The 14th 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 the capacity of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).

South Asia Strategy: Metrics of Security Show Little Change  pp. 15-19
During the quarter, military and diplomatic leaders stated that the South Asia strategy was “working.” However, available measures of security showed that Afghanistan remained a dangerous place for Afghan civilians and security forces.

Security Incidents: There were 5,800 security incidents between May and August, a slight decrease from the same period last year, but suicide attacks increased by 38 percent.

Population Control: 65 percent of Afghans lived in areas under government control or influence, a figure that has not changed significantly in 2 years.

Civilian Casualties: Resolute Support and the UN both reported increases in civilian casualties, compared to the previous two quarters.

Afghan Military Casualties: ANDSF casualty rates this quarter exceeded those during the same period in 2017, but precise numbers were classified.

U.S. and Coalition Casualties: 4 U.S. and 3 Czech military personnel were killed in Afghanistan this quarter.

Taliban Attack Ghazni City  pp. 12-13
- More than 1,000 Taliban fighters attacked Ghazni city, a provincial capital of more than 250,000 residents near Kabul, and held it for 5 days.
- With U.S. assistance, the ANDSF responded to the attack and expelled the Taliban from the city.
- U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said the Taliban “likely intends to conduct attacks similar to Ghazni, should favorable conditions present themselves.”

Peace Remains Elusive  pp. 4, 11, 37
- In August, the Taliban did not reply to President Ghani’s offer to implement a ceasefire during the Eid al Adha holiday.
- The Taliban focused on its stated goal of disrupting the parliamentary elections, and the ANDSF transitioned to a defensive posture in support of the elections.
- A senior DoS official reportedly met with the Taliban in July, but the DoS declined to comment.

ANDSF Capacity Grows, but Challenges Persist  pp. 24, 28
- 312,328 ANDSF personnel
- 194,017 Afghan National Army
- 118,311 Afghan National Police
- The ANDSF was able to recruit enough soldiers to form 6 of its 8 pilot companies for the new Territorial Force. It also established 3 “emergency” companies to respond to violence in Nangarhar province.
- The 1st SFAB will rotate out of Afghanistan this fall. U.S. forces will continue advising until the 2nd SFAB arrives next spring.

Afghan Economy Strained by Drought  pp. 40-42
- 3.5 million Afghans affected by the drought were in need of urgent food assistance.
- 253,000 Afghans were displaced by drought this year, compared to 243,000 displaced by conflict.
- More than 166,000 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran and Pakistan this quarter, largely due to worsening economic conditions in Iran.