

Understanding 'SFAT Speak'

Security Forces Advisory Teams (SFAT) play many different roles depending on mission and the location. SFAT teams are located at every echelon from border police to commanding generals and national politicians. Each SFAT member is tasked to mentor an Afghan counterpart and advise various solutions or courses of action. For example, a logistics officer could work with an Afghan logistics counterpart. In the end, Afghanistan will solve its own problems with some guidance and assistance from US forces.

When discussing the SFAT mission, you might hear acronyms like ANA, AUP, ABP, ANCOP or MOI. Here is a quick code breaker to help understand the terminology.

ANA: Afghan National Army - Similar to the US Army meant to protect the country against a foreign enemy

ABP: Afghan Border Police - Police officers assigned throughout the country to enforce border sovereignty and stop illegal activity

AUP: Afghan Uniformed Police - Police providing security and enforcing laws in cities and villages

ANCOP: Afghan National Civil Order Police - Think of these police officers as federal police

MOI: Ministry of Interior - Government body in charge of all police; a comparable US organization could be the Department of Homeland Security