ISIS Loses Ground

**RAQQAH:** Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) took more than 75% of ISIS’s self-proclaimed capital city and most of the surrounding countryside.

**MOSUL:** Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) ousted ISIS from its primary stronghold in Iraq in July.

**TAL AFAR:** ISF liberated this city to the west of Mosul in just 8 days of fighting in August.

**DAYR AZ ZAWR:** After losing its base in Raqqah, ISIS defended territory here against advances by the Coalition, SDF, Russia, and pro-Syrian regime forces.

Security

- Coalition forces have trained over 100,000 ISF and 8,500 SDF since the start of OIR.
- SDF trainees this quarter included 200 women volunteers and a new 1,600-strong Raqqah “hold” force to restore order post-ISIS.
- In Syria, 500 U.S. military advisers supported the SDF in counter-ISIS operations.

Governance

- The Kurdistan Regional Government held a non-binding referendum on an independent Kurdistan.
- Iraqi courts sentenced 26 former officials to jail for corruption offenses.

Humanitarian Assistance

**IRAQ**
- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq fell by 100,000 this quarter.
- Over 800,000 Mosul residents remain displaced.
- Challenges for Mosul returnees include: damaged infrastructure, instability, explosive remnants of war, and a lack of economic opportunity.

**SYRIA**
- 15,000 people were trapped in ISIS-controlled parts of Raqqah without food, water, or medical supplies.
- Al Qaeda-affiliate, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, captured parts of Idlib province, complicating and briefly halting assistance.

Syrian Civil War

- Negotiations to de-escalate Syria’s 6-year-old civil war occurred on five separate tracks in Astana, Geneva, Jordan, Egypt, and New York.
- In northwestern Syria, Turkish-backed forces clashed with Syrian Kurds, drawing in increased Russian involvement.
- U.S. and Russian officials communicate to de-conflict operations up to 15 times per day.

ISIS: Global Reach

- ISIS-affiliated and ISIS-inspired organizations conducted terrorist activity in the Philippines, Egypt, Libya, Niger, and other regions.
- U.S. and partner nations carried out operations to counter these groups, including the recently designated Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines.

Oversight

4 Reports completed by Lead IG and partner agencies, including an audit of conventional weapons destruction in Iraq, Lebanon, and Afghanistan.

31 OIR oversight projects ongoing.

2 Investigations initiated related to OIR, involving procurement fraud and bribery allegations.

6 OIR-related investigation closed.

86 Investigations remained open.

Lead IG Focus: Combating Trafficking in Persons

Federal policy aims to prevent U.S. Government contractors abroad from contributing to the $150 billion human trafficking industry, but federal agency oversight is limited.

Local subcontracts in support of OIR present significant trafficking risks due to the failure of Iraq and Kuwait to meet minimal standards for the prosecution and prevention of human trafficking.

LEAD INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS