

**Province: Paktika**  
**Governor: Mohammad Mohib Ullah Samim**  
**Provincial Police Chief: Sardar Mohammad Zazay**



<b>Population Estimate:</b> 369,100	Urban: 2,200	Rural: 366,900	
	Male:	Female:	
Area in Square Kilometers	19,482		
Names of Districts: <sup>1</sup>	Barmal, Dila, Gayan, Gomal, Mata Khan, Nika, Omna, Sar Hawza, Sarobi, Sharan, Terwa, Urgan, Waza Khwa, Wor Momay, Zargyn Shahr, Ziruk		
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun: , Tajik: , Arab: , Pashai: Other:	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Primarily Sunni Muslims <u>Total # Mosques:</u> 2,055	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Pashtun:
Occupation of Population	Major:	Minor:	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Wheat, corn, spinach, rice, orchards	Sheep, cows, goats	
Literacy Rate Total:	40-44%		
Number of Educational Institutions: 151	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: Secondary:	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u>	
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007: 49 <sup>2</sup>	January: 7 February: 3	March: 6 April: 12	May: 10 June: 11
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	Minimal to no poppy (opium) cultivation; likely a transit route		
NGOs Active in Province:			
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> <sup>3</sup> Total Projects: 1,233 Planned Cost: \$10,026,359 Total Spent:\$8,366,906	Total PRT Projects: 35 Planned Cost: \$3,429,083 Total Spent: \$691,350	Other Aid Projects: 1,198 Planned Cost: \$6,597,276 Total Spent: \$7,675,556	
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> there are no high-quality highways in the province. The primary provincial roads are mostly paved; exist between Ghazni-Sharan-Monari, one connects to Khost and two connect with Ghazni. Others are secondary roads and tracks.		
Electricity:	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 52%		
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 3	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 49	
Primary Sources/Availability of Potable Water:	Springs, wells, karezes		
Rivers and Bodies of Water:	Gardez lake in Sharan District, Gowmal Rowd River in south.		
Significant Topographic Features:	Shinkay Hills run through the center of Paktika; Toba Kakar Range runs along the border with Pakistan. Southern districts are intermittently irrigated and cultivated; center and north are used primarily for rangeland; and there are natural forests in Ziruk, Nika, Gayan, and Barmal districts. <sup>4</sup>		

<sup>1</sup> The exact number of districts in Paktika is unclear. Some credible maps indicate that existing districts have split into other districts.

<sup>2</sup> BBC Monitoring. Limited to incidents reported in the press. Not inclusive of all incidents occurring, but provides an excellent cross-section of events.

<sup>3</sup> ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

<sup>4</sup> AIMS, *Afghanistan Paktika Province Land Cover Map*, April 2002 and Nelles Verlag, *Afghanistan*, 2006.

## **Political Landscape:**

### ***Political Leaders:***

#### **Governor Mohammad Mohib Ullah Samim**



Mohammad Mohib Ullah Samim replaced Akram Khpalwak as the Governor of Paktika on April 20, 2010. Mohib Ullah Samim is a native of Ghazni province and once served as the Ghazni province's director of information and culture and worked as a sub-governor in two Ghazni districts. He also has a bachelor's degree in linguistics and recently served as a publisher of a private magazine in Kabul. He addressed the residents of Paktika on his inauguration day and outlined his plans as Governor; they include tribal unity, education, including the education of women, instituting stronger internal management controls to combat corruption, security and reconciliation with anti-Afghan forces that are willing to negotiate.<sup>5</sup>

#### **(Former) Governor Mohammad Akram Khpalwak:**



Speaks Dari and English. Served as a representative in the Loya Jirga. Studied at Kabul University Medical School. Dr. Khpalwak was appointed as the Governor of Paktika by President Karzai on 15 March 2006. Akram's appointment was part of Karzai's continuing effort to improve security and combat corruption. Khpalwak is a leader of the Afghanistan Youth Society and ran for Parliament in Paktika Province, but he garnered only 1% of the vote. Khpalwak was tapped as the Deputy Chief of NDS (Afghan intelligence service) and left office in mid-April 2010. His military rank is Brigadier General.

#### **Deputy Governor Juma Mohammad Zadran**

Juma Mohammad Zadran served in the provincial government of Paktika from at least October 2009 onward. More information pending.

#### **Chief of Police, Sardar Mohammad Zazay:**

Nuristani. Zazay, is known as an aggressive, active officer who has demonstrated an ability to run the Paktika police force. Little else known.

#### **NDS Chief, Colonel Mohammad Nadim:**

Appointed to current post in 2004. Pashtun. Professional officer, educated at a university in Russia. Despite his professional credentials, the fact that he is not from Paktika has limited his effectiveness and ability to carry out his official duties.

#### **Chairman of Provincial Council, Dr. Nawab Waziri:**

Chairman since December 2006. Medical doctor educated at Kabul University. Born in Bermel District, Paktika. Works closely with Sharana PRT.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Pir Ishaq Gailani:**

Descendant of a powerful family of Sufi religious leaders and head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan Party. Particularly influential among the Sufi and Khugiani.

#### **Tribal Leaders/Representatives:<sup>7</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> USAF 2nd Lt. Mark Lazane "Karzai Appoints New Governor for Paktika Province," *News Blaze*, April 25, 2010. <http://newsblaze.com/story/20100425163231zmil.nb/topstory.html>

<sup>6</sup> Timothy S. Timmons and Rashid Hassanpoor, *Paktika Personalities: An Examination of the Tribes and the Significant People of a Traditional Pashtun Province*, May 2007.

<sup>7</sup> Timmons and Hassanpoor.

*Sulimankhel:*

Wakil Mahmud Sulimankhel. Lives in Jani Khel District; Jalalzai sub-tribe. Former member of Loya Jirga.

*Zadran:*

Haji Abdul Manan, Zeruk District

Taj Ali Khan, Gayan District

*Kharoti:*

Haji Mohammad Sediqi, Sarobi District

*Andar:*

Mawlawi Shabaz Khan, Mata Khan District

*Menzai:*

Badshah Khan

**Wolesi Jirga Members:**

***Pir Sayed Ishaq Gailani:***

Pashtun; associated with Hezb-e Mahzat-e Hambastagee-ye Melli-e Afghanistan. International Relations committee. Estranged nephew of Pir Gailani.

***Khalie Farooqi:***

Pashtun; associated with Hezb-e Islami. Chair of Communications committee.

***Wakil Nadar Khan Katawazi:***

Suleimankhel (Pashtun); associated with the political party of Pir Gailani. Petitions committee. College education.

***Gharghashta Katawazi Suleimankhel:***

Suleimankhel (Pashtun). Women's committee. High school graduate and former high school teacher in Kabul.

**Meshrano Jirga Members:**

***Mawlawi Arsallah Rahmani:***

Pashtun. Chair of Religious Affairs and Education committee. Former Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs under the Taliban government.

***Haji Khan Mohammad Khagai***

***Mohammad Hassan Ghazizada***

***Sayed Hamid Gailani***

***Primary Political Parties:***

**Hezb-e Islami Khalis (HiK):**

Originally a mujahideen group which broke away from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami under the leadership of Yunus Khalis. HiK was dominant in Nangarhar. Khalis died in 2005 or 2006, resulting in an internal power struggle for control of the party between Khalis' son Anwarul Haq Mujahid and Haji Din Mohammad. It appears that Mohammad was successful in consolidating his control over much of the party. Recent and active political players in Nangarhar have connections to HiK. Led by Haji Din Mohammad, current governor of Kabul.

**Hezb-e Afghan Millat (Afghan Nation Party):**

National Pashtun party, led by Finance Minister Dr. Anwar Ul-haq Ahadi. Over 10,000 members in Nangarhar. Platform based on unity, security, and creating an Islamic version of democracy. Maintains a muted, ethno-nationalist rhetoric.

**Nazhat-e Hambastagi Milli (National Solidarity Movement/National Islamic Front):**

Led by Pir Ishaq Gailani. Party promotes national unity, security and a national development plan. Tied to the Maraboutic Sufi order; has considerable influence over the Khugiani tribesmen.

**Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween (New Afghanistan Party/Qanuni):**

Led by Mohammad Yunus Qanuni. Part of a political alliance called Jabahai Tafahim Millie or National Understanding Front. Qanuni was the primary contender against Karzai for the presidency. He is a Tajik who has been a mujahideen, spokesman for Ahmed Shah Masoud, and Minister of Interior and Education. He was elected to parliament in 2005 and was chosen to lead the Wolesi Jirga. Support for him and his party may be a political counter-weight to Karzai.

**Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):**

Mujahideen party active since the Soviet invasion; led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who is a Kharoti Ghilzai. Actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Politically active in Sherzad, Surk Rod and Pachir Wa districts. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugianis, such as Haji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.<sup>8</sup> Harakat, the second most influential member of HiG, is also a Kharoti Ghilzai as well.

***Public Attitudes toward Political/Religious Leaders:***

According to survey data, shuras and elders are considered the most respected leaders by 37% percent of the population. Religious leaders, such as mullahs and mawlawis, are considered the most respected by 51% of the population. 48% indicated that they feel local shuras and population provide the best security to the local areas.<sup>9</sup>

**Human Terrain:**

***Suleimankhel (Sulimankhel):***

Ghilzai Pashtuns; largest of the tribal clans in Paktika. They live in all of the eastern districts of the province, from Wor Momay up to Sharan district. They coexist with their traditional rivals the Kharoti in the Gomal district. Principal sub-divisions of the Suleimankhel include the Alizai, Sulemanzai, and Jalalzai. Other sub-divisions include the Alikhel who are primarily located in Yaya Khel, Yusuf Khel, and Jani Khel districts, and the Nizamkhel and Shakhel in the Jani Khel. According former provincial Governor Ghulab Mangal, the Suleimankhel provide the majority of recruits for the Taliban in the province. As a result, the level of Anti-Coalition Militia activities remain high in areas dominated by Suleimankhel. The Alizai, Suleimanzai and Jalalzai remain pro-Taliban and anti-coalition. The bias of these sub-tribes toward the Taliban in part may be explained by their proximity to the Pakistan border and the influx of insurgents and the radical politics. It is interesting to note that the Alikhel sub-tribe, which primarily lives in the northwest of the province, has been more cooperative with the central government and coalition forces. The Nizamkhel and Shakhel also remain more supportive of the government, which may be explained in part by their rivalry with the Jalalzai.<sup>10</sup>

***Kharoti:***

The Kharoti clan are the second largest Ghilzai Pashtun tribal groups in Paktika, located primarily in the Sar Hawza, Charbaran, Sarobi, and Gomal districts. Generally, they do not cooperate with ACM or participate in their activities. Their political stance and support for the government is in part, at least, due to their rivalry with the Suleimankhel and the Waziris. Notable members of the Kharoti clan include Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Harakat, both of Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HIG). Overall, however, the Kharoti are not supportive of HIG. Former provincial governor, Ghulab Mangal, considered the Kharoti among the most reliable of Ghilzai tribal groups.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

<sup>9</sup> Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

<sup>10</sup> US Department of State Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

<sup>11</sup> US State Department Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

***Waziri:***

Pashtun tribe, primarily located in Pakistan. The Waziris in Paktika live in the Bermal district across from the Waziris on the Pakistan side of the border. According to the State Department PRT Political Officer, the Waziris are “divided and extremely fractious [and] play both sides of the fence.” It is assumed that the Waziris supply a significant number of recruits to the ACM.<sup>12</sup>

***Zadran:***

Pashtun tribe which resides in the Nika, Ziruk, Gayan, and Urgun districts of Paktika and extend north into Paktia. Pacha Khan Zadran, is a one of the most famous of the Zadran tribe, who controls the area near the Khost road. Jalaluddin Haqqani, another ACM leader (the Haqqani Network), is another influential member of the Zadran tribe. The Zadran also live in Khost province.<sup>13</sup>

***Andar:***

Pashtun tribe located in the Mata Khan District.

**Security Landscape:**

***General Level of Security:***

The overall threat assessment for Paktika is considered high and one of the more unstable provinces in Afghanistan. The Suleimankhel tribal elements provide a large pool of recruits and support for ACMs. Insurgents are very active and have easy access across the Afghan-Pakistan border. BBC Monitoring reports 49 security incidents from January to June 2007 in the province. The actual numbers are probably much higher. Suicide attacks are common. The Haqqani Network is very active in the province, and has been assessed as the main threat to the P2K (Paktika, Paktya, Khost) area. In this area, Haqqani and Taliban affiliated insurgents enjoy relatively easy access to the province from safe havens in Pakistan. There is some indication that Haqqani network insurgents have also been collaborating to a lesser extent with the Hezb-e Islami/Gulbuddin (HiG), and al-Qaida fighters.

***Public attitudes toward security:***

51% of those surveyed consider the province the most unsafe place during daytime and security is considered bad in many areas.<sup>14</sup>

***Public attitudes toward FF:***

68% of the population agree or somewhat agree that coalition and foreign forces bring peace and security to the province; 44% indicate that they feel very safe or safe in the presence of coalition and foreign forces.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> US State Department Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

<sup>13</sup> US State Department Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

<sup>14</sup> Altai Opinion Info, 2007.

<sup>15</sup> Altai Consulting.