



# Vehicle Registration Plates of Afghanistan

Jointly prepared by:  
The Asymmetric Warfare Group Special Advisory Group and the Office of the Provost Marshal General Law Enforcement Professional Program  
**Asymmetric Warfare Group**  
2282 Morrison St. • Ft. Meade, MD 20755-5355  
SIPR awg.cis1@us.army.mil  
NIPR awg.cis@us.army.mil  
AWG AKO <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/353158>

## UNCLASSIFIED//For Official Use Only

The material contained in this guide is sensitive and reasonable steps must be taken to safeguard access to this information by unauthorized personnel. Do not discard in open trash, make available to the general public, or post on open web sites.

## Vehicle Registration Plates

U.S. and multi-national forces should be aware and cautious of Afghan vehicles near coalition forces. Use this guide to quickly evaluate threat indicators by determining if the suspect personal or commercial vehicle registration plate is the proper type and area-of-origin for where they are operating.

Province of Registration      Registration Number      Type of Vehicle



۰ ۱ ۲ ۳ ۴ or ۴ ۵ ۶ ۷ ۸ ۹  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Numerals are read from left to right  
Top row: Hindi  
Bottom row: Arabic

## Vehicle Designation Types

Truck ل



Taxi ت



Passenger Car ش



Bus بس



## Registration Plate Basics

- The vehicle registration plate is the MOST IMPORTANT bit of information when describing a motor vehicle.
- Afghans are **supposed to register** their vehicles and plates with the government, and they are required to have the registration in the vehicle at all times.
- Most vehicles with four wheels or more will have two registration plates.
- Dari and Arabic words are read right to left, but Hindi numbers are read left to right, like in English.
- Most plates are white with black lettering; older plates may vary. For example, the newest Kabul plates are black with white lettering.
- The location of information on the registration plate may vary based on the age of the plates and the province of origin.

- Newer plates may have both Hindi and Arabic (Western) numbers, but older plates will only have Hindi numerals. Both styles of plates are valid.
- When describing a vehicle remember the acronym CYMBL:

**C** – Color

**Y** – Year

**M** – Make

**B** – Body Style  
and

**L** – License (Registration)  
Plate Info  
(Number, Province, Type)

## Provinces of Afghanistan in English and Dari

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Badakhshan | بدخشان |
| Badghis    | بادغیس |
| Baghlan    | بغلان  |
| Balkh      | بلخ    |
| Bamyan     | بامیان |
| Day Kundi  | دیکندی |
| Farah      | فراه   |
| Faryab     | فاریاب |
| Ghazni     | غزنی   |
| Ghor       | غور    |
| Helmand    | هلمند  |

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Herat     | هرات    |
| Jawzjan   | جوزجان  |
| Kabul     | کابل    |
| Kandahar  | قندهار  |
| Kapisa    | کاپیسا  |
| Khowst    | خوست    |
| Konar     | کنر     |
| Kunduz    | قندوز   |
| Laghman   | لغمان   |
| Logar     | لوگر    |
| Nangarhar | ننگرهار |

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Nimroz    | نیمروز  |
| Nuristan  | نورستان |
| Oruzgan   | اروزگان |
| Paktika   | پکتیکا  |
| Paktya    | پکتیا   |
| Panjsher  | پنجشیر  |
| Parwan    | پروان   |
| Samangan  | سمنگان  |
| Sar-e Pol | سرپل    |
| Takhar    | تخار    |
| Wardak    | وردک    |
| Zabul     | زابل    |



# 34 Provinces of Afghanistan

