

Ten years of war in Afghanistan

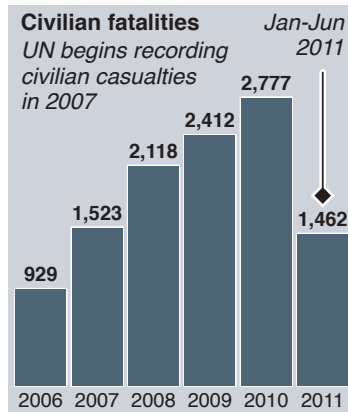


Oct 7, 2001: U.S. President **George W. Bush** launches war in Afghanistan to root out **Osama bin Laden** and terror network behind 9/11 attacks, and to topple Taliban government that gave them safe haven

Nov: Kabul falls to anti-Taliban **Northern Alliance**

Dec: Afghan factions agree interim government headed by ethnic Pashtun tribal leader **Hamid Karzai**

Kandahar, last Taliban stronghold, falls – Taliban leader **Mullah Omar** evades capture. Bin Laden flees heavy bombardment of **Tora Bora** caves



Jan 2002: First contingent of NATO-led **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)** deployed, marking start of protracted operation against Taliban

Jun: **Loya Jirga**, or grand council, elects Karzai as interim head of state

May 2003: **Donald Rumsfeld**, U.S. Defence Secretary, declares end of major combat operations

Jan 2004: New constitution provides for strong presidency intended to unite all ethnic groups

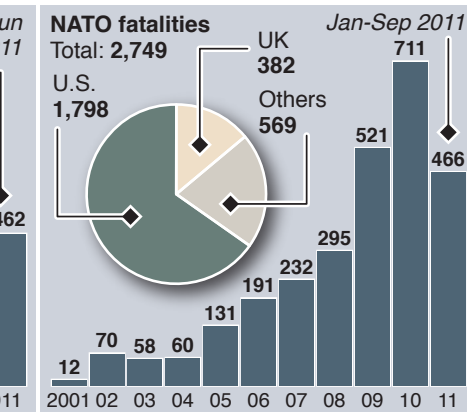
Oct: Karzai becomes first democratically elected President of Afghanistan



Sep 2005: Six million vote in first parliamentary elections in over 30 years

Oct 2006: NATO takes responsibility for security across entire country

2007-08: Civilian and military casualties mount, turning many against troops



Feb 2009: President **Obama** orders in 17,000 additional troops to tackle intensifying insurgency

Mar: Obama unveils new war strategy, linking success in Afghanistan to stable Pakistan – fighting growing Taliban insurgency of its own

May: **Gen. Stanley McChrystal** named top U.S. commander, signalling shift to counter-insurgency plan aimed at lessening civilian casualties



Jul: U.S. Marines launch major operation in southern Afghanistan

Oct: Karzai re-elected president after elections marred by widespread Taliban attacks and claims of serious fraud

Dec: Obama boosts U.S. troop numbers by 30,000, bringing total to 100,000

Feb 2010: NATO-led forces launch major offensive in bid to secure government control of lawless Helmand province



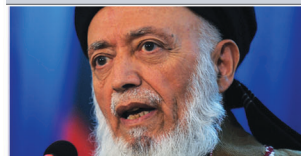
Jul: **General David Petraeus** replaces Gen. McChrystal – fired for critical remarks about Obama administration

Nov: NATO summit agrees plan to hand control of security to Afghan forces by 2014

May 2011: Osama bin Laden killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan

Jun: Obama announces withdrawal of 33,000 troops by summer of 2012

Sep: **Burhanuddin Rabbani** – peace envoy between Kabul and Taliban – killed in suicide attack



Oct 7, 2011: Ten years on, relations between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the U.S. and its allies are increasingly precarious, and peace remains a distant prospect

