

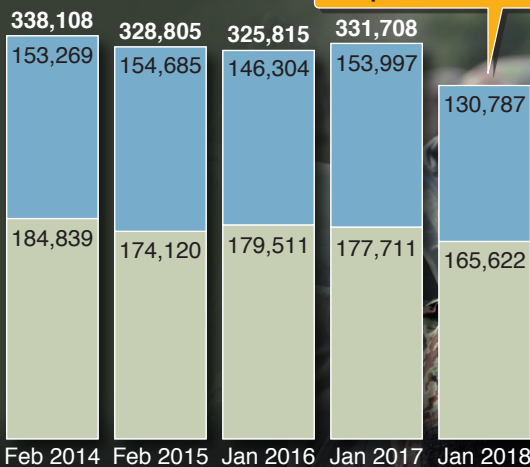
Afghan security forces shrink sharply

The number of security forces personnel has fallen by about 10 percent over the past 12 months, a U.S. government watchdog has said, amid reports of desertions and high casualty rates

NUMBER OF AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES

■ Afghan National Army
■ Afghan National Police

Jan 2018: Total of 296,409, drop of 10.6% compared to Jan 2017



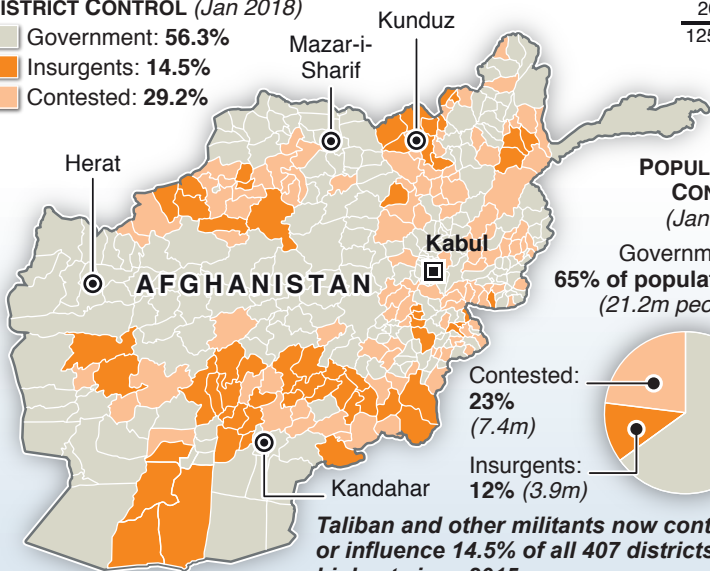
Feb 2014 Feb 2015 Jan 2016 Jan 2017 Jan 2018



Picture: Getty Images

DISTRICT CONTROL (Jan 2018)

■ Government: **56.3%**
■ Insurgents: **14.5%**
■ Contested: **29.2%**

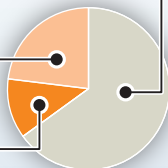


POPULATION CONTROL (Jan 2018)

Government: **65% of population (21.2m people)**

Contested: **23% (7.4m)**

Insurgents: **12% (3.9m)**



Taliban and other militants now control or influence 14.5% of all 407 districts – highest since 2015