



OFS IN BRIEF

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**).

Oversight *pp. 74-77, 86, 88*

10 REPORTS COMPLETED, addressing:

- The handling of allegations of **child sexual abuse** by Afghan security forces.
- Poor accountability that jeopardized **\$100 million** in U.S.-supplied **equipment** to the Afghans.
- Oversight of **counter-narcotics** operations.

7 INVESTIGATIONS CLOSED, including:

- A U.S. contractor was sentenced to **21 months** in prison for accepting **\$250,000 in kickbacks** from an Afghan subcontractor.
- A former U.S. Government employee **pled guilty** to soliciting **\$320,000 in bribes** from contractors.

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).

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.