

For Official Use Only

## Ethnic Groups



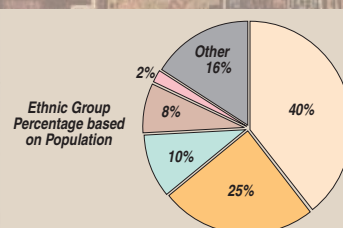
■ Pashtuns  
■ Tajiks  
■ Hazara  
■ Uzbeks  
■ Baloch

### Tajiks

- Strong community/family ties; no tribal identity
- Sunnis of Persian ancestry; speak Dari
- Opposed Taliban; fought with the Northern Alliance
- Wary of Pashtun leadership

### Uzbeks

- Sunnis of Turkic ancestry
- Speak Uzbek and Dari
- Nomadic and settled communities, mainly in north
- Fought with Northern Alliance against the Taliban



### Pashtuns

- Most dominant ethnic group
- Mostly Sunnis; minority is Shi'a
- Speak Pashtu and Dari (urban)
- Formed Taliban core; remained loyal until its defeat
- Consider themselves the only true Afghans

### Hazara

- Primarily Shi'a; persecuted by Sunnis
- Speak Hazagari, similar to Dari
- Fought with Northern Alliance against Taliban

### Baloch

- Primary residents of Nimroz and Southern Helmand Provinces.
- Move goods throughout southern Afghanistan
- See smuggling as honorable and manly
- Have historical animosity with Pashtuns

## Pashtuns



Since 1747, all but two of Afghanistan's rulers have been Pashtun. Pashtun society is egalitarian (for males). RC East Pashtun society is individualistic and fragmented. RC South is more hierarchically organized. These differences are reflected in each region's insurgency.

A Pashtun's loyalties lie with his network (*qawm*). Networks are based on blood (family, clan, subtribe), or non-blood ties such as work or life experience (attended same *madrasa*, fought together, etc.).

Self interest underlies most decisions; the primary concern is small-group survival. Spatially, Afghans identify with the *manteqa* (the territory controlled by a *qawm*), instead of with political divisions like the village. *Manteqa* vary in size. They form the basis for bazaars, schools, and militias, and should be considered when distributing development funds, etc.

Rural Afghans have little experience with central government, and have never seen great power used for unselfish ends. Those in authority commonly use influence to advance self or group. Power is derived from *qawm*, narcotics, land ownership, and control of water or electricity. ISAF and the Taliban are seen as outsiders; their legitimacy is based, in part, on whether their actions are in the best interest of the people.

## Do This

Afghans conduct themselves so as to bring honor and respect to themselves and their families. The following customs should be practiced:

**Do** shake hands firmly but gently in greeting and departure. Always shake with the right hand.

**Do** try all food offered. This acknowledges the hospitality of the host. Often, items offered may have been difficult to acquire.

**Do** understand the nature of Afghan hospitality as an opportunity for the host to display power and gain honor. The host's effort should be recognized.

**Do** expect to spend much of a visit socializing and drinking tea before discussing business.

**Do** use applicable professional or academic titles. Titles such as "engineer," "doctor," and "professor," confer recognition of achievement and honor the individual, his family, and his tribe.

**Do** expect Afghans to have a different sense of time and punctuality. Afghans believe a task will be completed according to God's will.

**Do** give a gift in return for one received. Gifts acknowledge or initiate relationships.

**Do** beckon others by extending your hand, palm downward, and curling fingers inward.

## Don't Do This

The essential elements of the Pashtunwali Code are to avoid shame (*haya*) and seek honor (*namuz*) for oneself and one's family. The following behaviors should be avoided:

**Don't** use the left hand for physical contact with others, to eat, or to make gestures; it is considered unclean.

**Don't** sit with the soles of your feet facing someone. It indicates that person is beneath you.

**Don't** show a woman attention by addressing, touching, or staring at her. Don't ask men direct questions about their female relatives.

**Don't** walk away from someone who is speaking to you.

**Don't** tell an Afghan he is wrong if he gives incorrect information. It is considered a slight.

**Don't** express emotion in public; it is considered a weakness.

**Don't** expect Afghans to be able to read, particularly outside urban centers.

**Don't** beckon or point with a finger. It is considered rude and may be mistaken for a challenge.

**Don't** wear sunglasses indoors. It is considered disrespectful of the building's status and its host.

**Don't** offer an Afghan food or drink or publicly consume either during Ramadan, when Muslims fast.

## Weights and Measures

The value of Afghan units of weight often varies by region. In addition, one unit of measure may have different values when weighing opium than it has in weighing other items, such as food. Those below are for RC South, and related to opium.

Units of Measure	
Jerib	2000 square Meters/0.5 acre
Hectare	10,000 square Meters/2.5 acres
Tulee	Weight of one AK47round (10gm)
Puri	Just less than 1KG/2.2Lbs
Seer	7 KG/17 Lbs
Mann	3.5 KG/8 Lbs (RC South)
	35 KG/80Lbs (RC East)

Units of Currency (as of March 2010)	
100 Pakistani Rupees	US \$1.20/56 Afghani/11,750 Rial
100 Afghanis	US \$2.10/180 PK Rupees/21,000 Iranian Rial
10,000 Iranian Rial	US \$1/50 Afghani/85 PK Rupees
1 US Dollar	50 Afghani/85 PK Rupees/10,000 Rial

Please direct feedback to: [feedback@mcia.osis.gov](mailto:feedback@mcia.osis.gov)



**Marine Corps Intelligence Activity**  
 2033 Barnett Avenue  
 Quantico, Virginia 22134-5011  
 COM: (703) 784-6146; DSN: 278-6146

Published April 2010  
 DOD-2634-AFG-014-10

## Religion

Afghans practice a moderate form of Islam that is unlike the Taliban's version. The following influences contribute to this:

**Hanafi Islam** – Most moderate of the four Sunni schools of thought.

**Sufism** – Mystical, moderate form of Islam common in rural Afghanistan. Teaches purification from negative thoughts, emotions, actions; love all people, races, religions; experience God personally.

**Tradition** – Rural Afghans mix Islam with pre-Islamic traditions, such as saints, shrines for the dead, religious amulets, and superstition.

The Taliban's extreme beliefs are rooted in Deobandism (from India), and Salafism (from the Middle East). These beliefs are foreign to Afghanistan, and are rejected by most Afghans.

### Common Terms for Afghan Religious Leaders

Akhund	Religious scholar/teacher
Amir	Leader of geographic area
Imam	Leader of organization (mosque, madrasa)
Mullah	Lower ranking Islamic cleric.
Maulawi	Intermediate level Islamic cleric/scholar.
Maulana	High-level Islamic scholar.
Pir	Sufi teacher. Highly respected.
Qazi	Islamic judge
Sayyed	Descendant of Mohammed.
Qari	One who is able to read the Qu'ran
Agha	Mr.
Wakil	Lawyer

## Pashtunwali

Pashtunwali is an ancient code of conduct that defines Pashtun relationships and individual duties; can supersede rules of Islam. The concept of "honor versus shame" underlies Pashtunwali's basic pillars as follows:



**Asylum** (*Nanawatey*): A Pashtun must grant refuge to all who ask, even enemies; a household protects a refugee to the death as matter of honor. Offensive behavior by a refugee nullifies *nanawatey*; those who commit offenses against women do not qualify for *nanawatey*.

**Hospitality** (*Melmastia*): A Pashtun is generous to guests; a guest who rejects hospitality insults the host's honor.

**Revenge** (*Badal*): A Pashtun must avenge perceived insults to his honor, regardless of time and consequences; Pashtuns can wait years for revenge. Insults to women are particularly grievous.

**Bravery** (*Tureh*): Bravery is honorable and manly; defensive or security roles in combat are considered shameful and insulting. Conducting an act of bravery, such as a surprise attack against a superior force, brings honor to a Pashtun and his tribe, resulting in high morale.

**Honor** (*Nang*): A Pashtun shows honor to the kin group, and devotion and loyalty to family, tribe, and leaders. *Nang* is evident in one's willingness to defend territory, property, and individuals.

Pashtun priorities are: *zar* (gold), *zan* (women), and *zamin* (land).

## Poppy (Opium)

### Poppy

Primary cash crop in Afghanistan - more than half of the country's 2007 GDP. In 2009, more than 40 percent of the world's opium was grown in Helmand Province. Poppy needs little attention and little water - unlike wheat. Huge profits: Per hectare, poppy brings 10 times the profit of wheat. The Taliban profits from poppy sales and encourages farmers to grow it.

### Poppy Cycle

- **Planting** (October-November): Poppy lies dormant in winter.
- **Flower** (April): Poppy flowers for 2-3 weeks. Petals fall off, and its small fruit pod continues to develop for 2 more weeks.
- **Harvest** (May): Pod surface is cut (scored). Sap oozes, dries overnight, and is gathered in the morning. Process is repeated for several days on same pods.

### Processing

Approximately 80mg of raw opium resin is collected per pod in plastic bags, then formed into bricks and dried in sun. Once dry, resin can be stored indefinitely. Farmers keep some to be used as cash. The remainder is sold to traffickers, middlemen, or the Taliban.

10kg of raw opium = 1kg of Heroin

Opium converted to Heroin in drug labs. Multi-step process uses several 55 gallon drums and much water and heat.

Look for: water storage tanks, 55 gallon drums, large hydraulic presses, large amount of firewood/charcoal, and chemicals (Calcium Carbonate, Ammonium Chloride, Methyl Alcohol, Sulfuric or Hydrochloric Acid).

## ISAF Country Flags

ISAF member nations in Afghanistan are listed here in descending order according to in-country troop strength as of March 2010.

RC South/West		RC North/East/Kabul	
United Kingdom		Germany	
Italy		France	
Canada		Poland	
Netherlands		Turkey	
Australia		Belgium	
Spain		Sweden	
Romania		Norway	
Denmark		Czech Republic	
Bulgaria		Hungary	
Slovakia		Croatia	
Albania		Macedonia	
New Zealand		Latvia	
Georgia		Portugal	
Estonia		Finland	
Lithuania		Azerbaijan	
Slovenia		Greece	



# Cultural Mindset

## Education

- Education is lacking by Western standards.
- Most Afghans are illiterate; few can read words or maps.
- Historical accounts are limited to local events, often skewed by Afghan bias and sheltered existences, and may be referred to as recent events.
- Scholars and educators bring honor to family and tribe, and their views are considered infallible, more so if these views compete with Western ideas.

## Religion

- Religious credentials are highly respected and often determine leadership in this predominately Muslim society.
- Religious leaders are considered infallible, as their instructions and judgments are based on the word of God as cited in the Qu'ran, or the practices of Muhammad as cited in the Hadith and the Sunna.
- Non-Muslim beliefs and practices (holy trinity, eating pork, etc.) are considered wrong.
- Do not confront a Muslim regarding his religious beliefs.

## Rural/Urban Views

- Rural philosophy is based on religious conservatism.
- Urban philosophy is based on secular progressive ideals.
- Local power structure is determined by the dominant philosophy of each region.

# Vocabulary (Description)

NOTE: Direct questions about sensitive issues may prompt evasive responses from locals. In areas where security is not yet established, subjects are better approached indirectly. Instead of asking who in the village is Taliban, try asking "Are there any people in the village that I should be careful of?" Instead of asking what roads contain IEDs, ask "Are there roads or trails the villagers do not walk on?"

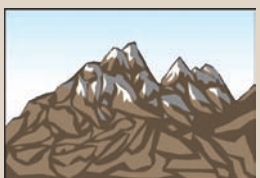
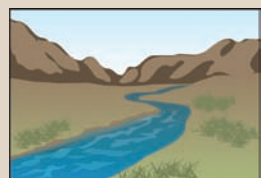






Afghans may respond to a question by telling a story. In some cases, the teller may be answering the question in a way that he will not be held accountable for explicitly providing assistance.

<b>Who</b>	<i>tsowk</i>	<b>Deep</b>	<i>jhawar</i>
<b>What</b>	<i>tseh</i>	<b>Tall</b>	<i>lwaR/jiG</i>
<b>When</b>	<i>kalah/tseh waKht</i>	<b>Short</b>	<i>TeeT</i>
<b>Where</b>	<i>chayrtah/chayray</i>	<b>Inside</b>	<i>de-nenah</i>
<b>Why</b>	<i>walay</i>	<b>Outside</b>	<i>baahar</i>
<b>How</b>	<i>tsenGah</i>	<b>Far</b>	<i>leray</i>
<b>How Many</b>	<i>tsoomrah</i>	<b>Near</b>	<i>negday</i>
<b>Behind</b>	<i>shaatah/wurostah</i>	<b>Big</b>	<i>ghaT</i>
<b>In Front</b>	<i>de...peh meKh kay</i>	<b>Small</b>	<i>kochnai/waRokai</i>
<b>Between</b>	<i>manz/manz kay</i>	<b>Long</b>	<i>owgd</i>
<b>Beside</b>	<i>tsanG tah</i>	<b>Short</b>	<i>lanD</i>
<b>Left</b>	<i>chap/keeN</i>	<b>Wide</b>	<i>plen</i>
<b>Right</b>	<i>khai/shai</i>	<b>Narrow</b>	<i>narai</i>
<b>Straight Ahead</b>	<i>meKhaameKh</i>	<b>Under</b>	<i>laanday</i>
<b>Few</b>	<i>leg</i>	<b>Over / On</b>	<i>de-paasah/ baanday</i>
<b>Some</b>	<i>yaw tseh</i>	<b>North</b>	<i>shamaal</i>
<b>Many</b>	<i>Dayr / zeyaat</i>	<b>South</b>	<i>junoob</i>
		<b>East</b>	<i>sharq</i>
		<b>West</b>	<i>gharb</i>


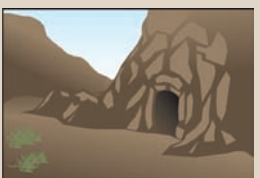
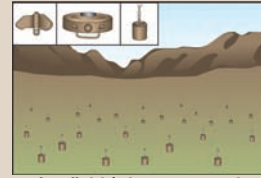
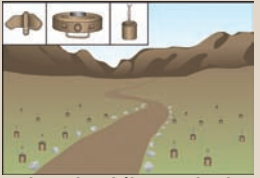
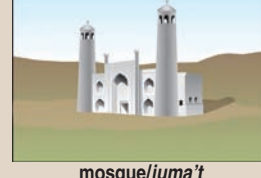



# Greetings/Phrases

<b>Hello (Peace be upon you)</b>	<i>Salaam Alaikum</i>
<b>[Response] And on you peace</b>	<i>wAlaikum salaam</i>
<b>Welcome (May you not be tired)</b>	<i>steRai meh shay</i>
<b>[Response to welcome]</b>	<i>peh Khai owsay</i>
<b>How are you?</b>	<i>tsenGah yaast?/taaso tsenGah yaast?</i>
<b>Are you well?</b>	<i>kheh yaast?/taaso kheh yaast?</i>
<b>Don't be frightened</b>	<i>yaray-Gai meh/Daaray-Gai meh</i>
<b>We are Americans</b>	<i>moong amreekayaan yoo</i>
<b>You are safe</b>	<i>taaso maHfooz yaast / taaso Khwandee yaast</i>
<b>Okay</b>	<i>khah/shah</i>
<b>Thank You</b>	<i>maninah</i>
<b>My name is _____.</b>	<i>zemaan noom _____ dai.</i>
<b>Excuse me/I'm sorry</b>	<i>wubakhei</i>
<b>Do you have problems?</b>	<i>taaso tseh mushkiil larei?</i>
<b>We want to help you</b>	<i>moong ghwaar taaso sarah meristah wuko.</i>
<b>Where is the IED?</b>	<i>tabyah shewai bam chayrtah dai?</i>
<b>When was it buried?</b>	<i>daa kalah deltah Khakh shewai?</i>
<b>Do wires come from the IED?</b>	<i>tabyah shewai bam lainoonah laree?</i>
<b>Do they turn it off and on?</b>	<i>haghooi yay balawee aw ghulawee?</i>
<b>Where are the Taliban?</b>	<i>taalibaan chayrtah dee?</i>
<b>Who should I be careful of?</b>	<i>de chaa sarah baayad zeh eHteyaat wukim?</i>
<b>What paths do villagers avoid?</b>	<i>peh koomo laaro de kelee Khalak neh zee?</i>

# Landscape Vocabulary

<b>Show me _____.</b>	<i>_____ Mawta-ra a-xhawla-kla.</i>
	
<b>mountain/ghar</b>	<b>river/rud, daryan</b>
	
<b>bridge/pal</b>	<b>road/laar, khaaman sarak</b>
	
<b>field/chaman</b>	<b>valley/dara</b>
	
<b>forest/zangal</b>	<b>poppy field/chaman taryak</b>

# Obstacles Vocabulary

<b>Show me _____.</b>	<i>_____ Mawta-ra a-xhawla-kla.</i>
	
<b>well/cheena</b>	<b>cave/smetsa</b>
	
<b>mine field / de maayen saha</b>	<b>cleared path/laar paaka da</b>
	
<b>mosque/juma't</b>	<b>dwelling/koor</b>
	
<b>village/kelley</b>	<b>camp/khayma, kamp</b>

# Operational Vocabulary

<b>Stop</b>	<i>wudray-jah</i>
<b>Don't Move</b>	<i>meh-Khwazay gah</i>
<b>Drop What You Have</b>	<i>ksha-tah kah</i>
<b>Hands Up</b>	<i>lasunah portah kah</i>
<b>Step Back</b>	<i>shaatah shah</i>
<b>Turn Around</b>	<i>sha-wu Gerdzah</i>
<b>Lie Face Down</b>	<i>Proot / peh zmekah praywuzah</i>
<b>Stay</b>	<i>waosai</i>
<b>Turban</b>	<i>paTKai/lunGei</i>
<b>Sandals</b>	<i>Tsaplei/chaplakay</i>
<b>Shoes</b>	<i>booTaan</i>
<b>Tennis shoes</b>	<i>kirmich</i>
<b>Beard</b>	<i>geerah</i>
<b>Cell Phone</b>	<i>mobil telefon</i>
<b>Phone number</b>	<i>de telefon numrah</i>
<b>Motorcycle</b>	<i>mowTer-saikel</i>
<b>Pickup truck</b>	<i>paikup</i>
<b>Car</b>	<i>mowTar</i>
<b>Foreign fighter</b>	<i>Khaarijee janGyaalai</i>
<b>Punjabi</b>	<i>panjaabai</i>

<b>Enemy</b>	<i>dushman</i>
<b>Arab</b>	<i>Arab</i>
<b>Bullet</b>	<i>marme</i>
<b>Rifle</b>	<i>Towpak</i>
<b>Squad</b>	<i>delGai</i>
<b>Platoon</b>	<i>bulook</i>
<b>IED</b>	<i>tabyah shewai bam</i>
<b>PBIED</b>	<i>intehaaree</i>
<b>Dig</b>	<i>kandah</i>
<b>Shovel</b>	<i>baylchah</i>
<b>Hole</b>	<i>soorai</i>
<b>Road</b>	<i>saRak</i>
<b>Wadi</b>	<i>KhwaR</i>
<b>Yellow bottle</b>	<i>jhayR bowtal</i>
<b>Knife</b>	<i>chaaqoo</i>
<b>Like this</b>	<i>lekah daa</i>
<b>This much</b>	<i>domrah</i>
<b>That much</b>	<i>haghomrah</i>
<b>I go</b>	<i>zeh zim</i>
<b>You go</b>	<i>teh zay</i>
<b>He goes</b>	<i>dai zee</i>

# Reconstruction Vocabulary

<b>Food/Bread</b>	<i>DoDei</i>
<b>Water</b>	<i>owbeh</i>
<b>Karez</b>	<i>kaarayz</i>
<b>Field</b>	<i>maidaan</i>
<b>Door</b>	<i>darwaazah/war</i>
<b>Problems</b>	<i>mushkiil/stoonzah</i>
<b>Destroyed</b>	<i>wuraan-shewai</i>
<b>Burnt</b>	<i>swazay-delai</i>
<b>Payment</b>	<i>paisay</i>
<b>Landowner</b>	<i>maalek</i>
<b>Tenant</b>	<i>hamsaayah</i>
<b>Sharecropper</b>	<i>Dehqaan/bezGar</i>
<b>Planting</b>	<i>karil / nehaalawil</i>
<b>Seeds</b>	<i>tuKhum</i>
<b>Crop</b>	<i>fasel</i>
<b>Poppy</b>	<i>apeen</i>
<b>Corn</b>	<i>jwaar</i>
<b>Wheat</b>	<i>ghanem</i>
<b>Sugar</b>	<i>boorah</i>
<b>Salt</b>	<i>maalGah</i>
<b>Medicine</b>	<i>darmal</i>





<b>Bazaar</b>	<i>baazaar</i>
<b>Buy</b>	<i>aKhestil</i>
<b>Sell</b>	<i>Khartsawil</i>
<b>A Store</b>	<i>maghaazah</i>
<b>Owner</b>	<i>maalek</i>
<b>Fertilizer</b>	<i>serah</i>
<b>Explosives</b>	<i>chaw-dedoonkee mawaad</i>
<b>Paint</b>	<i>ranG</i>
<b>Weapons</b>	<i>salaah</i>
<b>Chicken</b>	<i>cherG</i>
<b>Goat</b>	<i>owzah</i>
<b>Sheep</b>	<i>peseh</i>
<b>Cow</b>	<i>ghwaa</i>
<b>Donkey</b>	<i>Khar</i>
<b>Wash</b>	<i>menzil</i>
<b>Drink</b>	<i>tskhil</i>
<b>Thirsty</b>	<i>tegai</i>
<b>Hungry</b>	<i>wugai</i>
<b>Soon</b>	<i>jher</i>
<b>Now</b>	<i>ows</i>
<b>Today</b>	<i>nen</i>
<b>Tomorrow</b>	<i>sabaa</i>
<b>Sometimes</b>	<i>kalah kalah</i>
<b>Always</b>	<i>hamayshah</i>
<b>Never</b>	<i>hayts kalah</i>

NOTE: Pashto terms for female family members are included here for use by FET Teams. Male Marines should not ask about Afghan girls or women.

<b>Man</b>	<i>saRai</i>	<b>Black</b>	<i>towr</i>
<b>Grandfather</b>	<i>neekih</i>	<b>White</b>	<i>speen</i>
<b>Old man-elder</b>	<i>speen-geerai</i>	<b>Red</b>	<i>soor</i>
<b>Parents</b>	<i>mowr aw plaar</i>	<b>Yellow</b>	<i>jhayR</i>
<b>Father</b>	<i>plaar</i>	<b>Brown</b>	<i>naswaree</i>
<b>Brother</b>	<i>wuroor</i>	<b>Green</b>	<i>sheen / zarghoon</i>
<b>Son</b>	<i>zooi</i>	<b>One</b>	<i>yaw</i>
<b>Children</b>	<i>maashomaan</i>	<b>Four</b>	<i>tsalowr</i>
<b>Boy</b>	<i>halek</i>	<b>Ten</b>	<i>las</i>
<b>Grandmother</b>	<i>neyaa/ anaa</i>	<b>Twelve</b>	<i>dow-las</i>
<b>Mother</b>	<i>mowr</i>	<b>Fifty</b>	<i>panzows</i>
<b>Daughter</b>	<i>loor</i>	<b>100</b>	<i>sil</i>
<b>Girl</b>	<i>njelei/jilkei</i>	<b>1000</b>	<i>zir</i>
<b>Wife/woman</b>	<i>khezah</i>	<b>Opium</b>	<i>apeen</i>
<b>She is</b>	<i>daa dah</i>	<b>Heroin</b>	<i>heroween</i>
<b>I am</b>	<i>zeh yim</i>	<b>Hashish</b>	<i>chars</i>
<b>You are</b>	<i>teh yay</i>	<b>Marijuana</b>	<i>chars</i>
<b>He is</b>	<i>dai daii</i>		

NOTE: The Pashto alphabet contains 45 letters. Uppercase letters used herein indicate sounds with stronger pronunciation.

# Time

How many ?	<i>Tsoom-ra?</i>
Note: Afghans tend to greatly exaggerate large numbers.	
۱ ۲ ۳ ۴ ۵ ۶ ۷ ۸ ۹ ۱۰	۱۰۰ ۱۰۰۰
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	100 1000
	
<b>Morning/sahaar</b>	<b>Noon/gharmah</b>
	
<b>Evening/maakhaam</b>	<b>Night/shpah</b>

There are no calendars or clocks in many areas; time is generally measured according to the position of the sun or the phase of the moon. References to years are often vague.

<b>Day</b>	<i>wuraz</i>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<i>maas-pakheen</i>
<b>Late Evening</b>	<i>maa-Khustan</i>
<b>Midnight</b>	<i>neemah shpah</i>
<b>Yesterday</b>	<i>tayrah wuraz/paroon</i>
<b>Tomorrow</b>	<i>sabaa</i>
<b>Next Week</b>	<i>raat-lonkay haftah</i>
<b>Next Month</b>	<i>raat-lonkay meyaasht</i>
<b>Next Year</b>	<i>raat-lonkai kaal</i>

# Weapons Vocabulary

What weapons ?	<i>Koom es-lee-ha?</i>
<b>Individual Weapons</b>	
	
<b>MANPAD SAM</b>	<b>DShK 14.5-mm HMG</b>
<b>Crew-served or Heavy Weapons</b>	
	
<b>RPG-7</b>	<b>82-mm Motar</b>
	
<b>RPG-18</b>	<b>122-mm Motar</b>
	
<b>RPO-A Flame Weapon</b>	<b>122-mm Rocket</b>
	
<b>RPK LMG</b>	<b>107-mm Rocket</b>
<b>Communications</b>	
	
<b>Radios</b>	<b>Wireless Phones (If found, do not use)</b>
	
<b>Thuraya Satellite Phones</b>	<b>Two-way Radios</b>