

OFS IN BRIEF

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."

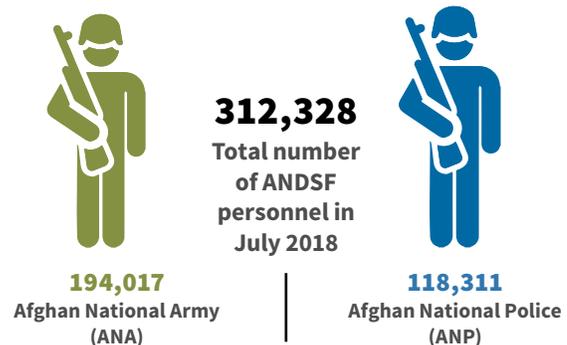
Oversight and Investigations *pp. 55-56, 80*

- Lead IG agencies and partners completed **11 reports**, including an inspection of **fire and electrical safety** at DoD facilities and an audit of DoS's **aviation** program.
- Lead IG investigations resulted in **3** debarments, **1** administrative action, and fines, savings, or recoveries of **\$937,001**.

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*



- 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.