



# OIR IN BRIEF

The 15th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria and to train, advise, and assist local partners to improve regional stability.

## ISIS Shifts Towards an Insurgent Movement

*pp. 16-17, 22-23, 43-46*

- ISIS holds only **1%** of the **territory** it once held in Syria but is emerging as an effective clandestine organization.
- ISIS has lost all its territory in Iraq and is **carrying out attacks as an insurgency**.
- The DoD, DoS, and a UN committee warned that without improvements to security, stability, and governance in Iraq and Syria, **conditions could be favorable for an ISIS resurgence**.

## “Years, if not Decades” for Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to Operate Independently

*pp. 24-26*

- The ISF faces systemic problems with **intelligence, corruption, and leadership** structures.
- All orders, from administrative requests to operational decisions, **require approval** from senior leaders, including the **prime minister**.
- The ISF **“could not function”** without personal cell phones.
- Surveillance drones are used to **micromanage command** of missions rather than for intelligence.

## U.S. Syria Policy Expands

*pp. 17-18*

- Administration officials described U.S. goals in Syria as removing **Iran** and Iranian proxies, supporting a diplomatic resolution to the **Syrian Civil War**, and **stabilizing** areas of Syria liberated from ISIS.
- The DoD stated that the U.S. troops in Syria are focused exclusively on the **defeat of ISIS**, although their presence may also support **ancillary objectives**.

## New Iraqi Government Being Formed

*pp. 30-31*

- Four months after the election, Iraq's new parliament selected a new speaker of the parliament and a president.
- The new president designated a candidate who was **opposed by pro-Iran** political blocs as Iraq's prime minister.
- All of the new leaders **support the U.S.-Iraq relationship**.

## U.S. Forces Continue Operations at the At Tanf Garrison

*pp. 46-48*

- DoD personnel continued to assist the **vetted Syrian opposition** group Mughawir al Thawra (MaT).
- U.S. and MaT forces conducted counterterrorism exercises, which the media reported were aimed to **deter Iranian or Russian** actions against the At Tanf Garrison.

## Coalition Partners Help Stabilize Northern Syria

*pp. 52, 57-58*

- The U.S. **suspended \$230 million** in stabilization funds, but the shortfall is expected to be **covered by \$300 million** in contributions from Coalition partners.
- **Ambassador James Jeffrey** was appointed as **Special Representative for Syria Engagement** to be the primary DoS contact on all Syria policy matters except for counter-ISIS operations.
- **150,000** people returned to their homes in **Raqqah**, and **204,000** people returned to **Dayr az Zawr**.

## Humanitarian Challenges Persist in Iraq and Syria, and Oversight of Aid Proves Challenging

*pp. 51-55*

- About **1.9 million** Iraqis remain internally **displaced**, and their pace of returning home is slowing.
- About **2 million** people in Idlib province required **humanitarian assistance**. An attack by the regime there could **overwhelm aid supplies**.
- USAID **suspended aid** implementation in some areas due to the **diversion** of aid to **terrorist** groups.

## Oversight and Investigations

*pp. 70-103*

- Lead IG agencies and partners completed **23 reports**, including finding that Coalition forces had **limited visibility** on Iraqi Police Hold Force operations and capabilities.
- Lead IG investigations resulted in **1** criminal charge, **3** personnel actions, **1** suspension, **6** debarments, and **13** administrative actions for misconduct by U.S. Government and contractor employees.