United States Announces Plans to Withdraw Troops from Syria  pp. 2-7, 16-19

- On December 19, President Trump announced the U.S. military would withdraw troops from Syria.
- The withdrawal process was ongoing at publication of this report.
- In public and in responses to the DoD OIG, officials stated that U.S. Syria policy has not changed.
- Approximately 2,000 ISIS fighters remained in the region of eastern Syria where U.S. forces have been operating.
- USCENTCOM officials stated, “absent sustained pressure, ISIS could likely resurge in Syria in six to twelve months.”
- “Currently, ISIS is regenerating key functions and capabilities more quickly in Iraq than Syria.”

ISIS Down to Last Stronghold in Syria but Still a Battle-Experienced Force  pp. 20-22

- ISIS remained capable of coordinating offensives and counteroffensives, and temporarily retook territory on the Iraq-Syria border from the SDF.
- Remaining ISIS fighters were described by CJTF-OIR officials as “battle-experienced,” “hardened,” and “well-disciplined.”
- ISIS generated revenue through smuggling, taxation, criminal activities, and external donations.

ISIS Carries Out Attacks in Rural Iraq  pp. 29-33

- ISIS conducted IED attacks, assassinations, robbery and money laundering this quarter.
- Rugged terrain and poor weather helped ISIS maintain freedom of movement and threaten civilians and security forces.

The ISF is Reliant on Coalition Support in Intelligence and Institutional Reform  pp. 36-40

- CJTF-OIR stated that Iraq lacks a tasking system for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets and vetting procedures for human intelligence.
- CJTF-OIR stated that even trained ISF units have shortfalls in command and control, leadership, physical resilience, and ability to execute “basic minor infantry tactics.”

SDF Continues to Fight ISIS but Relies Heavily on Coalition Support  pp. 19-20, 22-23

- The SDF captured Hajin, the last major town held by ISIS, although fighting around the town continued.
- Although the SDF are “tenacious fighters,” CJTF-OIR said that Coalition support is “vital to the SDF’s ability to defeat ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley.”

Turkey Offers to Take Over the Fight Against ISIS in Syria  pp. 6, 26-27

- Turkish President Erdogan offered to deploy Turkish forces to fight ISIS in Syria after the United States withdraws forces from the country.
- Turkey has not participated in ground operations against ISIS since 2017 and has not fought ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley.

Turkey offers to take over the fight against ISIS in Syria.

Overight and Investigations  pp. 48-67

- Lead IG agencies and partners completed 9 reports including a classified evaluation of social media exploitation to support OIR.
- Lead IG investigations resulted in 1 arrest, 2 criminal charges, and 2 convictions.
- One conviction was of an American who conspired to acquire and transfer surface-to-air missiles to Libya, the United Arab Emirates, and Iraq.