



OFS IN BRIEF

The 21st quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS) summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the two complementary U.S. missions in Afghanistan: counterterrorism operations and building the capacity of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).

U.S. Withdraws Troops Under Agreement with the Taliban

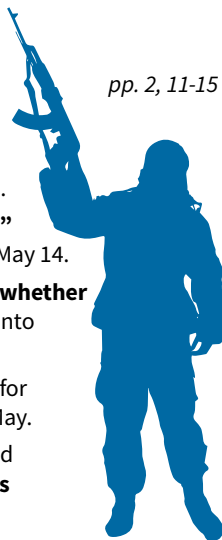
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- The United States reduced its troop level in Afghanistan to **8,600** by mid-June, a month ahead of schedule.
- The **Taliban was not honoring its commitment** to cut ties with al-Qaeda and conducted operations alongside al-Qaeda members.
- The USCENTCOM commander said in June that “**conditions have not been fully met**” for the United States to withdraw all its remaining forces.

Taliban Violence Increases, Further Threatening Peace Process

pp. 2, 11-15

- The **Taliban ceased attacks against U.S. and coalition** forces, but increased operations against Afghan security forces.
- UN data listed **5,543 “security incidents” in Afghanistan** between February 7 and May 14.
- Afghan government officials **questioned whether the Taliban was serious** about entering into peace negotiations.
- **Levels of violence stayed above norms** for the quarter, despite a 3-day ceasefire in May.
- 21 insider attacks against the ANDSF killed 83 Afghans; there were **no insider attacks against U.S. or coalition personnel**.



Afghan Government and the Taliban Make Little Progress on Peace Process

pp. 3, 10-11, 28-31

- Former Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah was appointed to **head the peace process**.
- A dispute between the Afghan government and the Taliban over prisoner releases further **delayed peace talks** originally set to begin March 10.
- The **Taliban released 700 captives**, and the **Afghan government released 3,895**.

ANDSF Targets ISIS-K Leadership

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- **Afghan security forces arrested** ISIS-K leader Abdullah Orakzai and other key ISIS militants.
- **ISIS-K maintained the ability to defend itself** and conduct mass casualty attacks despite pressure from coalition forces, the ANDSF, and the Taliban.
- The DoD estimated that **ISIS-K was reduced to about 1,000 fighters**, but still remains a security threat in Afghanistan.

COVID-19 Disrupts U.S. Initiatives

pp. 4, 18-28, 31-38

- Afghanistan reached nearly **32,000 COVID-19 cases**, with 774 deaths, including 18 healthcare workers.
- The NATO-led coalition **ended face-to-face train, advise, and assist efforts** to prevent COVID-19's spread.
- **USAID suspended some activities** to protect implementers, partly due to a **lack of available personal protective equipment**.

Afghan Local Police Members Face Uncertain Future

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- **U.S. funding for the Afghan Local Police will end** after September 30, 2020.
- COVID-19 stressed Afghanistan's economy; **high unemployment reduced options** for members not eligible to join the ANDSF.
- **Unemployed members are vulnerable** to recruitment by militias and the Taliban.

Oversight

pp. 4, 44-58

- **Lead IG agencies completed 18 reports** related to OFS, including an audit that determined DoD contractors provided an estimated \$6.3 million in meals that were not billed to coalition partners.
- Lead IG and partner agencies collaborated on **92 investigations** involving fraud, corruption, human trafficking, and other crimes.