The 11th 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 capacity of the Afghan security forces.

**South Asia Strategy Update**  pp. 19-23, 69
- 3,500 additional U.S. troops are deploying to Afghanistan. There were 14,000 in country as of December.
- Most of these new troops will train, advise, and assist the Afghan forces at the tactical level.
- Expanded U.S. combat authorities allow offensive operations against the Taliban.
- The President submitted a budget amendment requesting an additional $1.2 billion for FY 2018 to support increased deployments.
- The Afghan government continued to focus on expanding its air force and special forces.
- The United States pressured Pakistan to cease support for insurgents by suspending almost all security assistance (up to $2 billion).

**Political Tensions Increase**  pp. 8, 28, 58
- Funding and logistical uncertainties and a vacant election commission chair put the July 2018 elections at risk.
- Governor Atta Noor refused to accept his controversial dismissal by President Ghani.
- First Vice President Dostum was in exile amid claims he ordered an opponent kidnapped and assaulted.
- Tribal militias controlled by major powerbrokers like Dostum and Noor complicate political disputes.

**Security Situation Remains Highly Volatile**  pp. 2-3
- OCTOBER 17: Taliban militants killed more than 80 police personnel in two attacks on Afghan police facilities.
- OCTOBER 19: Taliban attack on an Afghan army base killed 43 soldiers.
- OCTOBER 20: ISIS-K suicide attack killed 50 worshippers at a Shia mosque in Kabul.
- DECEMBER 28: ISIS-K suicide attack killed 41 people at a Shia cultural center in Kabul.

**Record Opium Harvest**  pp. 19-20, 24
- Opium cultivated land increased 63% since 2016, totaling 1,266 sq mi (slightly larger than Rhode Island).
- Opium production in 2017 could total 9,000 tons, nearly double the 4,800 tons produced in 2016.
- The Taliban exploit farmers to cultivate opium poppy in the rural areas under their control.
- U.S. and Afghan forces carried out airstrikes on Taliban drug processing facilities, costing the Taliban $16.5 million in lost revenue.

**Humanitarian Assistance**  pp. 62-64
- 1.9 million Afghans were internally displaced in 2017, up from 1.5 million in 2016.
- 900,000 Afghans will need shelter assistance in 2018.
- 377 incidents of violence were reported against aid workers in Afghanistan in 2017.

**Battle for Population Control Continues**  pp. 27-28
- The Afghan government aims to have 80% of the population under its control by the end of 2019.
- 64% of Afghans live under government control, 24% in contested areas, and 12% under Taliban control.
- No change in the percentage of the population under government control this quarter.
- A map of areas of control is in the full report (p. 27).