

Province: Badghis
Governor: Delbar Jan Arman Shinwari
Deputy Governor: Haji Abdul Ghani Sabir
Provincial Police Chief: Brig Gen Muhammad Awaz Nazari
PRT Leadership: Spain

Population Estimate:	Urban: 11,700	Rural: 408,700 ¹
Area in Square Kilometers: 20,591	Capital: Qalay-i-Naw	
Names of Districts:	Jawand, Murghab, Ghormach, Qadis, Muqur, Qala-I-Naw, Ab Kamari	
Composition of Population: ²	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Tajik 62% Pashtun 28% Uzbek 5% Turkmen 3% Baluch 2%	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni 90% Shi'a 10%
	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Aimak, Durrani Pashtun	
Occupation of Population	Major: Livestock, Agriculture	Minor: Handicrafts
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Pistachio, Opium, Wheat, Barley, Maize, Melons, Sesame	Cattle, Goat, Horse, Donkey
Literacy Rate Total: ³ 9%		
Number of Educational Institutions: ⁴	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: 158 Secondary: 28 High Schools: 14	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u>
Number of Security Incidents, 2007:	January: 0 February: 1 March: 0 April: 1	May: 3 June: 3 July: 2 August: 2
	September: 4 October: 3 November: 4 December: 0	
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation: ⁵	2006: 3,205 ha	2007: 4,219 ha
NGOs Active in Province:	UNICEF, UNHCR, UNAMA, UNOPS, UNFAO, UN-Habitat, WHO, ALISEI, OI, NPO, IMC, WV, Norway WV, RRAA, IOM, Maltesser, German Agro Action, MSF	
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> ⁶	Total PRT Projects: Complete: 144/\$12,656,057 Ongoing: 187/\$38,694,462 Planned: Total: 331/\$51,350,519	Other Aid Projects: Planned Cost: \$ Total Spent: \$
Total Projects: Planned Cost: \$ Total Spent: \$ Per Capita 2007: \$122		
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> None <u>Secondary:</u> None <u>Tertiary:</u> The province is dominated by track roads connecting most major population centers and villages. The Spanish PRT has spent the majority of its time and effort to improve the route	

¹ Central Statistics Office Afghanistan, *2005-2006 Population Statistics*, available from <http://www.cso-af.net/cso/documents/estimated%20population%201384.xls> (accessed July 9, 2008).

² Afghan Information Management Services, Badhis District Profiles, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=363> (accessed July 9, 2008)

³ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 164, available from http://www.cphd.af/nhdr/nhdr07/download/pdfs/eng/nhdr07_complete.pdf (accessed July 9, 2008)

⁴ AISA, *Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies Report*, Badghis Provincial Profile. Available from <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Badghis.pdf> (accessed July 9, 2008)

⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007*, 39.


⁶ ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

	from the capital to Herat.	
Electricity: ⁷	All electrical power is provided by diesel generators supplied by the PRT	The Morghab River is a potential source of hydro-electric power
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 1 in Qalay-i-Naw	<u>Clinics:</u> 15
Primary Sources of Drinking Water: ⁸	Piped water or public tap/standpipe or tube well/borehole or protected spring/well/rainwater	Availability of Potable Water: 26 %
Rivers: Murghab and Hari-Rud		
Significant Topographic Features	The province is dominated by the Murghab River in the north and the Hari-Rud River in the south. It is bordered on the north by the Desert of the Sarakhs. Extremely mountainous and remote with poor infrastructure. Ranked as one of the most under-developed provinces.	

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:⁹

Governor:

	<p>Delbar Jan Arman Shinwari</p>	<p>Shinwari is the former longstanding governor of southern Zabul province. He replaced Badghis Governor Mohammad Ashraf Nasseri in late March, 2009. He has never visited Badghis Province before assuming his new position. A Pashtun from Jaji Maidan district, Khost Province, Shinwari served as governor of Zabul since March 6, 2005, making him one of the longer-serving governors in the region. He replaced native son Khial Mohammad Husseini, who had held office less than a year.</p> <p>Despite his outsider status, Shinwari is highly regarded as an effective governor. He has worked closely with PRTs, and was instrumental in setting up an auxiliary police force in his province. Together with the ANA battalion based at Qalat, he has consistently worked against anti-government militias such as the Taliban. In return, his convoys were ambushed twice in October of 2006.</p> <p>Shinwari has a military and academic background, having studied in Kabul at the American Technical College for six years in the</p>
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⁷ AISA, Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies Report, Badghis Provincial Profile. Available from <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Badghis.pdf> (accessed July 9, 2008)

⁸ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 166. Available from http://www.undp.org.af/Publications/KeyDocuments/nhdr07_complete.pdf (accessed July 10, 2008)


⁹ Photos exist in two online sources: Spanish Minister of Defense, El Cauderno de Protocolo, available at <http://protocolodigital.es/labels/Internacional.html> (accessed July 17, 2008) and United States Central Command News, CJTF-82, available at <http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/prt-promotes-governance-development-in-badghis-province.html>

		1970s and undergone military training with the Afghan army. He speaks Pashtu, Dari, and English.
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Deputy Governor:

	Haji Abdul Ghani Sabir	Little information is currently available for Haji Abdul Ghani Sabir
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Chief of Police:

	Brig Gen Muhammad Awaz Nazari	Little information is currently available for Brig Gen Muhammad Awaz Nazari
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Wolesi Jirga Members: ¹⁰

	Mohammad Yaqoub Independent	Occupations: Teacher, Pharmacist, former Mayor of Qalay-i-Naw. Leading vote getter in parliamentary elections in Badghis. Ethnicity: Uzbek Age: 50 Family: Married. 8 children. Two oldest sons run an English language and computer center in Herat. Education and Training: Secondary school in Qalah-e-Naw. Teacher training schools in Herat and Kabul. Bio: Taught school in Badghis from 1985-1995. After 1995, teaching became difficult as Badghis became a fault line of conflict between Ismail Khan and Junbesh and the Taliban. Yaqub then opened up a pharmacy. After Karzai became president, Yaqub became mayor of
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¹⁰ Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=1&ProvinceID=23> (accessed July 16, 2008)


	<p>Qalah-e Naw but resigned a year later because he perceived the then-governor and chief of police to be corrupt. He subsequently managed his pharmacy and worked for an NGO.</p> <p>Political Affiliation: Yaqub describes himself as an independent. He is supportive of the current governor, but noted that the governor is not present enough in Badghis and does not travel sufficiently in the province to develop his authority. According to Yaqub, Ismail Khan still has influence in Badghis, but it is diminished.</p>
 <p>Haji Mullah Abdullah</p> <p>Independent</p>	<p>Occupations: Northern Alliance Commander, farmer</p> <p>Ethnicity: Pashtun. 58 years old and has lived his entire life in Ghormach Age: 58</p> <p>Family: Two wives. No children</p> <p>Education and Training: No formal education. Studied religion as a youth. Bio: Has spent his entire life in Ghormach district (bordering Turmenistan and Faryab province). Farmed family land until becoming Commander in Anti-Soviet Jihad. Returned to farm post Soviet era. Did not engage in organized resistance against the Taliban.</p> <p>Political Affiliation: He considers himself a political independent. According to Abdullah, the Badghis governor is well intentioned, but has paid only one visit to Ghormach. In his opinion, many other provincial officials are corrupt. He has no opinion about the PRT; it has been inactive in Ghormach.</p> <p>Security: Abdullah believes that one of the biggest security threats in Badghis is the Gulian, a group of Pashtun families in Gormach. About 60 of the 300 families are engaged in animal rustling and common thievery. Although Abdullah claims to have kept them in check during his days as a commander, he said the current corrupt police force has allowed their criminal pursuits.</p>
 <p>Azita Rafat</p> <p>Independent</p>	<p>Occupations: Teacher, Volunteer worker</p> <p>Ethnicity: Tajik</p> <p>Education and Training: High School. Multi-lingual: Dari, Pashtu, Urdu, Russian, and conversational English.</p> <p>Family: Married with four daughters, including six-year-old twins. Her husband is unemployed. Her father is an academic who has taught at the University of Kabul; he presently works as a businessman.</p> <p>Bio: Born in Qalah-e Naw and graduated from high school there after studying in Kabul. After graduating from high school, Rafat became a teacher. During the Taliban years she worked in health, assisting women and children in villages. After the fall of the Taliban, she worked for a German NGO in the health field, and then with UNAMA in voter registration. She is a member of the Afghan Red Crescent and a member of the Afghan Independent Commission for Human Rights. Before being elected to the National Assembly, she was Director of Women's Affairs in Badghis; in this capacity she started a computer learning center in Qalah-e Naw.</p>

Political Affiliation: Independent. Working to form a non-aligned block of about 90 representatives. She is a young female activist focused on development for her province and with a particular concern about the Badghis custom of selling girls. Azita Rafat ranked third among all candidates in votes for National Assembly candidates from Badghis. Unlike the more well-known Malalai Joya from Farah province, who has sharply criticized the presence of mujahadeen and drug lords in the National Assembly, Rafat believes it is important to work with fellow representatives, regardless of their pasts. She is sharply critical of Joya, whom she regards as a grandstander with no positive agenda. She has met frequently with the other three representatives from Badghis and hopes to lobby the central government to pay more attention to Badghis. In her view, provincial priorities are potable water, electricity, and roads.



Rafat is supportive of the Spanish PRT in Badghis. She believes, however, that it has not sufficiently solicited the opinions of people in Badghis as to development priorities. She also feels that the PRT has not hired the economically neediest people to work on its projects. She would like to see roads built within the province linking the districts.

Rafat is an outspoken critic of the prevalent sale of girls in Badghis for marriage. The going price is between USD four and ten thousand. The price has gone up recently because people are poorer after several years of drought and fathers are therefore demanding more money and because commanders and drug lords are willing to spend more. The sale of girls has become a common practice, according to Rafat, and it will be difficult to end since people are uneducated and the judicial system is undeveloped and corrupt.









The U. S. State Department has assessed that Azita Rafat is bright, assertive, and a committed democrat, unusual in a province where women are as oppressed as anywhere in Afghanistan. Like many Afghans, she is impatient with the pace of reconstruction; this translates into criticism of the Spanish PRT and international assistance in general. She will be a positive force in the National Assembly, but her effectiveness will likely be impeded by her relative youth and gender.

	Mullah Malang	Independent	
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Meshrano Jirga Members: ¹¹

	Mohtaramah	Transitional Meshrano Jirga Member	
	Mohammad Rangin Mashkawani	Permanent Meshrano Jirga Member	

Provincial Council Members: ¹²

	Mullah Tawakal ¹³		Mawlawi Mohammad Hussain Faizan
	Dost Mohammad		Monshi Ramazan Sorkhabi
	Qari Dawlat Mohammad		Soraya Mohammadi
	Mohammad Hanif		Fariba

Primary Political Parties:

Jamiat-e Islami (Islamic Society of Afghanistan): ¹⁴

¹¹ Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/resultsMJ.asp?list=mj&offset=45> (accessed July 16, 2008).

¹² Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=2&pcv=2&ProvinceID=23> (accessed July 16, 2008)

¹³ Mullah Tawakal's house was reportedly bombed by NATO forces on November 5, 2008 following a clash between Taliban insurgents and a NATO patrol in the Ghormach district. His two sons, Abdullah and Muhammad Nader, were reportedly killed in the attack. Ahmad Qureshi & Abdul Latif Ayubi, "15 militants, seven civilians killed in coalition strike," Pajhwok Afghan News, November 6, 2008. <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=64924>

¹⁴ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *Country Fact Sheet*

AFGHANISTAN, http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/publications/index_e.htm?docid=376&cid=0&sec=CH03 (accessed on May 23, 08)

The Islamic Society of Afghanistan is reported to have approximately 60,000 supporters in Northern Afghanistan. The party is led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, previously president of the Islamic State. Other key figures are Abdul Hafez Mansur and Munawar Hasan. It is predominately a Tajik political party which was active in the anti-Soviet jihad and a major political player in the Northern Alliance. Today Rabbani supports Karzai. Yunus Qanuni's Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween is a splinter group of Jamiat-e Islami. At least three of the District Governors of Badghis Province are members of Jamiat-e-Islami.

Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HIG):¹⁵

This mujahideen party has been active since the Soviet invasion; and is led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. It is actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces and is politically active in neighboring Herat Province. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential among other religious and ethnic groups in the provinces of northwestern Afghanistan, particularly the Shi'a.

Hizb-i Wahdat (Mohaqqeq)

The Shiite umbrella party, Hizb-I Wahdat is composed of seven of the eight Shiite parties (minus the Harakat-e Islami) that existed in Afghanistan from the time of the anti-Soviet campaigns. Now led by Wolesi Jirga member (and former planning minister) Hajji Muhammad Mohaqqeq, the party continues to represent both Shiites and Hazaras. During the period of Taliban rule, the party held fast in the Hazarajat whilst the Taliban tried through blockade to bring the Hazaras to their knees through starvation.

Islamic Council of Herat:

The Islamic Council of Herat, which consists of scholars, religious figures, independent civic foundations and non-government bodies is a loose conglomeration created to voice concerns, particularly security issues, which they feel the provincial government is not adequately addressing. The commercial ties between Qalay-i-Naw and Herat may serve as a conduit for the Council's influence in Badghis as infrastructure improves linking the two provinces.

Human Terrain:

Tajiks: The Tajik are the largest ethnic group in Badghis Province. They are the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan after the Pashtuns and comprise between 25-30% of the Afghan population. The Tajiks in Afghanistan tend to live in settled communities as opposed to a nomadic lifestyle. Pashtuns refer to them as *Farsiwan*, or speakers of Farsi, the lingua franca of Afghanistan (50% of Afghanistan speaks Farsi, as opposed to only 35% for Pashtu). Between the Tajiks and Pashtuns there has been significant animosity in recent years. Forming the backbone of the Northern Alliance, they also have a base in the nation of Tajikistan. They held out fiercely against the Taliban. Most Tajik are Sunni Muslims, but a few are Shi'a. Tajiks made up the majority of the Northern Alliance, both in terms of membership and leadership. Tribal ties have largely broken down among the Tajiks; therefore, social organization is defined primarily by geography. Despite their lack of cohesiveness the Tajiks are often brought together due to the perceived common threat posed by the Pashtuns.¹⁶

Pasthun: Durrani Pashtuns are located primarily in Mughab and Gormach Districts of Badghis Province. The largest single ethnicity of Afghanistan, the Pashtun, and in particular the largest tribe of Said, the Ghilzai, formed the backbone of the Taliban movement. Traditionally beholden to the moral code of *Pashtunwali* ("the way of the Pashtun"), they can easily be deeply offended by breaches of the code and carry the grudge for generations. The Pashtuns are fiercely independent and often view themselves, as the largest ethnicity in the country, as the rightful leaders of Afghanistan. That being said, they suffered much during the Soviet invasion, and must be included in any effort to secure and develop the country. Pashtuns in Ab-Kamari District have reported that they are under-represented politically and are often suffer extortion at the hands of individuals claiming to be government representatives.¹⁷

¹⁵ Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*

¹⁶ 2007 CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html> (accessed June 28, 2007).

¹⁷ Afghan Information Management Services, Badhis District Profiles, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=363> (accessed July 9, 2008)

Baluch: The Baluch, thought to number over a million in Afghanistan, are an Indo-Iranian ethnic group spread over Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. Significant numbers also exist abroad. In Pakistan, Baluchi independence groups have fought with Islamabad over the revenues from natural resources in Baluchistan. The capital of Pakistani Baluchistan is Quetta, where many of the Taliban are thought to have fled after their fall from power, but Kalat, further south, has traditionally been the seat of the Baluch Khans. The Baluch are overwhelmingly but not entirely Sunni Muslims. Their power-structures, based on the khan, are generally perceived to be more concentrated than those of the more fractious Pashtuns. In Afghanistan they are primarily nomadic, roaming the southernmost districts of the three southernmost provinces with small numbers present in Badghis Province.

Hazara: The Hazara, a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan; they have often been the target of discriminatory and violent repression. Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. In terms of religion, the vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shia Muslim faith, again in contrast to the Pashtuns who are Sunni Muslim. Due to these differences, “the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of modern Afghanistan.”¹⁸ As the traditional underclass of Afghan society, Hazara were exploited and made to work as servants and laborers. As a result, there tends to be an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: the Hazarajat Hazara and those who live outside the Hazarajat. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is “centered on Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghowr, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province.”¹⁹ The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in and around Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif and Samangan province. Due to atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large are opposed to the Taliban. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazar-e Sharif; this massacre was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat. The Hazara of Badghis reside in the western reaches of the province.

Aimak: The Aimak are a Persian-speaking nomadic or semi-nomadic tribe of mixed Iranian and Mongolian descent who inhabit the north and north-west highlands of Afghanistan and the Khorasan Province of Iran.²⁰ They are closely related to the Hazara, and to some degree the Tajiks. They live in western Hazarajat in the provinces of Ghor, Farah, Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Jowzjan and Sar-e Pol. The term Aimak derives from the Mongolian term for tribe (Aimag). They were originally known as *chahar* or (the four) Eimaks, because there were four principal tribes: the Taimani (the predominating element in the population of Ghor), the Ferozkhoi, the Temuri, and the Jamshidi. Estimates of the Aimak population vary between 250,000 and 2 million. They are Sunni Muslims, in contrast to the Hazara, who are Shias. The best estimates of the Aimak population in Afghanistan hover around 1-2 million. The tally is made difficult since, as a consequence of centuries of oppression of the Hazara people in Afghanistan, some Aimag Hazaras are classified by the state as Tajik, or Persian instead of Aimaks.

-Chanar: The Chanar Aimaqs are believed to be of Turco-Mongolian origin. This assessment is based on their physical appearance and the style of dwellings they utilize which closely resemble Mongolian style yurts. The Chanar speak a Persian dialect (Dari) unlike their Turco-Mongolian kinsmen in other areas.²¹ The Chanar Aimak of Badghis are dominant throughout the southern half of the province.

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security: ²²

Badghis was the first northern province to be seized by the Taliban in late 2006.²³ Even after their official takeover of the province, the largely Uzbek and Turkmen population of the province resisted the rule of the Pashtun Taliban.

¹⁸ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

¹⁹ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

²⁰ Janata, A. "AYMĀQ". *Encyclopædia Iranica*. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. United States: Columbia University.

²¹ "Afghanistan". *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Ultimate Reference Suite. Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, 2008.

²² Badghis Province. Available at <http://www.afgha.com/?q=node/4020> (accessed July 16, 2008)

²³ Neamatollah Nojumi, *The Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan* (Palgrave, 2002), page 159

The province was quickly retaken by Northern Alliance forces during the opening days of OEF, which was followed by a brutal cleansing of the Pashtun minority in the province. Various influential warlords have traded control of the province since the fall of the Taliban regime including: Abdul Malik, Rashid Dostum, Juma Khan and Ismail Khan. Iran provided significant aid to Northern Alliance forces in Badghis during the campaign against the Taliban. Independent warlords still exert considerable influence within Badghis in the by running private jails, seizing land, and controlling the opium poppy harvest. The province has been relatively peaceful since the fall of the Taliban, despite periodic conflicts between rival warlords. The PRT in Badghis is led by Spain and based in the capital city of Qalay-i-Naw. Since 2005, the Taliban has sought to infiltrate the isolated northwestern provinces of Badghis and Faryab, both of which have small Pashtun enclaves. Badghis province has become one of the Taliban's gateways into the north. It is plausible that Taliban infiltration routes mirror the geographical area dominated by the Pashtun of Badghis in the northern region of the Province.

Security in the Pashtun dominated districts of Ghormach and Murghab has deteriorated significantly since 2006. Roadside bombs, ambushes and large scale raids with up to 300 Taliban fighters has become common. ISAF along with ANA units have launched a series of security operations in northern Badghis to help quell the rising tide of insurgent violence.

Enemy Tactics in Order of Commonality:

1. Targeted Ambush
2. Roadside Bomb
3. Small size assault (less than 50 personnel)
4. Kidnapping of foreign workers

Enemy Targets in Order of Commonality:

1. ANP Stations
2. ANP Vehicles/Convoys/Checkpoints
3. ANP Leadership
4. District Centers (via large size assaults)
5. Foreign workers (via kidnapping)

Recent Security Chronology:²⁴

November 27, 2008: A massive Taliban ambush against a 47-vehicle aid convoy protected by the ANA and ANP left 13 Afghan security personnel dead, 11 wounded and 16 others missing. At least half of the transport vehicles were destroyed in the attack and many more were stolen and looted by the Taliban raiders. Malawi Dastagir is believed to have orchestrated the attack.

November 25: Taliban fighters led by Mullah Amoruddin kidnapped three Afghan road workers in between Balamurghab and Ghormach. One of the engineers was later executed by his Taliban captors.

November 6: NATO airstrikes killed up to 15 Taliban fighters and seven civilians in the Ghormach district. The house of provincial council member Mullah Tawakal was reportedly destroyed in the bombing and two of his sons were killed.

October 22: Taliban insurgents ambushed an ammunition convoy in the Balamurghab district.

October 10-12: Spanish ISAF forces protecting a World Food Program food convoy were ambushed four times in two days as they traveled from the provincial capital to the remote Jawand district.

September: Maulvi Dastagir, sentenced to 16-years in prison, was released by the government as a good will gesture to tribal elders in exchange for protection of the roadway and security forces in the Murghab district.

August 31: Taliban commander Mullah Ahmad Wardak and 15 of his fighters surrendered to authorities in the Ghormach district. Wardak was a former deputy to Maulvi Abdul Rahman Haqani, a top Taliban commander for insurgent forces in Badghis province.

August 24: An explosion between two gas stations killed four civilians and wounded six others in the Ghormach district.

²⁴ Afgha.com, Badghis Province. Available at <http://www.afgha.com/?q=search/node/Badghis> (accessed July 16, 2008)

July 10: Fifteen member police unit has surrendered to Taliban rebels in Ghormach district. Deputy Governor, Abdul Ghani Sabir stated this unit was already linked with the Taliban and would be hunted down and punished. The Taliban claimed their forces killed two officers and arrested seven others when they attacked a police checkpoint in the district.

July 8: Spain approves funding for a permanent ANA base in Badghis Province to be manned by a 600 strong ANA Battalion.

July 3: Spanish and ANA forces were attacked in Muqur District. A Spanish led counter-attack killed 25 Taliban.

April 24: Three ANP were killed as their convoy hit a roadside bomb in Qala-i-Wali in the Ghormach district Badghis province.

March 4: Three Taliban fighters including a commander were killed in a clash triggered by an attack on a police check-post in Bala Murghab district. The Taliban claimed five policemen were killed by the attackers.

March 3: Security forces in Badghis arrested a militant fighter, famous for his expertise in connecting rocket-launchers with remote-controlled devices, following an insurgent attack on a police check point in the Gulchin area of Qadis district.

March 19: Afghan officials have announced the capture of Maulvi Dastagir following a raid by Afghan intelligence operatives in the western province of Herat.

February 22: Afghan officials claim 1100 Taliban have died as a result of extremely harsh winter weather in northwestern Afghanistan.

December 22, 2007: One prisoner was killed and four other made their escape good in Qala-i-now central jail. Brig. Gen. Ayub Niazyar, police chief of the province stated that scores of prisoners attempted to escape. He said it was not clear why the prisoners escaped and who supported them.

December 19, 2007: Taliban in western Badghis province claimed they have abducted the district chief of Ghormach district with ten of his bodyguards. It was later discovered that Malen Norrudin, the Ghormach district chief, had defected to the Taliban and his abduction was a ruse.

June 13, 2007: An estimated 200 hardcore Taliban soldiers stormed Ghurmach (Qormach) and Balamurgh (Bala Murghab) districts. Afghan National Police bore the brunt of the assault suffering numerous casualties and at least 2 deaths but were able to repulse the assaults.

April 11, 2006: Unidentified gunmen attacked a health clinic in the Qades district of Badghis Province killing four physicians and a driver. Qari Yusof Ahmadi, purporting to speak for the neo-Taliban, claimed responsibility on behalf of that group for the killing of five health workers and a driver in Badghis Province.

June 29, 2004: Three foreign and two Afghan staff members of Doctors Without Borders were killed in Badghis, an act for which the neo-Taliban immediately claimed responsibility, although those killings were later deemed to have been the work of local commanders, rather than neo-Taliban militants.

Taliban/Insurgent Commanders in Badghis:²⁵

Maulvi Abdul Rahman Haqani: Abdul Rahman was the Taliban-era governor of Ghor province and later led the Taliban's operations in northwestern Afghanistan. He coordinated two large-scale assaults on two districts in Badghis province in the summer of 2007 resulting in numerous casualties. After suffering wounds from a clash in 2008, Haqani sought refuge in Peshawar, Pakistan where he underwent medical treatment that saved his life.

Maulvi Dastagir: A local Taliban commander in Badghis province and unofficial spokesman for the group's "northern front," Dastagir was arrested in early March, 2008. By September he was released by the Afghan government in an attempt to pacify the security situation in the Murghab district. In October, a Quetta-Shura appointed Dastagir as the overall Taliban commander for Badghis province. He led the deadly ambush on November 27 that killed over a dozen Afghan security forces and kidnapped nearly 30 more. **Update:** Dastagir was killed along with several of his subcommanders during a massive Coalition airstrike in the Balamurghab district on February 16, 2009.

Jamaloddin Mansoor Kakar- Mansoor is a young and charismatic Taliban leader in the Murghab district. He is now the deputy to provincial Taliban commander Mawlawi Dastagir.

²⁵ The Long War Journal, Matt Dupee, Available at <http://www.afgha.com/?q=node/6584> (accessed July 16, 2008)

Mullah Amoruddin Yektan- Amoruddin is a senior level Taliban commander active throughout the province although he has strong ties to the Ghormach district. Fighters loyal to Amoruddin abducted three Afghan road workers between Murghab and Ghormach on November 25 and later killed one of their captives.

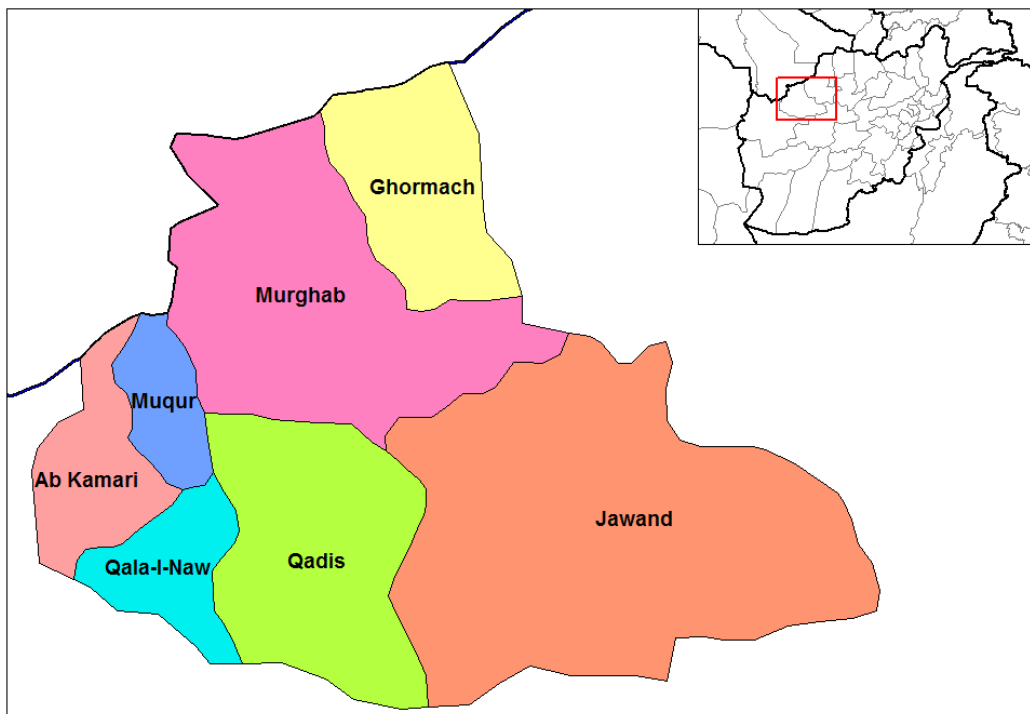
Mullah Babai: A tactical-level Taliban commander in Badghis. He died along with 20 of his men during Operation Eagle Claw II in late 2007.

Mullah Abdul Qayum: Another tactical-level commander in Badghis province, although he originally hails from the Qaisar district of Faryab province. He was the leading Taliban field commander in the northwest during 2007. He was captured along with 17 of his men during Operation Eagle Claw II in late 2007.

Mullah Muhammad Hanif: A skilled IED bomb maker in the Qadis district of Badghis Province, Hanif attacked a police post in March 2008 and was subsequently shot and arrested by authorities. He was wanted for a long string of attacks on police check posts in the area.

Mullah Mutmayer: The self-proclaimed Taliban commander in Badghis province.

DISTRICTS: Jawand, Murghab, Ghormach²⁶, Qadis, Muqur, Qala-I-Naw, Ab Kamari



²⁶ The Afghan government has hinted they may remove Ghormach from Badghis jurisdiction and make it part of neighboring Faryab province.