

Kandahar Chronology

2001

September 11 - Attacks in USA

September 23 - Mullah Omar calls on USA to leave the Gulf and withdraw its support for Israel

September 25 - Saudi Arabia cuts ties/relations with the Taliban

October 4 - Taliban leaders leave their offices/homes in Kandahar City

October 7 - US airstrikes begin against targets around the country (incl. Kandahar)

October 9 - US airstrikes target and hit Farouk Camp near to Garmabak, Kandahar province

October 17 - Delegation of Afghan exiled tribal elders leaves Pakistan for Kandahar to convince Taliban members to stand down (sent by Gul Agha Sherzai)

October 17 - US airstrike destroys offices of Department of Vice and Virtue in Kandahar City

October 19 - US send 100+ Army Rangers and other special forces on raid on outskirts of Kandahar City

October 22 - Bombing and AC-130 strafing of Chowkar-Karez village, 50 miles north of Kandahar City (19 reported dead)

October 23(?) - US strikes against fuel depots near Kandahar City

October 27 - Hamid Karzai reported to be inside southern Afghanistan

October 30 - Taliban invite 26 journalists into Kandahar to show bombing damage; Mutawakil makes appearance in Kandahar City with journalists as well

October 31(?) - Airstrike on Taliban HQ (next to Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar City)

November 11 - Kabul falls to the Northern Alliance

November 13 - 'Tribes' reported to be massing against Taliban near Kandahar

November 14 - Fighting around Kandahar City intensifies (esp fighting around Mullah Omar's house near Arghandab); Arabs dig in at the airport

November 15 - Peace offer made to Mullah Omar by Hamid Karzai (and refused)

November 16 - Intense fighting around Kandahar; US commandos blowing up bridges, blocking roads and spotting targets for airstrikes; Ismael Khan (in Herat) states his readiness to begin a march to Kandahar

November 18 - Skirmishes around Kandahar between Taliban and US/anti-Taliban fighters

November 19 - 'Arab' residential house bombed in Kandahar, reportedly killing seven.

November 20 - Taliban take journalists on a tour of Kandahar; Mullah Naqib rumoured to be engaged in negotiations with Mullah Omar; Hajji Bashar and Mullah Naqib both proposed as successors to Mullah Omar

November 21 - Taliban hold press conference in Kandahar (first since beginning of bombing in October)

November 22 - Further bombing of Kandahar & dropping of leaflets offering \$25m bounty for Mullah Omar; 100 journalists expelled from Taliban tour of southern Afghanistan following closure of Taliban embassy in Islamabad

November 25 - Hundreds of US Marines land at an airfield site near to Kandahar in the first major influx of ground troops into Afghanistan; Rumsfeld states that these will form a 'forward operating base'; tribal elders send a delegation from Quetta to Kandahar to demand a Taliban surrender

November 26 - US Marines dig in at an airfield near to Kandahar and start directing air strikes on targets in southern Afghanistan; Taliban forces surrender Spin Boldak in the night

November 27 - Bonn Conference begins; 500 extra US Marines land in Kandahar; US bombs a compound in south-east Kandahar claimed to be a 'leadership site' for the Taliban, Al Qaeda and Al Wafa (an Islamic foundation)

November 29 - Afghan opposition forces have almost surrounded Kandahar City, cutting off all main roads leading in

December 1 - US airstrikes continue on targets on the outskirts of the city and at the airport

December 2 - Anti-Taliban opposition forces have advanced to within 10 miles of Kandahar City, forming a loose encirclement; Hamid Karzai claims to have taken Arghandab in telephone interview

December 3 - Intense bombing of areas in Kandahar province; Taliban fighters reportedly firing automatic weapon fire and RPGs at US air forces

December 4 - US Marines (and British and Australian special forces troops) advance from their 'forward operating base' to areas near to the city to prepare for a siege

December 5 - Bonn Agreement signed; accidental US bombing kills 3 US soldiers, 5 Afghans, injures 18 Afghans and 20 Americans; Hamid Karzai states (from his position near the Dahla Dam) that he has begun talks with senior Taliban officials for the surrender of Kandahar; Gul Agha Sherzai engages in fighting near Kandahar airfield; Taliban agree to surrender Kandahar City (night)

December 7 - Kandahar falls; Mullah Omar flees; confusion in the city; US troops attack Taliban soldiers fleeing the city; Mullah Naqib and Gul Agha Sherzai fight amongst themselves within the city

December 9 - Karzai arrives in Kandahar and appoints Gul Agha Sherzai as governor; Taliban surrender in Zabul province

December 11 - 30 US special forces soldiers occupy Mullah Omar's house near Arghandab; Karzai meets with tribal elders and commanders at the house

December 12 - US and British forces set up camp next to Kandahar governor's compound

December 13 - US Marines move into Kandahar airfield and set up base there; 18 foreign fighters are besieged in Mirwais Hospital in the city

December 15 - US Marines start building a prison camp for 300 'Al Qaeda fighters' at Kandahar airfield

December 16 - 3 US Marines wounded by a land mine while clearing the area near Kandahar airfield; 18 wounded foreign fighters continue to hold out in Kandahar City's Mirwais Hospital

December 18 - Interrogators arrive at Kandahar airfield to start questioning captured Al Qaeda fighters

December 22 - Al Biruna Girl's School reopens in Kandahar City

December 30 - Pentagon orders 101st Airborne Division to relieve US Marines in Kandahar

2002

January 1 - Around 200 US Marines leave Kandahar for Helmand to search for Mullah Omar

January 8 - Foreign fighter besieged in Mirwais Hospital attempts escape but blows himself up with grenade as Afghan security personnel surround him

January 10 - C-17 Globemaster cargo plane departs Kandahar with 20 Taliban and Al Qaeda prisoners (the first transfer to Guantanamo); Kandahar airfield attacked minutes after plane departs

January 14 - 100 men demonstrate in support of the foreign fighters besieged in Mirwais Hospital

January 15 - 6 foreign fighters remain besieged in Kandahar City's Mirwais Hospital

January 25 - US raid against two suspected Taliban compounds nets huge ammunition dump (at least 15 killed and 27 captured)

January 27 - US Special Forces begin attack on 6 foreign fighters besieged in Mirwais Hospital

January 28 - 6 foreign fighters killed in Mirwais Hospital, ending a seven-week siege

February 12 - Gul Agha Sherzai lifts 10pm-5am curfew

February 13 - Kandahar airfield attacked (2 US soldiers injured)

March 7 - Ammunition depot blast kills 3 Afghans allied to US military

March 28 - Navy Seal killed in training exercise in Kandahar province

April - Fliers left at schools in Kandahar urge Afghans not to cooperate with foreigners

April 15 - 4 US soldiers killed and 1 wounded in accidental explosion while disposing of seized rockets

April 18 - 4 Canadian soldiers killed and 8 wounded in errant US air force bombing of Canadian night live-fire training exercise

June 11 - Emergency Loya Jirga inaugurated by former King Zahir Shah

June 13 - Karzai elected head of transitional government at Emergency Loya Jirga

August 4 - Hand grenade thrown at UN Food and Agricultural Organization offices in Kandahar City

September 5 - Failed assassination attempt against Karzai in Kandahar

2003

January 31 - 8 civilians killed (and 2 injured) in anti-tank mine explosion near to Kandahar City; American forces reported to be fighting regrouped Taliban members

March 27 - ICRC delegate, Ricardo Munguia, killed by Taliban in Shah Wali Kot

April 13 - Assassination attempt on Ahmed Wali Karzai (wounding him and killing a relative) in Chaman

May 25 - 5 men arrested attempting to set off a car-bomb in Kandahar City

July 1 - Bomb targeting Mawlawi Abdullah Fayyaz (head of Ulemaa' shura) explodes in mosque in Kandahar City (injuring 28)

July 15 - Taliban attack police station in Kandahar, killing 5 men including the commander of the station (2 other policemen were wounded)

July 17 - Canada takes over leadership of ISAF

July 22 - UN announced closure of Chaman refugee camp and transport of remaining refugees to Zheray desert camp

July 30 - Mawlawi Jenab, a cleric, shot dead in his home district of Panjwayi (the third senior cleric killed in Kandahar in 40 days)

September (early) - US commander says his forces have killed up to 200 opposition fighters in 2 weeks

October 5 - Richard Armitage flies into Kandahar

October 6 - NATO decides to extend ISAF to areas outside of Kabul

October 10 - 41 prisoners escape from Sarpoza jail through a 30-yard long tunnel

October 25 - Taliban foreign minister Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil released from US custody

November 11 - Car bomb explodes outside UN offices in Kandahar, injuring two people

December 3 - 'Former Talib' (NYT) from Helmand throws grenade at US soldiers in Kandahar City, injuring two

December 16 - Completed Kabul-Kandahar highway inaugurated by President Karzai

2004

Jan 6 - ISAF takes command of seven civil-military reconstruction teams set up in the provinces by the US army; double bomb-blast in Kandahar City kills 17 (many children) and injures dozens

February - Taliban distribute warnings to locals in Kandahar districts not to register for elections

April 21 - Bomb explodes outside police station in Kandahar, killing one and injuring two

April 22 - Bomb explodes in Kandahar City bazaar, killing the bomb-layer

April 25-6 - Hamid Karzai in Kandahar to campaign for elections (hadn't been back for 18 months prior & since assassination attempt)

April 26 - 3 US Marines wounded in roadside bombing; policeman and two Afghan aid workers killed at night in Panjwayi

April 27 - 40 Taliban fighters attack district offices near Kandahar

June 2 - US military say they have killed 17 'suspected militants' in air strikes in Kandahar province

June 14 - US military say they have killed more than 80 'suspected militants' in past 3 weeks

June 28 - US Special Forces capture Hafiz Majid, former Taliban police chief, and Mohammad Daud, a Taliban commander, in raid in Kandahar

July 23 - IED injures US soldiers just outside Kandahar City

October 9 - Afghan Presidential election held

November 3 - Karzai declared winner of Afghan Presidential election

December 14 - Two Taliban commanders - Mullah Naqvi (former security chief for Mullah Omar) and Mullah Qayyum - captured in Kandahar

2005

June 1 - Suicide bombing in Kandahar mosque kills at least 17 and injures 36, including Kabul security chief, Akrem Khakrezwal

September - Parliamentary and Provincial Council elections held around the country

October 11 - Suicide bomber targets Agha Shah (former militia commander) in Kandahar City

December 4 - Suicide bomber targets Canadian convoy, killing himself and one passer-by, and injuring several others

December 11 - Suicide bomb attack injures 3 civilians in Kandahar province.

2006

January 2 - Suicide bomber wounds at least one woman and child in attack on foreign forces convoy in Kandahar City

January 15 - Suicide bomb in Kandahar City kills one Canadian and two Afghan civilians

January 16 - Bombers kill 26 people in two separate attacks in Kandahar Province (Spin Boldak and Kandahar City); Taliban deny responsibility for attack in Spin Boldak following public outcry against civilian casualties

April 1 - Canadian soldiers shoot dead a man on motorbike who they (falsely) suspected of being a suicide bomber

May - Taliban fight battles with Canadians in Panjwayi - aerial bombardment and villagers fleeing

May 21 - US forces bomb Taloqan, killing at least 35 civilians

June 4 - Suicide car bomber targets Kandahar governor and Canadian military convoy (missing both, though), killing 4 civilians and wounding at least 12

July - NATO troops take over leadership of foreign military operations in southern Afghanistan

July 22 - Double suicide bombing kills 8, including 2 Canadian soldiers, and wounds dozens

August 3 - Suicide bomber kills 21 in Panjwayi bazaar

August - Suicide bombers starting to use explosive vests, which are more powerful

August 9 - Canadian soldier killed by fellow Canadian in accidental gun discharge

September 18 - Suicide bomber kills 4 Canadian soldiers and injures several more in Char Kota, Pashmul, while soldiers were handing out sweets to local children

October 13 - Suicide car bomber targets American military convoy in Kandahar City, killing 8 and wounding 9

October 16 - Suicide car bomber targets NATO convoy in Kandahar City, killing 4 civilians and wounding several others

October 24 - Large numbers of Taliban fight against NATO troops in Kandahar; NATO claim to kill 48 'Taliban fighters'; NATO airstrike kills civilians (initial estimates say 40-50)

November 27 - Suicide car bomber kills two Canadian soldiers in Kandahar

November 29 - Suicide motorbike bomber targeting Canadian military convoy wounds two civilians west of Kandahar City

December 3 - Suicide bomber targets British troops in Kandahar City, wounding 3 soldiers; British soldiers open fire on civilians following the attack; at least half-dozen Afghans killed in the attack and aftermath

December 5 - Suicide minibus bomber targets Canadian military convoy west of Kandahar City, wounding 2 soldiers and 8 civilians near to the explosion

December 6 - Suicide bomber targets USPI offices in Kandahar City, killing 2 US employees and 9 Afghan staff members

December 14 - Hamid Karzai in Kandahar for a visit

2007

February 9 - 4 Afghan policemen killed in ambush in Panjwayi

February 10 - Suicide car bomber targets Canadian military convoy north of Kandahar City, with no casualties

March - Operation Achilles

[Early March - Daniele Mastrogiacomo kidnapped with Ajmal Naqshbandi and Sayyed Agha in Helmand]

March 16 - Mortar attack on Kandahar airfield wounds 3 NATO soldiers

March 17 - Car bomb detonation targets NATO military convoy (earlier attacked with rockets) in Kandahar, killing one child and injuring 3 (including 2 children) as well as one NATO soldier

May 12 - Mullah Dadullah killed

May 15 - NATO troops wound five civilians in Kandahar City after firing upon them

May 25 - IED kills Canadian soldier on patrol with ANA soldiers

July - King Zahir Shah dies

July 19 - Twenty-two South Korean missionaries (including 18 women) kidnapped by the Taliban

August 17 - Suicide bomber kills senior government official in Zheray

August 18 - Suicide car bomb targeting USPI private security convoy outside Kandahar City kills 13 civilians and 2 Afghan security guards

August 28 - Taliban agree to release South Korean hostages

September 9-10 - 4 Afghan ANP die and 2 Canadians injured in an offensive in Zheray that also (allegedly) killed 150 Taliban fighters

October (mid) - Mullah Naqib dies of heart attack

October - Javed 'Jojo' Yazamy detained in Kandahar by US military

October 30 - Several hundred Taliban fighters move into Arghandab in attempt to take control of the district; dance on the roof of Mullah Naqib's house; NATO claim to kill 50

October 31 - Afghan and NATO forces continue to fight against an estimated 250 fighters still in Arghandab

November 1 - Taliban forces retreat from Arghandab

2008

January 26 - Cyd Mizell (US citizen) kidnapped in Kandahar City

January 29 - 500 Afghan women protest kidnapping of Cyd Mizell in Kandahar City

February 17 - Suicide bomber kills Abdul Hakim Jan at dogfight in Bagh-e Pul, just outside Kandahar City, also killing around 110 civilian bystanders

February 18 - Suicide car bomber targets Canadian military convoy in Spin Boldak, killing 36 civilians and wounding 38

April 4 - IED kills a Canadian soldier just outside Kandahar City

April 11 - Car bomb explodes near Canadian military convoy, killing up to 8 civilians and wounding 20 others

June 6 - Muhammad Akbar Khakrezwal (brother of Akrem Khakrezwal) shot dead outside his house in Kandahar City

June 13 - Taliban orchestrate jail-break from Sarpoza prison in Kandahar City, with as many as 870 prisoners escaping

June 15/16 - Taliban in large numbers in Arghandab district in an attempt to take control

June 19 - Taliban retreat from Arghandab district

July 4 - Kandahari MP assassinated in City

August 1 - Multiple simultaneous assassinations (from different villages) in Arghandab district

August 16 - New Kandahar Governor Rahmatullah Raufi arrives in Kandahar City

September 7 - Two suicide bombers detonate themselves inside Kandahar Police HQ in a bid to target the police chief and border police commander Razziq - 8 dead and at least 20 injured

September 28 - Female police officer Malalai Kakar shot dead outside her house in Kandahar City

October 18-22 - Ghorak district centre under attack

October 29 - Earthquake in Kandahar

November 1 - Explosion in Kandahar City; senior police trainer shot dead in Kandahar City

November 3 - Shah Wali Kot wedding bombing, killing dozens

November 12 - Taliban truck bomb attack on provincial council, killing 7 and wounding over 40; acid attack on schoolgirls in Mirwais Mina (western Kandahar City)

December 3 - Kandahar governor Rahmatullah Raufi sacked

December 13 - Hand-grenade attack on police station in Kandahar City district 1, injuring 1 policeman and 3 civilians; attack on ANP checkpoint at night

December 14 - IED near Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar City in morning; rocket attack on Kandahar City at night

December 20 - Kandahar receives new Governor Toriyalai Weesa

December 26 - Demonstration in Keshkinakhud in Maiwand against Canadian removal of a girl from her village for military treatment the day before

2009

January 5 - Qadiri mullah/cleric shot dead in Kandahar City

January 11 - Respected Popolzai tribal elder assassinated in Kandahar City

February 17 - Bomb blast in Kandahar City - 2 boys injured

March 19 - Bomb in southwest Kandahar City

March 31 - Qari Sayyed Ahmad, mullah, shot dead in Kandahar City

April 1 - Huge suicide truck bomb attack followed by 4 suicide bombers inside provincial council building in Kandahar City - 3 dead and 15 injured in attack

April 12 - Kandahar Provincial Council member Setara Achekzai shot dead outside her house in Kandahar City

April 17 - 200-strong demonstration in Kandahar City in reaction to killing of woman MP

April 20 - Relative of Kandahar Mayor kidnapped in Kandahar City

April 25 - 3 suicide bombers attack Governor's residence in Kandahar City, killing 8 and wounding 16

April 26 - Head of Provincial Transportation Office shot dead outside his house in Kandahar City

May 1 - Suicide bomber targets police car in central Kandahar City

May 28 - Big battle between 'Taliban' and ANA/NATO forces in Arghandab

June 29 - Afghan security forces kill Kandahar Police Chief and head of criminal investigative division

July 17 - 9 civilians (incl 5 children) killed in IED attack near to Spin Boldak

July 26 - IED in central Kandahar City targeting passing police convoy - no casualties; Gul Agha Sherzai holds election rally at father's grave in support of Hamid Karzai

August 4 - Airstrike on Kohak village in Arghandab kills 4

August 5 - Taliban reportedly lay down arms to help Panjwayi farmers pick and package their grapes

August 12 - Abdullah election rally in Kandahar City at Ulumi's house

August 15 - Ashraf Ghani election rally in Kandahar City

August 16 - Rocket attack and IED explosion in Kandahar City; Karzai election rally in stadium

August 17 - Taliban fighters attack police checkpoint in western Kandahar; intense fighting in the evening, including openly on the streets in Mirwais Mina

August 18 - Suicide attack on polling station in Kandahar

August 20 - Presidential elections held; massive fraud; sporadic violence and rockets

August 21 - 5 armed men gain access to Kandahar airfield

August 25 - Truck bomb kills over 40 in central Kandahar City

August 26 - Rocket attack hits central Kandahar City, sets wood business alight

August 30 - Taliban attack on fuel convoys just near to Spin Boldak

September 7 - Taliban attack Canadian patrol in Taymuriyan at night

September 9 - Contractor kidnapped in front of Kandahar PRT gates

September 12 - 2 suicide bombers force entry into small NDS office in Kandahar City before being shot dead

September 19 - IED attached to bicycle targeting ANP car kills 3 civilians

September 26 - Rocket strike on Kandahar City

September 29 - IED strike on civilian bus in Maiwand, killing 12 and wounding 15

October 21 - Demonstration at Kandahar University against alleged US 'abuse' of the Qur'an in Wardak