Managing collateral damage in PSOs, example of ISAF

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Outline

- ISAF
  - Engagement of NATO
- Collateral damage
  - Definition
- Case: Afghanistan
  - Mission´s progress
  - Collateral damage in Afghanistan

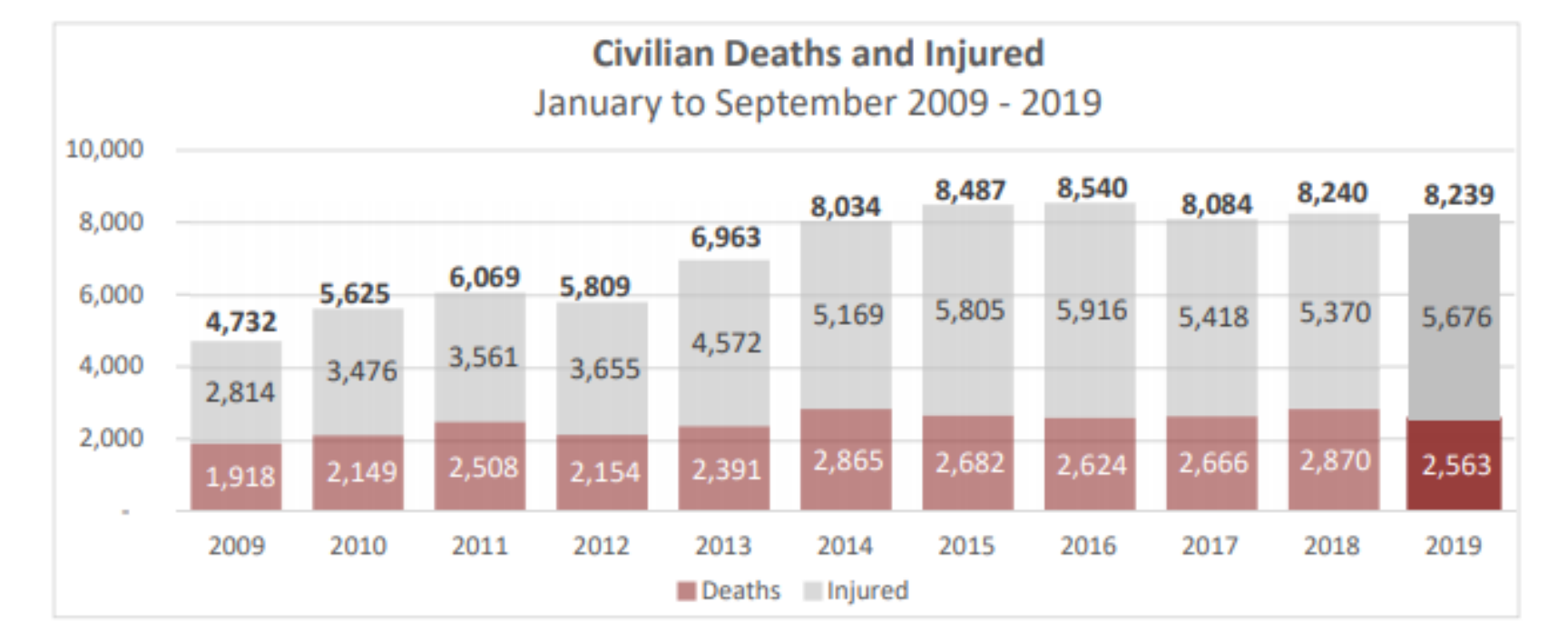
ISAF

- **The International Security Assistance Force** (ISAF) is an operation led by the NATO whose primary mission is **the support of the elected** (post-Taliban) Afghan government
- **constructed to assist**
- August 11, 2003 – NATO the official lead organization
- NATO was meant to be a solution to the complicated situation in Afghanistan
- Become a big part of security problem
- ISAF finished 2014
- Afghanistan is not stable
- Counterinsurgency was not eliminated

Collateral damage

- *Collateral damage during a war is the **unintentional deaths and injuries** of people who are **not soldiers**, and damage that is caused to their homes, hospitals, schools, etc.*

- In every mission you should try to keep it low
- There are never perfect data of the collateral damage
- What is considered as collateral damage differ
- **Collateral damage**
  1) insurgents
  2) government force
  3) tool of intimidation e.g. genocide, mass killing
  4) resulting from war – death disease, starvation



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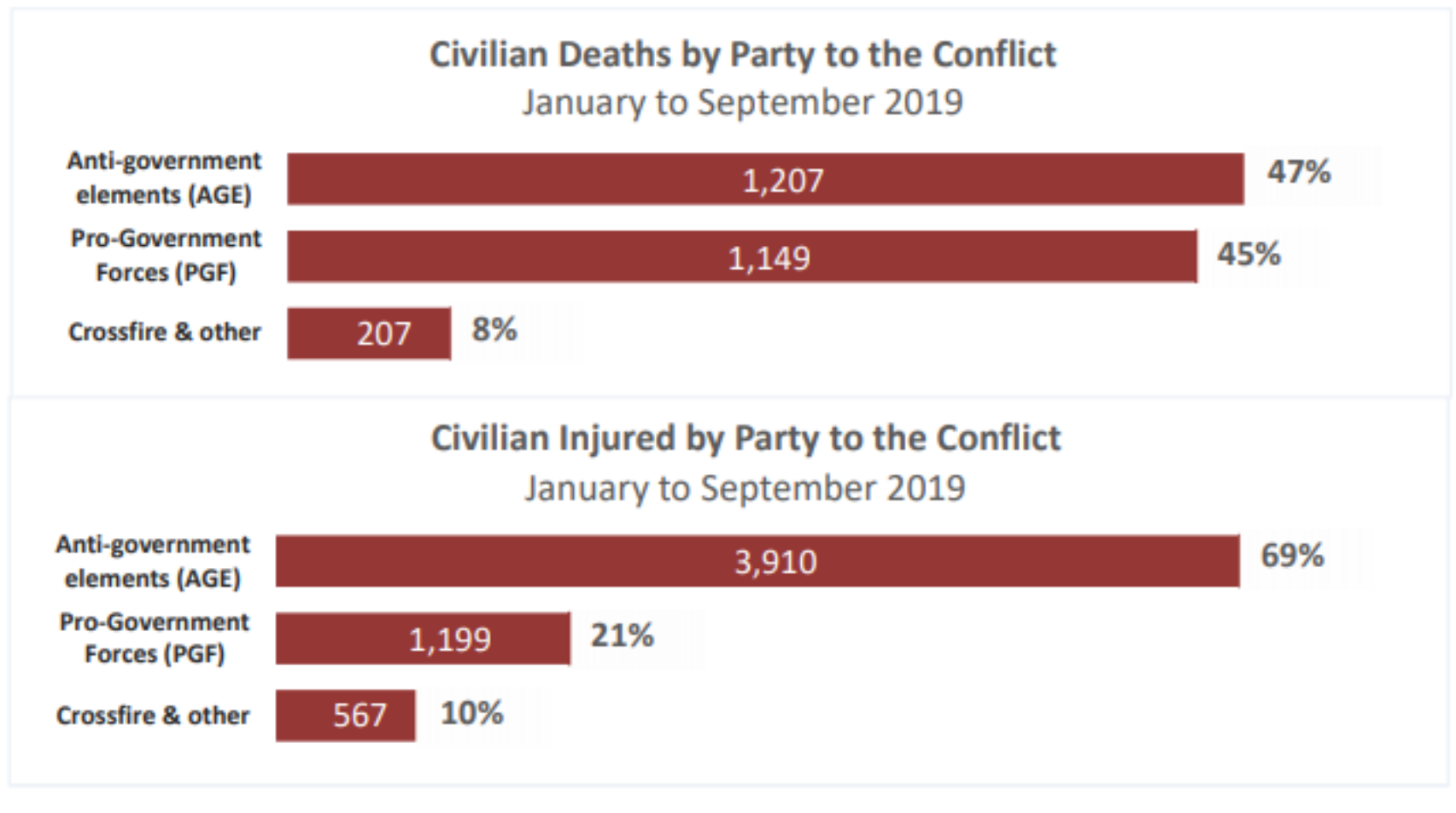

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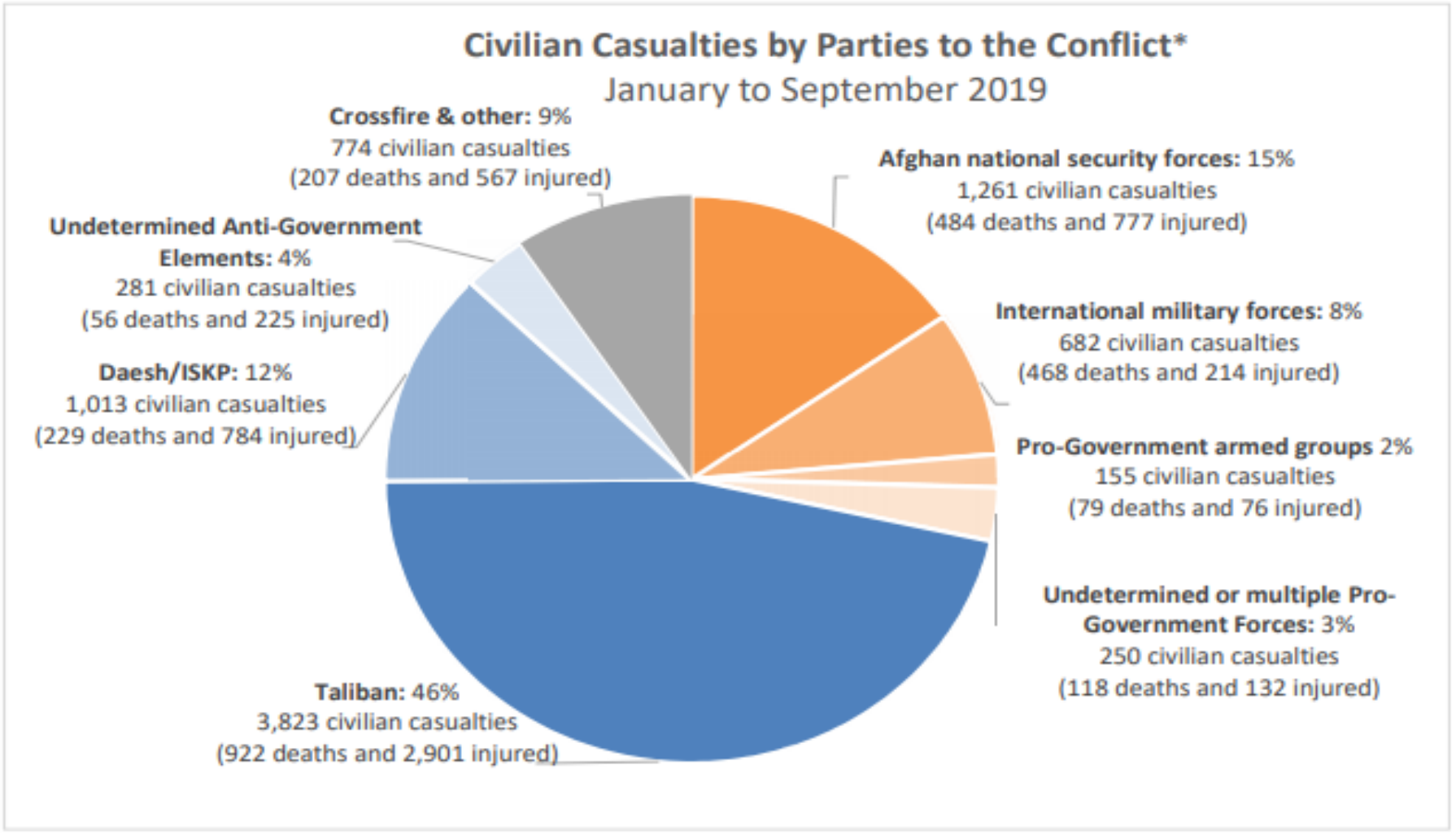

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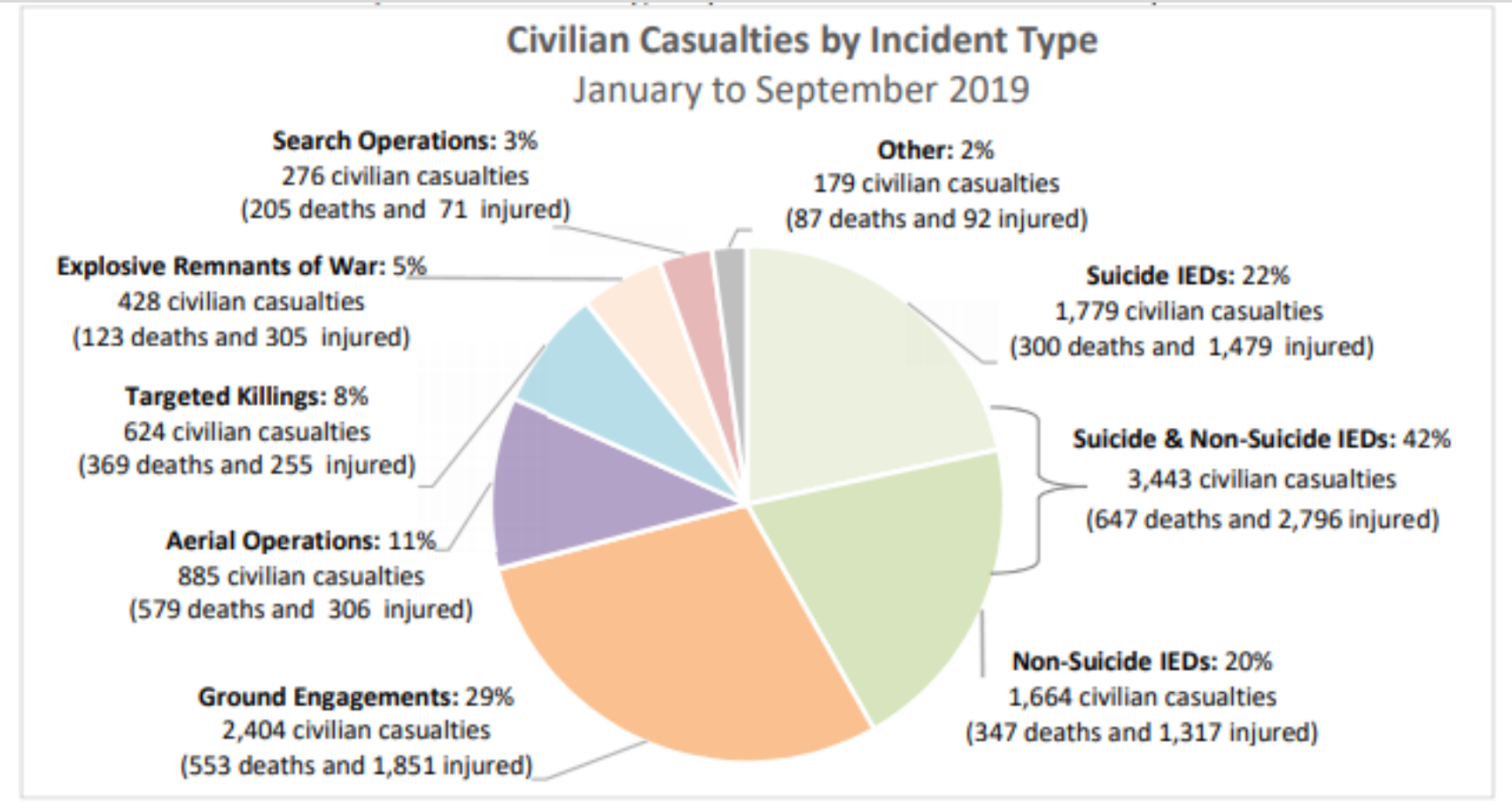

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Case: Afghanistan

- The goal of PSO in Afghanistan was **to protect civilians** during the **military offence**
- The key to successful mission was **winning hearts and minds** of Afghanistan population
- NATO had suffered from great dilemma
- Around 2008 – **change of the strategy** of this mission
- the conflict will be won by **persuading the population**, **NOT destroying the enemy**
- Why is it so important to keep the number low?
    - **the revenge way of thinking**

Managing the collateral damage

- Building relations with the **local people**
- helping them to **reconstruct** their own state
- let the Afghanistan people to **solve the Afghan problem**
- To get people involve as **active participants** in their communities
- creating new viable local alternatives to insurgencies
- be a **positive force**
- to employ young men
- **Provincial reconstruction teams** (PRT)

Recent development

- 2010 – troops started to leave Afghanistan
- BUT 2015 – **TALIBAN started to regain its lost position**
  - Only 70% of the state was under control of the government

- The number of the death civilians in 2019 is one of the highest (2,563)

- 2019 Peace agreement **?** (USA and Taliban)
- Time for American soldiers to withdraw**?**
- Would Taliban use this opportunity for the reincarnation of its power**?**

Conclusion

- **keep the number of collateral damage low**
- without **support of local people** and their **trust** the mission has hardly any chance to be successful
- Due to the high number of collateral damage, it does not seem that the situation in Afghanistan would get better

Thank you for your attention