



OES IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes events that took place in Afghanistan this quarter, including the status of terrorist organizations, such as ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) and al-Qaeda, as well as U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian efforts related to Afghanistan.

USCENTCOM Aims to Close its Intelligence Gap in Afghanistan *pp. 7–8*

- USCENTCOM Commander Gen. Michael E. Kurilla said the DoD currently **lacks the granularity** to see the full picture of potential terrorist threats.
- Alternate airborne intelligence platforms capable of **remaining aloft for extended periods** will soon be tested in the region.
- Gen. Kurilla said increased intelligence collection will include both **signals and human intelligence**.
- The DoJ and FBI are working to identify possible **human sources of intelligence** on ISIS-K.

ISIS-K Remains the Greatest Terrorist Threat in Afghanistan *pp. 8–10*

- ISIS-K attacks this quarter targeted the **Kabul airport, senior Taliban officials, and the Taliban’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.
- Gen. Kurilla estimated that ISIS-K could strike **U.S. interests abroad** within **6 months** if they prioritize such attacks.
- Taliban is **highly motivated** to defeat ISIS-K but **lacks the capabilities** to effectively prevent major attacks.

Oversight and Investigations *pp. 29–30, 33–35*

- State OIG identified challenges faced by Afghan **resettlement** agencies, including the **rapid pace** of arrivals, difficulty obtaining **documentation**, and limited **staffing**.
- DoD OIG found that the Air Force properly oversaw **\$1.3 billion** in contracted **medical, dining, and facilities** support for Afghan evacuees.
- Lead IG investigations involving bribery allegations in Afghanistan contracts resulted in **one guilty plea, one sentencing, and \$100,000** in recovered funds to the U.S. Government.

U.S. Government Engages with the Taliban to Promote U.S. Interests *pp. 15–16*

- U.S. diplomats pressed the Taliban on the **safety of Americans** in Afghanistan, **relocation** of U.S. Afghan allies, **economic issues**, and **counterterrorism**.
- U.S. officials continued to **condemn the Taliban** for the deterioration of human rights in Afghanistan, especially the **repression of women and girls**.
- This quarter, Afghan **women protested** the Taliban’s **restriction on girls’ education** beyond sixth grade.

28.3M of Afghanistan’s 39M People Require Humanitarian Assistance in 2023 *pp. 20–22*

- The number of Afghans requiring assistance is projected to **more than double** compared to 2020.
- The **\$541M in U.S. aid** for FY 2023 is focused on food, health, protection, shelter, livelihoods, and education.
- The Taliban’s **prohibition on women** working for NGOs has significantly **impeded humanitarian aid** distribution.

State Increases Consular Staffing for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Issuances *pp. 18–19*

- State issued **5,616 SIVs** this quarter, an **increase** from the **3,490** issued the previous quarter.
- State has provided **permanent consular staffing** in **Qatar, UAE, and Pakistan** to improve SIV and refugee processing.