OFS IN BRIEF

The 10th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS) summarizes the quarter’s key events and oversight of the U.S. counterterrorism mission, the train, advise, and assist mission, and governance and development activities.

Revised Afghanistan Strategy  pp. 17-20

President Donald J. Trump announced a strategy to defeat the insurgents in Afghanistan with:

- About 3,000 more U.S. troops to train, advise, and assist the Afghan forces.
- A “conditions-based” approach with no timelines.
- Increased pressure on Pakistan to eliminate terrorist havens.
- Expanded rules of engagement to give U.S. commanders greater flexibility to target the Taliban.

U.S. Air Campaign  pp. 4, 29

- The U.S. increased air power assets in Afghanistan, including F-16 fighters and air refueling tankers.
- A U.S. airstrike killed ISIS-K leader Abu Sayed, 4 of his senior advisors, and more than 15 other fighters.
- 957 U.S. airstrikes in Afghanistan this quarter.
- 312 airstrikes during the same quarter last year.

Afghan Security Forces  pp. 4, 26-28

- While the Afghan forces repelled attacks on district centers, the Taliban gained ground overall this quarter.
- The Afghan government plans to create an Afghan Territorial Army, comprising local recruits, to hold areas cleared of insurgents by the special forces.
- The Ministry of Defense plans to double the size of its special forces by developing new commando companies and transitioning entire army units to the Afghan Special Security Forces.

Afghan Air Force Modernization  pp. 8-9, 21-23

- Afghan Air Force (AAF) received the first 2 of a planned 159 Black Hawk utility helicopters.
- U.S. Army awarded a contract to add 30 MD-530 fast attack helicopters to the AAF’s fleet of 25.
- $814.5 million appropriated for modernization in FY 2017.
- $709.8 million requested for FY 2018.
- $6.8 billion estimated cost of the plan over 6 years.

Metrics on Progress Classified This Quarter  pp. 2-3

ANDSF personnel statistics—including authorized troop levels, attrition, casualty rates, readiness, and sustainability—previously covered in this report were classified this quarter. Metrics on development of the Afghan security ministries, which showed a decline in capacity last quarter, were also classified this quarter.

Oversight  pp. 67, 77

REPORTS

9 Reports completed, including reviews of counternarcotics agreements and oversight of ammunition provided to the Afghan forces.

41 OFS oversight projects for Afghanistan remained ongoing.

INVESTIGATIONS

2 Guilty pleas entered for a contractor receiving kickbacks and a Federal employee soliciting bribes.

13 Investigations initiated related to OFS, involving program fraud, corruption, and trafficking in persons.

31 OFS-related investigations remained open.

7 investigations closed.

Governance  pp. 47-49

- President Ghani signed a compact establishing more than 200 benchmarks for progress on governance, development, peace, and security.
- The Anti-Corruption Justice Center convicted a major general of abuse of power and an oil company executive of embezzlement and graft.

Humanitarian Assistance  pp. 51-52

- 258 attacks on humanitarian workers and 103 against health workers so far this year exceeded the 3-year average.
- More than 270,000 internally displaced persons in Afghanistan required assistance from USAID and implementing partners.