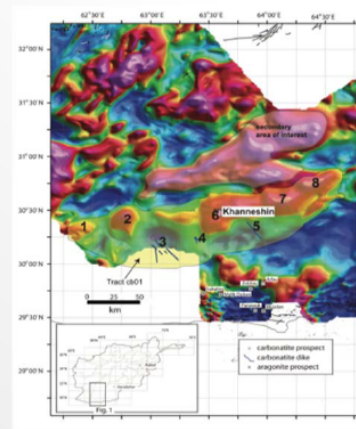
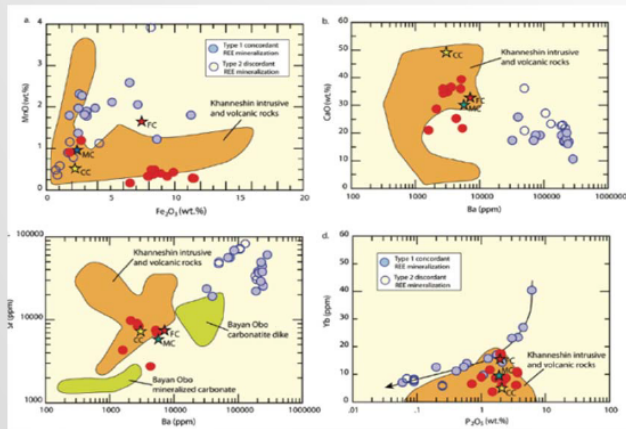
- **ISR:**
  - 2 x Diamond DA-62
  - 6 x Lionseye UAV
- **Armed Reconnaissance:**
  - 2 x T-Bird ISR Aircraft
- **Close Air Support:**
  - 2 x AN-26G
  - 4 x A-4 Skyhawk
  - 4 x AH-1 Cobra
  - 4 X 342m Gazelle
- **Air Logistics:**
  - 1 x AN-26 Curl-A
- **Air Mobility:**
  - 6 x EC-225 Super Puma
- **Aerostat:**
  - 12 x Aerostat

- 105 Pilots and Mechanics operating 31 Aircraft, Aerostats and UAV's shall be used to secure Helmand Province.
- 31,460 Flight Hours

# HELMAND PROVINCE – RARE EARTHS

Estimated Value of Viable Mineral Deposits in Helmand up to \$1 Trillion, including \$1B in REEs alone

- Two types of Light Rare Earth Element Both are extremely high grade, and comparable to world-class deposits at Bayan Obo (China) and Mountain Pass (CA, USA)
  - Type 1: Total LREE content of 1.83 – 6.23 wt. % (La, Ce, Pr, Nd)
  - Type 2: Total LREE content of 0.49 – 5.98 wt. % (La, Ce, Pr, Nd)
- Main uranium prospect (SW): High U content in igneous rock (50 – 100 ppm), with veins containing 8.04 – 9.63% U
- Secondary uranium prospect with lower assay results
- Phosphorus prospect: 8.3 wt. % P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> & 1.0 – 1.5 wt. % LREE (mostly Ce)
- Est. undiscovered resources (50% probability, based on regional geology):
  - 1.4 Mt REE, 6.2 Mt P, 3.5 Mt Nb



Following on Soviet work, USGS geologists produced excellent maps of the deposit in 2007 & 2011

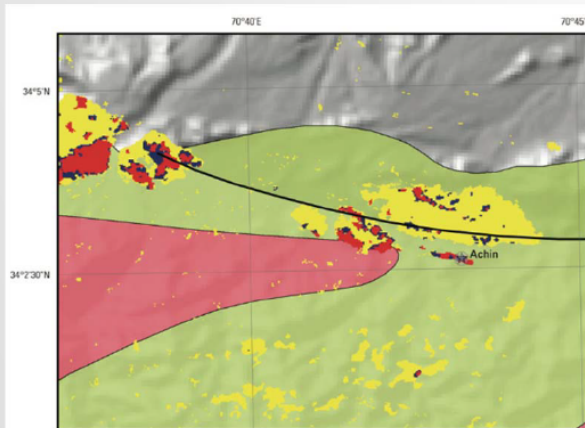


# NANGARHAR PROVINCE – MAGNESITE, TALC AND RARE EARTHS

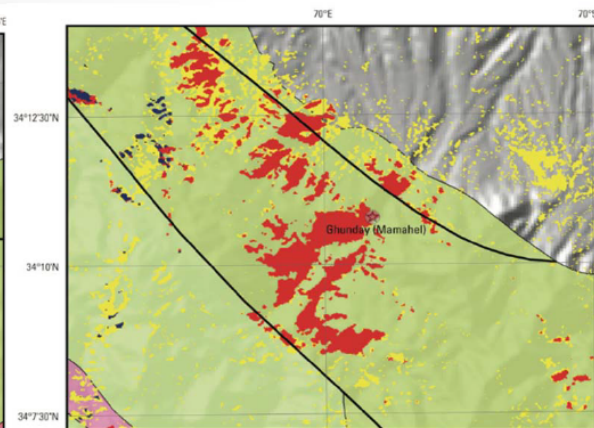
**Estimated Value of Mineral Deposits in Nangarhar: \$4.3 BN in Magnesite and Talc, with substantial upside potential**

Additional geophysical work seems likely to increase the size and scope of the deposits, as the target zones are vast and indicate the likelihood of rare earth deposits

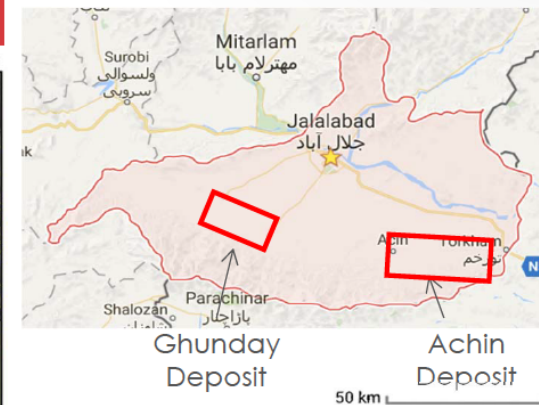
**Achin Deposit**



**Ghunday Deposit**



**Location in Nangarhar**



- 1.25 Mt talc @ 50 – 95 wt. % talc (20 talc bodies)
- 31.2 Mt magnesite @ 81 – 83 wt. % MgO (15 magnesite bodies; 6 large)

- Two talc zones (12 talc bodies total)
  - Northern Zone: 0.36 Mt @ avg. 76 vol. %
  - Southern Zone: 0.11 Mt @ avg. 81 vol. %

# U.S. REMAINS SUBJECT TO MARKET MANIPULATION IN REES

- In recent years, China has made the control of the global REEs an unstated economic policy
- During its peak production year, when it was producing 95% of the world's REEs, it enacted a 40% export quota
  - In addition to starving supply to Western markets, it is believed the goal was to force Western users to onshore tech to mainland China
- The market was able to mount a response to the cartel like activity and stabilize prices, and a WTO ruling later stated that the tariffs and other manipulation by China violated its terms
- The subsequent drop in export control appears to have pushed prices down to a level unsustainable by Molycorp, the only U.S. producer of REEs
  - The environmental restrictions of operating in the U.S. are an impossible disadvantage
- Because China state regulations around mine development, finance, and environmental impact can enable a favorable climate for domestic production, China remains in firm control of the REE market
- Its 2017 win of the Molycorp assets auction means that, pending U.S. approval, China will also own the only potential U.S. domestic production
- While other countries are aiming at boosting REE production, a China currently holds the dominant market position, a threat to U.S. manufacturing capability in electronics and unique defense products.

# SUMMARY

- The Pentagon strategy has not worked for 16 years, even with 140,000 Troops and Political Will is wearing thin. The current strategy will not effect the changes the President demands.
- It is time to return to a robust Intel/SOF led fight backed by organic airpower. Exercise and demonstrate the capability now so when the political winds shift, the Agency is ready with solutions it will be ordered to implement.
- Utilize the unique Title 50 Authorities to give the President a tailored and effective solution the Agency alone can provide
- The extraction of strategic Rare Earth minerals can provide the USA a unique benefit for its strategic high tech manufacturing base while providing thousands of Afghans employment