

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

(C. D. Republic - inaugurated 30th April)

1978

Values / Colour: 1 Afs Rosine, 4 Afs Rosine & Gold

Printing: 25 (5 x 5) Lithographed in Kabul on white wove paper.

Design: *Khalq (People's) Party Emblem, Dari Inscription "People" on Red background*.



خلق	جمهوريت	ديموكراتيك	د افغانستان	۱۳۵۷	انقلاب	ثور
Khalq	Jumhuriyat	Dimokratik	Afghanistan Da	1357	inqilab	Sawr Da

The Saur revolution 1357, The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, People's Party

خلق

"Khalq" =
"People"

Perforations: (a) $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ (c) 11×11
(b) $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11 \times 11 \times 11$ (d) $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11 \times 11 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$

NOTE: These stamps, mark the take over of President Daud's Republican Government by murder and bloody revolution by Soviet Russian trained Afghan Communists.

New stamps hurriedly designed, printed, perforated and issued, by Afghan Postal staff, who produced these 1 Af and 4 Af. issues in Kabul resulting in some of the 1 Af issues with up to four different perforation variations, two found on one sheet. The **blood red** colour of this issue is very appropriate for the Afghan Communists and their supporters - the Soviet Russian KGB. Soviet Russia invaded Afghanistan with 80,000 Soviet soldiers in 1979.

After ten years the Soviet Russians were finally forced to withdraw as Masood's Mujahadeen forces had made it impossible for them to stay but left a legacy of internecine Afghan tribal warfare that did not exist during King Zahir Shah's forty years of relative peace between the many different tribal groups. To restore the peace of King Zahir Shah will be difficult because of Saudi Arabia's unwelcome "Wahabi" influence and Taliban terrorist activities.



Perf: 11×11
4 Afs



Perf: $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11 \times 11 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$
1 Af



Perf: 11×11
4 Af



1 Af - Vertical Pair
Top stamp Perf $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$
Bottom stamp $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11 \times 11 \times 11$

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (C.D.R.) 1978 - 1989

1978

(C. D. Republic - inaugurated 30th April)

Values / Colour: 1 Afs Rosine, 4 Afs Rosine & Gold

Printing: 25 (5 x 5) Lithographed in Kabul on white wove paper.

Design: *Khalq (People's) Party Emblem*, Dari Inscription "People", "Khalq" centrally on a Red background'.



1 Af Perf 11 x 11



4 Afs Perf 11 x 11

1978

REGULAR MAIL ISSUES

NOTE: The Communist Democratic Republic reprinted the 50 Poul Green 1976 Daud issue in **Salmon Pink** in 1978. The **1977 - 1 Af Blue** Daud Republic National emblem and stylised white dove and envelope design, was clearly authorised for ongoing use by the new Democratic Republic regime and replaced the 1976 - 1 Af Violet Blue Arms type.

Values / Colour: 50 Poul **Salmon Pink** (1978) 1 Af **Black & Blue** (1977)

Printing: 25 (5 x 5) Lithographed in Kaboul on white wove paper.

Design: 50 poul Daud Republican Crest. 1Af Daud Crest and stylised white dove & white envelope

Perf: 11 x 11 rough

NOTE: The Communist Democratic Republic was formed on **30 April 1978**. Nine weeks later the revolutionary government issued, on **July 6th 1978**, its first stamp, the Red Crescent Society issue.

This **Registered 1st Class cover** uses Democratic Republic official stationery (with red Khalq crest) with postage paid - 5 x 5 Af pre-republican 1970 era issues, 3 Af Black Democratic Republican issue (the first to appear) & 2 x 50 Poul 1978 reprints of the 1976 issue, in salmon pink, a colour more to the taste of Communist Government.

Total mail charge = 29Afs.

Because of the date error in the Kaboul cancel it is considered that the date is "17" is actually "7" (July). Use of 1970 issues and the fact that no new Democratic Republican high value issues were available before 19th August 1978, and the new 3 Af Black issue was only released on 6 July the corrected date for "17" had to be "7" (i.e. 18.7. 1978).



1978 Jul 18th. - Registered 1st Class mail cover to Pakistan requiring 29 Afs postage.

Registration rate 1977-1978 = 20Afs. Foreign 1st Class Rate = 9Afs.

Postmark Type **PM36-4a** (KABOUL - 2.5mm high) "18 17 1978 KABOUL 87" Registration Label Type **RM37**



R NO 229



1 Af Black & Blue

AFGHANISTAN

1979-1980

WORLD'S FIRST POLITICAL BISECTS

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan - declared 30 April 1978
(Communist Coup)

A lack of stamps after the overthrow of the Government forced the new Socialist Government to access Post Office Archives. They selected, amongst other old issues, the 1971 (Air 50Af) and 1972 (Independence Day 25Af) sheets of stamps. From these two issues they tore, or cut off, the left hand portion of both stamp designs which offended them as they portrayed the images of King Zahir Shah and King Zahir Shah & Queen Humaira. They retained the right hand portion with its value imprint, for postage.

These "Bisect stamps" sold for postage, were -

Printing: 25 (5x5)

- a. PERF: 25Af - Independence Issue 1972 - $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4} \times$ Imperf (LH side)
 - b. PERF: 50Af - Air Issue 1971 - $12\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{3}{4} \times$ Imperf (LH side)
- Number released - unknown



NOTE: These bisect issues can only be verified as genuine in used condition with a legible valid postmark used for that period.



1978 Registered Airmail cover from the German Medical Advisory Group in Kabul to Germany. A 25Af 1971 bisect and five 1978 - 4Af P11x11 Coat-of-Arms issues attached totalling 45Afs.

Current Registration - 20Afs., Airmail Letter charge - 25Afs.

These issues were cancelled with Pmk Type PM36C (1977-2000) dated 30-9-1978 validating the authenticity of the 1972 bisect.

1978

REGULAR MAIL ISSUES

NOTE: The **50 Poul** salmon pink **1978 reprint** of the 1976 issue.

Values / Colour: **50 Poul Salmon Pink**

Printing: **25 (5 x 5)** Lithographed in Kaboul on white wove paper.

Design: **Daud's Republic Coat of Arms**

Perf: 11 x 11 rough



Registered Airmail cover (unknown destination) **11 Oct 1978** with **2 x (1978) 22 Afs** Balkh Gate issues released on **19 Aug 1978**, and **2 x 50 poul** salmon pink **1978 reprint** of the 1976 Daud Republican Crest issue.

This postage pays the Reg/Air rate of **45Afs**.

NOTE: The use of **Daud era** designs was phased out shortly after the date of this cover as new Democratic Republican issues were released on -

19th. August 1978, Tourism - 16, 22, 30 Afs

31st. August 1978, Pashtunistan - 7 Afs

8th. September 1978, World Literacy Day - 20 Afs,

This permitted **45Af** rates to be paid using denominations of new stamps. e.g. **7 + 16 + 22 = 45 Afs**.

1978 Oct 11th. - Registered Airmail foreign cover requiring 45Afs postage to be paid by the Pashtany Tejaraty Bank in Kabul.

1978 Registration rate= 20Afs Airmail Rate = 25Afs.

Postmark Type PM-36-4a (KABOUL - 2.5mm high)

"11 10 1978
KABOUL 94"

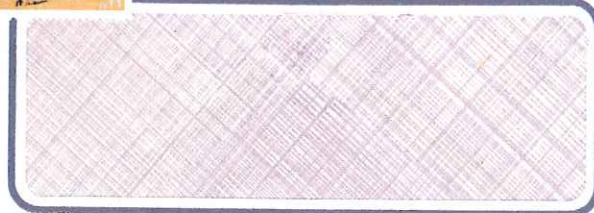
Registration Label
Type RM37



پښتني تجارتي بانک
کابل (افغانستان)

PASHTANY TEJARATY BANK
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

42785



Front of Cover

R NO 229

R NO 989

1978

REGULAR MAIL ISSUES

NOTE: 50 Poul salmon pink 1978 reprint of the 1976 issue.

Values / Colour: 50 Poul Salmon Pink

Printing: 25 (5 x 5) Lithographed in Kaboul on white wove paper.

Design: 50 poul.

Perf: 11 x 11 rough



COMMUNIST
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC 1978 -
1989

Registered Airmail cover to Germany: 3 Sept. 1978, with 2 x 1978 22 Afs Balkh Gate issues released on 19 Aug 1978. The cover has 2 x 50 poul 1978 reprint of the 1976 issue in Salmon pink to make up the 45Af Registered-Air postal rate.



1978 Sept 3rd. - Registered Airmail cover requiring 45Afs postage to be paid by a German doctor in Kabul.

1978 Registration rate= 20Afs

Airmail Rate = 25Afs.

Postmark Type PM-36-4a (KABOUL - 2.5mm high)

"3 9 1978 KABOUL 79"

Registration Label Type RM37



Front of cover

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

1979 January 8th

Airmail cover from the 10 month old **Communist Democratic Republic of Afghanistan** to Denmark. This private letter has five President Daud's **5 Afs 1971 Pashtunistan Day** issues paying the airmail charge of **25Afs.** for Airmail to Denmark.

Postal cancel is Type PM36 D "-8. -1. 1979 KABOUL DEPART"



This cancel was probably in use in the Daud era **1973-1978** prior to the bloody Afghan Communist revolution in late April 1978 when **Moh'd Taraki** became Premier and **Amin** and **Karmal**, who were also gaoled by President Daud, were now made Deputy Premiers.

This letter was written when the following events started to develop.

Amin and **Karmal** were shifted to Afghan Embassies outside Afghanistan. **Karmal** returns and is arrested at Kabul Airport after a gunfight, and is sent abroad again. **Taraki** discovers another plot and **General Qadir** is arrested.

December 1978 - Afghan-Soviet Defence Treaty signed.

February 1979 - US Ambassador to Afghanistan is murdered - a month after this letter was sent.

Amin returns and replaces **Taraki** as Prime Minister and both are invited, by the Russian Ambassador, to a discussion where **Taraki** is killed in a gun battle.

September 1979 - Soviet Russia invades using the Afghan-Soviet Treaty as an excuse.



AFGHANISTAN

1979-1980

WORLD'S FIRST POLITICAL BISECTS

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan - declared 30 April 1978
(Communist Coup)



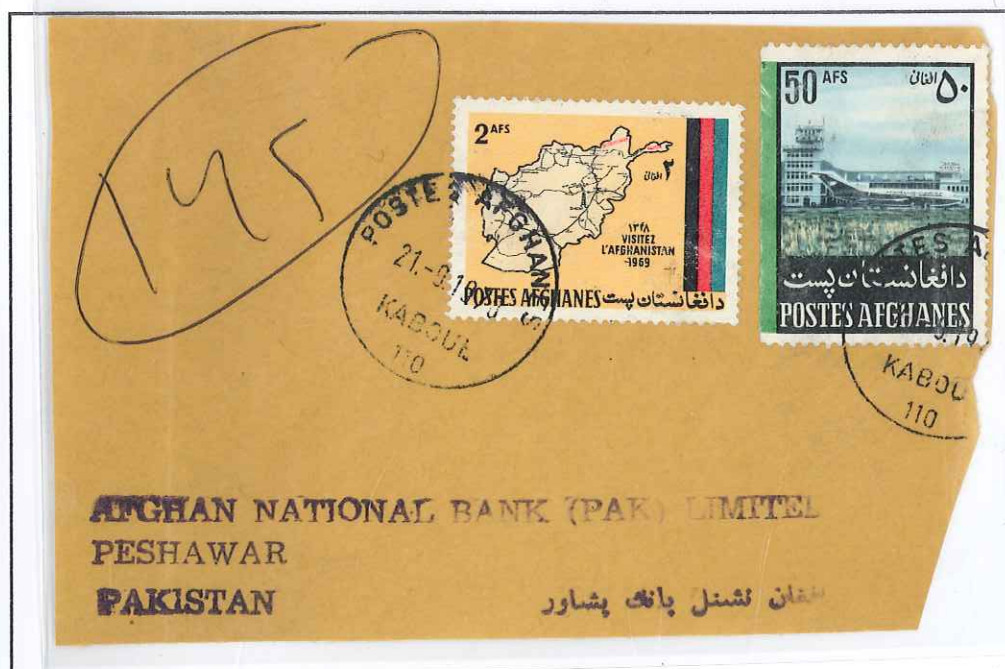
A lack of stamps after the overthrow of the Government forced the new Socialist Government to use stamps from Post Office Archives. They selected, amongst other old issues, the 1971 (Air 50Af) and 1972 (Independence Day 25Af) sheets of stamps for special treatment. These two issues were torn into vertical strips of five, folded vertically and the left hand portion of both stamp designs containing portraits of King Zahir Shah and King Zahir Shah & Queen Humaira, torn off. The right hand portion with its value imprint, was used for postage.



A used single on piece cancelled with Pmk type PM36C, dated 15-8-1978

A vertical strip of 5 bisects from the original sheet of 25 (5x5). This indicates vertical strips of 5 were made, the strip of 5 folded vertically to enable the Royal Images to be torn off.

This strip shows Pmk type PM36C (1977-2000) verifying this is a genuine used strip of bisects with Pmk dated 22-5-1988



A used Registered piece showing a 50Af bisect together with a 1969 Tourist issue that seems to have been part of the stamps brought back into use from archives and cancelled with Pmk Type PM36C, dated 21-9-1978



AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

1980 - 89

Tourist Postcards

A series of 20 Postcards with 2 Af impressed stamps were sold at an unknown price during this period.

Size: 14.7cm x 10.6 cm

- Stamp Design:**
- 1.- Qalai Bust Arch near Kandahar - 2 Af Brown and Intense Blue
 - 2.- Three Bamyán Kochies Dancing - 2 Af Chocolate brown and Intense Blue
 - 3.- Bamyán Valley and Carved Cliff Face Buddha - 2 Af Brown and Green
 - 4.- Two women weaving carpets - 2 Af Red and Black

- Post Card Scenes:**
- K- Kabul Intercontinental Hotel
 - P- Paghman Valley, Kabul
 - B- Bamyán Kochies' Tents (Afghan Gypsies)
 - H- Herat Grand Mosque
 - E- Ekhtyaruddin Castle - Herat

K-



1.



2.



3.



4.



KABUL INTERCONTINENTAL
HOTEL

د کابل انټرکانټیننټل هوټل



KABUL INTERCONTINENTAL
HOTEL

د کابل انټرکانټیننټل هوټل



ADDRESSEE کس الیه _____

SENDER کس _____

د افغانستان پست

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

1980 - 89

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 - 3.- Bamyán Valley and Carved Cliff Face Buddha - 2 Af Brown and Green
 - 4.- Two women weaving carpets - 2 Af Red and Black

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 - P- Paghman Valley, Kabul
 - B- Bamyán Kochies' Tents (Afghan Gypsies)
 - H- Herat Grand Mosque
 - E- Ekhtyaruddin Castle - Herat

1.



2.



3.



4.



P-



PAGHMAN VALLEY, KABUL

دره پښان کابل



PAGHMAN VALLEY, KABUL

دره پښان کابل



ADDRESSEE رسول

پست افغانستان

SENDER رسول

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

1980 - 89

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 - 2.- Three Bamyan Kochies Dancing - 2 Af Chocolate brown and Intense Blue
 - 3.- Bamyan Valley and Carved Cliff Face Buddha - 2 Af Brown and Green
 - 4.- Two women weaving carpets - 2 Af Red and Black

- Post Card Scenes:**
- K- Kabul Intercontinental Hotel
 - P- Paghman Valley, Kabul
 - B- Bamyan Kochies' Tents (Afghan Gypsies)
 - H- Herat Grand Mosque
 - E- Ekhtyaruddin Castle - Herat

1.



2.



3.



4.



B-



BAMYAN KOCHIES' TENTS

خیمه های کوچی در بامیان



BAMYAN KOCHIES' TENTS

خیمه های کوچی در بامیان



ADDRESSEE کس الیه _____

SENDER کس _____

د افغانستان پست
AFGHAN POST

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

1980 - 89

Tourist Postcards

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 - 3.- Bamyán Valley and Carved Cliff Face Buddha - 2 Af Brown and Green
 - 4.- Two women weaving carpets - 2 Af Red and Black

- Post Card Scenes:**
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 - P- Paghman Valley, Kabul
 - B- Bamyán Kochies' Tents (Afghan Gypsies)
 - H- Herat Grand Mosque
 - E- Ekhtyaruddin Castle - Herat



H-

1.



2.



3.



4.



HERAT GRAND MOSQUE

دېرات جامع مسجد



HERAT GRAND MOSQUE

دېرات جامع مسجد



HERAT GRAND MOSQUE

دېرات جامع مسجد



ADDRESSEE کس الی

SENDER کس

د افغانستان پست

AFGHAN POST

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

1980 - 89

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 - H- Herat Grand Mosque
 - E- Ekhtyaruddin Castle - Herat



E-

EKHTYARUDDIN CASTLE
OF HERAT
قلعه اختیارالدین هرات



ADDRESSEE برس الیه _____

SENDER برس _____

د افغانستان پست
AFGHAN POST

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1978 - 1989

1980 Value / Colour: 10 Af Violet Blue on medium blue.

1981 a cancel was added upvaluing the aerogramme to 12 Afs.

Design: Plane flying over the Hadger Valley



1982-1992 The 1980 upvalued aerogramme was replaced with this 12 Af Black & Blue on light blue Dove on Globe design. In c1990 it was upvalued with violet handstamps to 20 Afs and by March 1992 to 30 Afs.



AFS-20 ننانی ۲۰

1990

AFS-30 افغان ۳۰

March 1992

In 1993 the aerogramme postage rate rose to 32 Afs as the civil war intensified.

AFGHANISTAN

1990 - 2006 Civil War and Reconstruction

Civil War Mail 1990-1996

Following the retreat of the Soviet Russian occupation forces back to Russia by 1989, and then the fall of their communist puppet President Najibullah and his communist government by April 1992, forced Najibullah to seek refuge in the UN Compound in Kabul but he was dragged out by Mujahadin rebels and hanged on a light pole in the street. The **Communist Democratic Republic of Afghanistan** ceased to exist.

From this point **civil war** escalated.

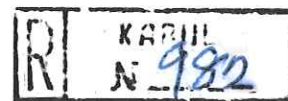
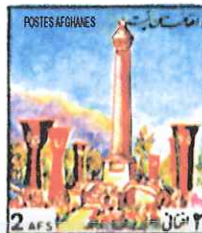
No new postage stamps had been ordered since 1989 and postal services gradually reduced to operating at emergency service level. Old archived issues were used, stationery became a priority and old archived cancelled First Day covers were brought into use with any issues, old or new, at whatever price one was willing to pay for handling their letters - there did not seem to be any guarantee as to delivery. However some semblance of operation was maintained by loyal post office staff under very difficult civil war conditions.

1991 -

1980s Postal Stationery 2 Af "Agricultural" design envelopes were found and used for with 1991 **stationery in short supply generally** the 2Af envelopes were pressed into service for international mail use.

The stationery and stamp availability problem was to become worse over the next four or more years as the Soviet withdrawal and the following civil war created ongoing supply problems.

The following **Ghori Power Station design 2 Af envelope** was posted with 2 x 50 Af stamps for the 102 Afghani mail charge, receiving a Type PM36 cancel dated "18 1 1991 KABOUL" and a Registered cancel Type RM39c - for International mailing to Japan.



AFGHANISTAN

1990 - 2006 Civil War and Reconstruction

Civil War Mail 1990-1996

1991

1991 July 8th. - Registered Airmail cover to Pakistan with 90 Afs postage paid by the Da Afghanistan Bank in Kabul.

Former Registration rate pre 1990 = c24 Afs

Foreign Air letter rate = 24 Afs

NOTE: The Communist Democratic Republic stamp issues 12Af (1979), 50 Af (1983) and 4 Af (1989 - the last new stamps issued) - approximately total double the pre 1990 postal rate.

However there is the possibility of a carrying charge for the cover appears to have been privately carried and delivered, possibly with other mail. The normal Pakistan "Received" registered mail cancel is missing, indicating Pakistan Post did not handle it.

The Bank displayed sufficient trust in the Kabul Post Office staff to deliver the letter in Pakistan. In all probability local merchants carried the mail to Pakistan and delivered this cover direct to the Bank - the missing Pakistan "Received" registered mail cancel supports this. It is most unlikely it went by airmail.

This cover is classified "**Hand Delivered**".

What the "Registration" handstamp means is anyone's guess but probably added to give some protection to the mail much like the letters of the late 19th century had '2 4 6 8' added in manuscript to guarantee its safe conduct. Although at Kabul it was registered to protect the staff if there was a loss inquiry.

Postmark Type PM-36c

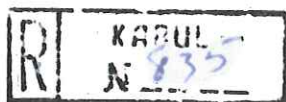
(KABOUL - 2.5mm high)

"-8.-7. 1991 KABOUL 71"



Handstamped "Registration" (?) Cancel

Type RM39c 1991



AFGHANISTAN

1990 - 2006 Civil War and Reconstruction Civil War Mail 1990-1996

1992 - two opposing groups had now formed -

Non-Pathan: Lead by Rabbani, Dostam & Wahdat

Pathan: Lead by Hekmatyer's Hizb-i-Islami.

Rabbani and Masood (commander of the army) fight Hekmatyer's opposing forces to maintain control of Kabul.

Rabbani, seeing the National Post Office from 1989 had struggled without new stamp issues, he now commences to have his own Wardak region issue stamps. These Wardak issues may have been printed to raise funds from collectors but perhaps the real purpose was to signal that he was a serious contender to rule all of Afghanistan.

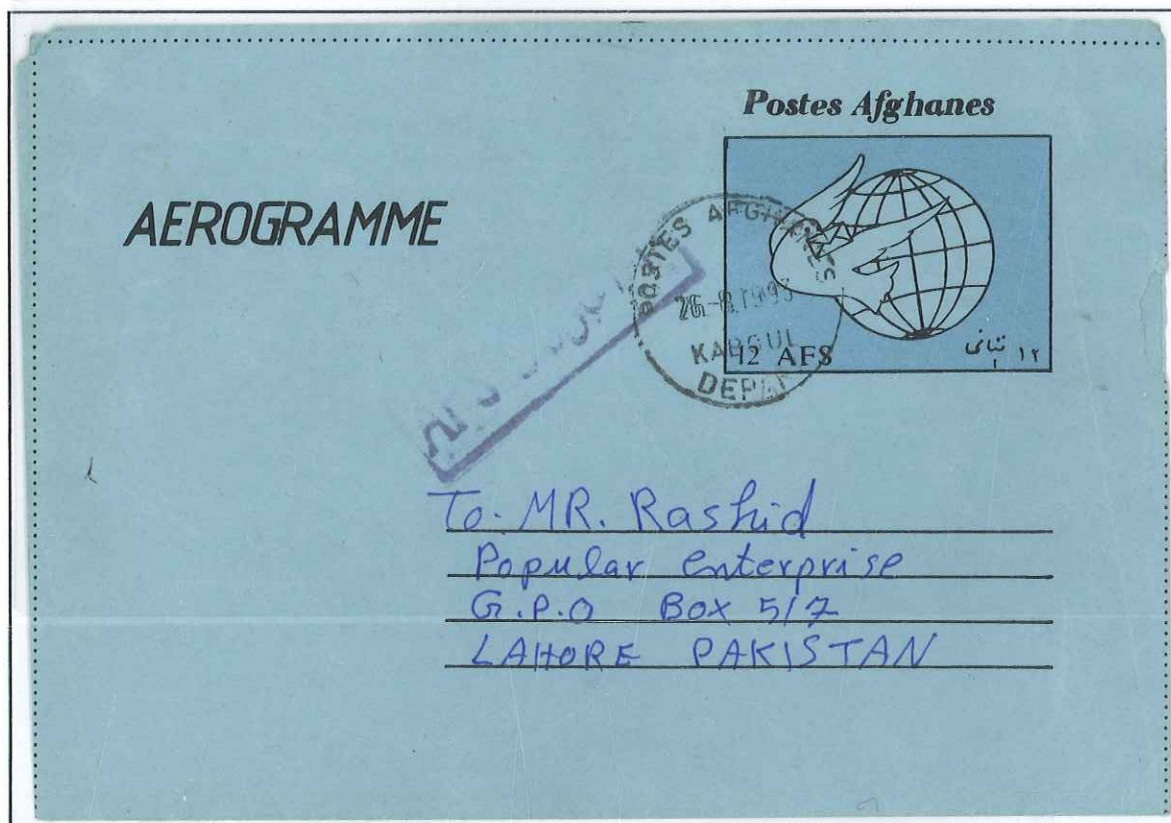


1993 - Inflation was on the increase - this 12 Af airletter addressed to Lahore received a violet hand cancel (45mm x 15mm) up-valuing it to 30 Afs [150%].

۳۰-افغان 30-AFS



The cancel is Type PM36D dated - "26 8 1993 KABOUL DEPART"



AFGHANISTAN

1990 - 2006 Civil War and Reconstruction Civil War Mail 1990-1996

1994 - The post office operated spasmodically as Taliban tribal; forces entered the scene gaining the upper hand and supporting *Hekmatyar* as Premier who was not yet willing to enter Kabul to take up the post. *Hekmatyar* and *Dostam* joined forces and attacked Kabul destroying 50% of the buildings, killing 25,000 of the population. Afghan killing Afghan, Moslem killing Moslem, resulting in reports that many refugees threw away their religious texts after reaching the Pakistan border and crossing safely. The Kabul Post Office was inoperative.

December - Five Regional Commanders now controlled almost all regions of Afghanistan, but the Taliban was gaining support -

<i>Ismail Kahn</i>	- Herat region
<i>Rashid Dostam</i>	- Mazar-i-Sharif region
<i>Abdul Qadir</i>	- Nangahar region
<i>Jabiludin Haqqanim</i>	- Paktia region
<i>Rabbani & Ahmed Masood</i> (nominally under <i>Rabbani</i>)	- North East and Kabul region

1995 - **Pakistan** in attempting to control Afghanistan supported the *Taliban* as *Rabbani* was unable to restore order. Pakistan wanted control of Afghanistan as it claimed half of Pakistan's western territory which the Afghans named "*Pashtunistan*".

The other surrounding nations provided support -

Iran	supported <i>Wahdat</i> and <i>Rabbani</i> factions
Uzbekistan	supported <i>Dostam</i>
Tajikistan	supported <i>Masood</i> .

The *Taliban* now attacked Herat and *Ismail Khan*, whose rule had achieved 3 years of peace. *Ismail Khan* drove the *Taliban* nearly back to Kandahar. Saudi Arabians then sponsored *Taliban* forces by activating Afghan aircraft and supplying transport for them to successfully attack and occupy Herat. An unnecessarily action, for Herat had not been a problem area so *Taliban* motives were suspect.

Under *taliban* control the Post Office still lacked stamps and Postal archives provided 1964 -1989 stamps seen on this Airmail cover to Pakistan when it was safe to open the Post office again.

The cover is cancelled with **Type PM 36c dated "5 6 1995 KABUL (16)"** in violet for postage of 10 Afs - a smaller charge. The stamp values may not longer indicate the actual charge being made for the cost of delivering the letter, which was escalating with the civil war disrupting all civilian life.



Although this is an airmail envelope it is not considered it was trans[sorted] in this way.

1990 - 2006

AFGHANISTAN

Civil War - Reconstruction

Civil War Mail 1990-1996

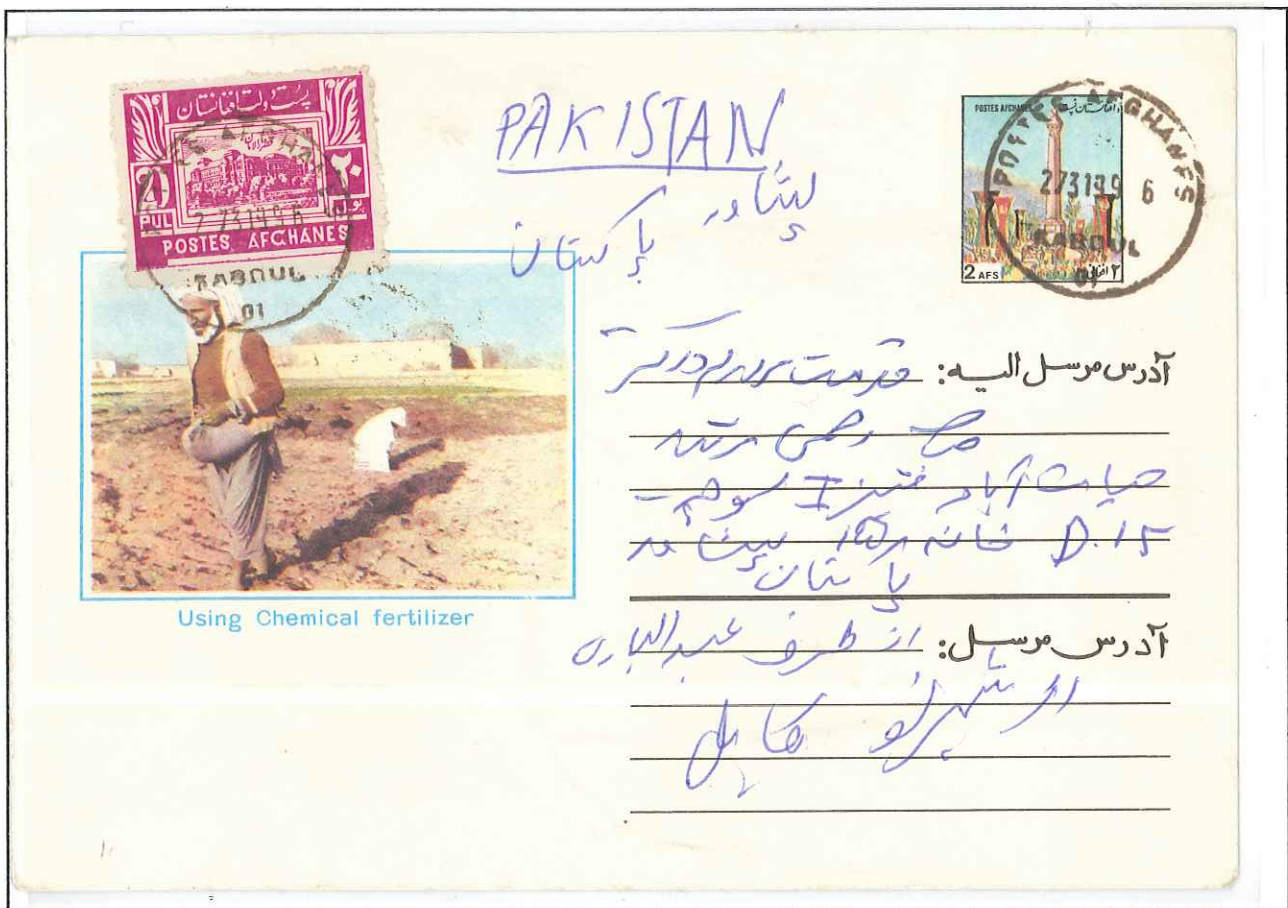
1996:

Hekmatyr, as Prime Minister, insists on *Purdah* (complete veil for women), rejects "Ulema" (case law) and becomes a "back to basics" fanatic, basing his organisation on Communist Cell structures.

August: Stamps dating from 1932 to 1989, were now being taken from postal archives, for letters posted February/ March 1996. It took until Pakistan Post eventually processed them on 4th August 1996, a delay of 5 months.

This is an indication of the delivery difficulties the civil war was causing to mail routes to Pakistan. The Post Office was operating in between constant attacks on Kabul by *Hekmatyr* and the *Taliban*. The *Taliban*'s control of 85% of Afghanistan's principal cities and highways contributed to the 5 month mail delivery delay. *Hekmatyr*'s, the "Prime Minister" (?), attacks on Kabul resulted in 25,000 deaths of civilians, more deaths than the Russians had caused during its 11 year occupation.

1996 March 27th - 2 Af postal stationery (1980) envelope with added postage comprising a 1932 - 20 Poul issue: **total = 2.20 Afs.** A token show of the actual postage charges. The constant attacks on Kabul forced the Post Office to judge when it could send this mail on to Peshawar. A lull in the attacks and they were sent, a bare month before Kabul was captured by the Taliban in September.



Taliban forces in taking Herat from Ismail Khan, forced 20,000 girls and boys from their schools and women were forbidden to leave their homes and as they comprised the majority of teachers the schools closed. Education, it seems, was the prime target of these terrorists who were threatened by an educated population. Ismail Khan and his troops retreated to the north and battled to protect Mazar-i-Sharif over the next year and a half. Eventually he sought refuge in Iran as the *Taliban* became powerful through support from Pakistan's Military and finance from Saudi Arabia.

With Kabul no longer under attack the Post Office moved to restore regular postal services.

1990 - 2006

AFGHANISTAN

Civil War - Reconstruction

Civil War Mail 1990-1996

1996:

August: Stamps from postal archives were used on letters the post office was accumulating from February/ March 1996. Pakistan Post eventually processed them on 4th August 1996, a delay of 5 months.

1996 - 2 Af postal stationery (1980) envelope with added postage comprising a 1960-64, 1966 and 1985 issues: **total = 25.50 Afs.**

These were cancelled with Type PM36 4 cancel but incorrectly dated 1989, when it should have been 1996. An indication that the staff may have been one of the 25,000 killed and replaced with inexperienced friends or family, due to the civil war bombardment of Kabul.

The Post Office sent this cover and others it had accumulated over the 5 months of *Taliban/ Hekmatyr* attacks on Kabul, a bare month before Kabul was captured in **September**.

With 50% of the city destroyed during the attack by Taliban and supporting forces, the Post Office would have started to restore regular postal services where possible.



1997 Three major forces now exist that effect the operation of the Afghan Post-
Northern Alliance - Rabbani and **Masood** with 35,000 men backed by Iran, Russia and India.

Dostam and **General Malik** - with 25,000 men (Uzbeks and some Hazara units) at Mazar-i-Sharif

Taliban - with 25,000 men supported by small Mujahadin commanders, Pakistan military and Saudi Arabian money.

The other forces were -

Ismail Khan (Lion of Herat) - and his Persian speaking force at Herat who later retreat to Mazar-i-Sharif where General **Malik** hands him over to the **Taliban**, but he escapes to Iran. **Malik** flees to Iran when **Masood** drives the **Taliban** back to Kabul.

Wahdat - in the Hazarajat remains undefeated.

Hekmatyr - no longer a serious threat.

1996 - 2001

AFGHANISTAN

RABBANI - TALIBAN Period

Mullah *Rabbani* had become Head of Government at Kabul when it was taken by the *Taliban*. *Rabbani* entered into contracts for the supply of stamps at inflationary rates for postage. Initially the exchange rate was **47 Afghani = 1 Cent AUD i.e. 4,750 Af = \$1 AUD**.

Stamps were sold by one Melbourne dealer for more than 12 times face value and allowing for dealers to charge 300% on purchase price, the Rabbani Government seemed to be selling them for at least 400% on face value.

So these issues, aside from income, may have been trying to advertise an acceptable international face for a government reigning through religious terror, inflexible rules, the gun and ensuring the population would follow the lead of "learned leaders" if the population was not generally educated to a level that could allow them to question their statements and instructions.

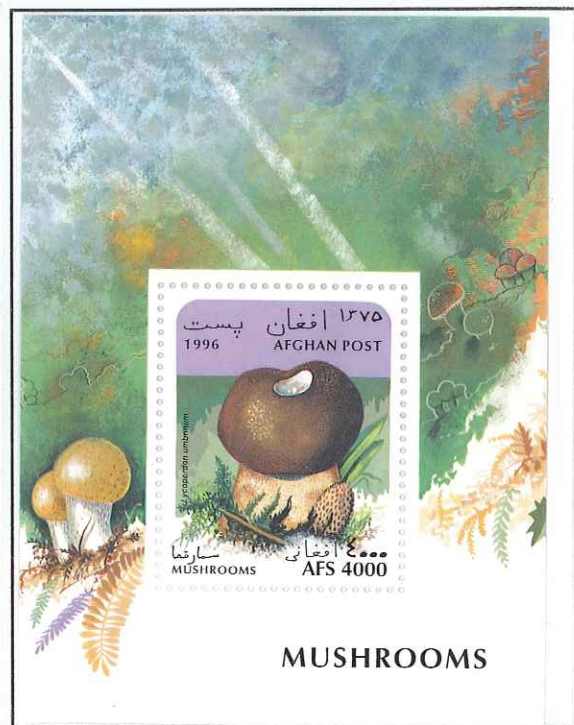
Stamp Issues 1996 - 2001 - Summary

1996 - 1998 (August: 12 separate issues were released

1998 August (occupation by *Taliban* of Mazar-i-Sharif) - 2001 : further 21 Taliban issues released.

Stamps of the Northern alliance considered as no longer issued.

1996 - 8 different issues released - The first 20 July 1996: Mushrooms. Values 100, 300, 400, 500, 600, 800 and MS 4,000 Afs. Perf: 13x13.



Similar issues were released featuring animals, insects, sport and cars and trains up until 2001.

In **2000** the *Taliban* destroys the world heritage 1500 year old 200 foot high Bamiyan Buddha carved into the cliffs of the Bamiyan Valley in retaliation for local *Hazara* tribes' continuing opposition to extreme *Taliban* rules which seemed to reflect Saudi Arabian attitudes which Afghan Moslems had never accepted.

2000 - 2002

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban - Human Rights

2000

- United Nations.

Taliban destroys the world heritage 1500 year old 175 feet high Bamiyan Buddhas carved into the cliffs of the Bamiyan Valley in retaliation for local *Hazara* tribes' continuing opposition to Taliban forces disregard for Human Rights.



1951 Mar 21st - 20 Poul Black

Taliban closes down UN Refugee Agency and 116 bakeries run under the World Food programme and orders all foreigners to wear yellow badges.

2001

Sept. 9 - Masood, the "Lion of Panjsher" now a military leader in UNIFSA (United National Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan), two days before the US September 11 terrorist attacks, was murdered by Al Qaeda suicide attackers.



Masood

Sept. 11 - A series of four aerial suicide attacks in the United States on Tuesday September 11, 2001, by 19 terrorists from the Bin Laden Islamist militant group. Nearly 3,000 people died in the New York attacks including 227 civilians. None of the 19 hijackers on board the four planes survived. Al-Qaeda's group leader, Osama bin Laden claimed responsibility for the attacks.

December 20th - a NATO "International Security Assistance Force" (ISAF) mission established by United Nations Security Council - 20 Dec. 2001 by Resolution 1386. ISAF to enter Afghanistan, secure Kabul and surrounding areas from the Taliban, al Qaeda and factional warlords, and establish an Afghan Transitional Administration.

The United States launches - "War on Terror".

December 20th - a NATO "International Security Assistance Force" (ISAF) mission established by United Nations Security Council - 20 Dec. 2001 by Resolution 1386. ISAF to enter Afghanistan, secure Kabul and surrounding areas from the Taliban, al Qaeda and factional warlords, and establish an Afghan Transitional Administration.

Troops were supplied by 29 countries

United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Croatia, Georgia, Denmark, Belgium, Czech Republic, Norway, Sweden, Bulgaria, South Korea, Slovakia, Albania, Azerbaijan, Slovenia, Singapore, and El Salvador, - to invade Afghanistan and depose the Taliban and capture Osama bin Laden.

ISAF Cover
Italian forces
17-8-2002



JULIE DELESSESSE
3, RUE DU BREUCQ
7830 - BASSILLY
BELGIQUE

2002 - 2006**AFGHANISTAN****ISAF & New Government**

2002 -After battles, bombing, search and kill operations **UNIFSA** and **ISAF** forces successfully removed the Taliban from the areas needed to establish a UN sponsored administration.

by , but Osama bin Laden remained at large..

2002 June - The *Loya Jirga* (Council) and former King *Zahir Shah* approved the inauguration of the Afghan Interim Government under Interim President **Hamid Karzai** who now posthumously awarded **Ahmed Shah Masood** the title of "**Hero of the Afghan Nation**".

Ahmed Shah Masood

The first stamp issued under the **Karzai Government** is dedicated to **Ahmed Shah Masood**.

14,000 Afs - Design: of bust of Ahmed Shah Masood

Issued: **July 2002 (?) Perf 13½x13**. Printed on White wove paper.

Ahmed Shah Masood

"**Lion of Panjsher**"



"**Hero of the Afghan Nation**".



Ahmed Shah Masood: born 1953, Jangalak district of Panjsher. Known as "**Lion of Panjsher**", for his successes as a military commander against the Soviet occupation forces. He played a most important role in Afghanistan's modern history as he fought the Soviet invasion forces. He was hailed in the Wall street Journal as the "**Afghan who won the cold war**".

After the Communists were defeated, Masood's troops were the first Mujahideen group to enter Kabul, to help establish a Mujahideen government and serve as President *Burhanuddin Rabbani's* Defence Minister and preventing Rabbani's rival, *Gulbuddin Hekmatyar*, from taking over the government.

When *Rabbani's* government fell, *Masood* and his allies pulled their forces north and worked on defending the north and central regions in order to prevent them being completely taken over by the *Taliban*. Meanwhile the *Taliban & Hekmatyar*, with Saudi Arabian financial and Pakistani military help, took over Kabul, the capital.

Masood was serving as a UNIFSA military leader and two days before the US September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, *Al Qaeda / Taliban* operatives murdered him in a suicide attack.

Afghanistan lost a great patriot..

One of Interim President *Moh'd Karzai's* three Interim Vice Presidents, *Haji Abdul Qadir* from the Northern Alliance, was murdered in Kabul.

2002: Three more **Karzai Government** issues were released during the remainder of 2002 - **25,000 Afs** Bamiyan Buddha destruction, **11,000 Afs** - National Reconciliation & new currency **4 Afs** - **55th Anniversary of Human Rights**.



2002 July - 25,000 Afs

inflationary issue.

The interim Karzai Government's 2nd stamp demonstrated the Taliban's destruction of the 1500 year old 175 foot tall Afghan Bamiyan Buddha.

Perf 13½x13



National Reconciliation

c 2002 Aug?

Perf: 13 x 13½



55th Anniversary of Human Rights.

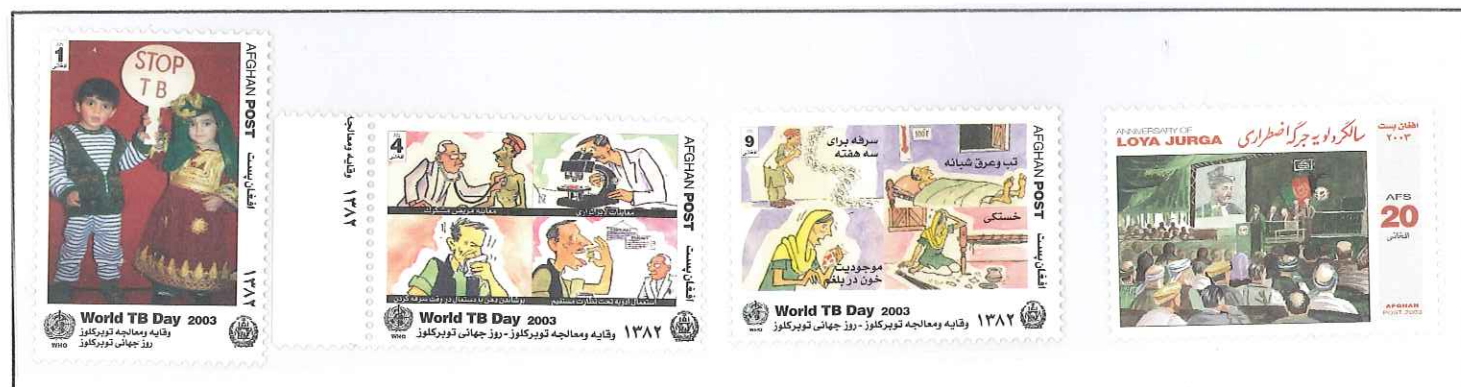
10 Dec. 2002 Perf: 13 x 13½

1998 - 2002 Issues not officially recognised but from formation of Moh'd Karzai's Interim Afghan Government in 2002 its stamp issues are internationally recognised.

2003 October - UN Security Council expanded the **ISAF** until it operated over the whole of Afghanistan.

The Afghan Post Office during 2003 was operating more efficiently, ordering 23 new issues during the year, all priced at the revalued currency rates. These were delivered to Kabul for issuing.

The following examples comprise 11 of these sets indicating the Government was rapidly restoring its administration with the assistance of **ISAF** who were still battling elements of the **Taliban**.



2004

The First Meeting of the **Postal Authorities of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)** was held on 20-21 April 2004, in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan. Delegations from **Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkey** attended. The Afghan Post is well on the way to restoring the pre civil war administration as the **U.N. ISAF** Forces continue to battle the Taliban terror organisation.

Stamp Issues of Afghan Post Office continues with this issue of World TB Day 2004, several new issues being released in this year, the year of the presidential Election.



October - First popularly elected President of Afghanistan - **President Hamid Karzai**

The work of **ISAF** continues as the *Taliban* terrorists continue their war against everyone.



2002 - 2006

AFGHANISTAN

ISAF & New Government

2003 - The Afghan Government's Post Office issues its first new Aerogramme, prepaid for National use only. The purchase cost not indicated but would possibly be similar to the lower values of new stamp issues in sets already on sale. The postal administration would be retraining to replace staff lost through the civil war and this issue is an encouraging sign for the future.

Aerogramme co-sponsored by WHO

Numbers printed not known.



Pre-paid for national use only

ایروگرام
Aerogramme

وقایه و معالجه توبرکلوز - روز جهانی توبرکلوز
۱۳۸۲

Co-sponsored by WHO



World TB Day 2003



ISAF - NATO's "*International Security Assistance Force*" (ISAF) mission, established by **United Nations Security Council** - 20 Dec. 2001 by Resolution 1386 has succeeded in restoring the Afghan Government Administration. However the battle with fanatical *Taliban* terrorists continues. The troops from the 29 countries serve on and die, preserving the right of world humanity to live in peace by stopping these terrorists who deny them this right.

