



OFS IN BRIEF

The 17th 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).

Taliban Peace Talks Continue *pp. 36-37*

- This quarter, Amb. Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, conducted a 6th round of **direct talks with the Taliban**.
- Amb. Khalilzad reported "**slow but steady progress** on details related to a framework for peace."

Security Situation Remains Volatile *pp. 12-14*

- The Taliban launched **4 high-profile attacks** in Kabul, including attacks on a U.S. convoy and a USAID contractor.
- There were several **additional attacks** in Kabul that resulted in casualties and generated media attention, but do not meet the NATO definition of a high-profile attack.
- The ANDSF **prevented** the Taliban from **taking and holding** district centers.
- The number of **enemy-initiated attacks** (2,820) was 8% higher than last quarter and 8% lower than the same quarter last year.
- Resolute Support verified **1,766 civilian casualties**, a 17% increase compared to last quarter but a 25% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2018.

ISIS-K Resilient Despite Pressure *p. 16*

- U.S. special forces continued to conduct unilateral and partnered operations with Afghan forces **targeting ISIS-K**.
- ISIS-K continued to **evade, counter, and resist** counterterrorism pressure and remained a **threat** to Afghan security.

Proposed Posture Adjustment Prompts Uncertainty *pp. 40-43*

- The DoS and USAID outlined plans to **reduce staffing** at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan.
- The USAID portion of the plan includes **cutting 50% of personnel** and 40% of programming.
- The **plans are on hold** pending further review by Congress.

ANDSF Consolidates Checkpoints *pp. 14-15*

- After many quarters of failing to act on U.S. recommendations, the ANDSF took steps to **reduce** the number of **static checkpoints** across the country.
- The DoD could not say how many checkpoints were removed due to **poor data** reporting by the ANDSF.

Challenges to ANDSF Sustainability *pp. 25-33*

- The DoD listed the **top 10 challenges** to ANDSF sustainability, including corruption, leadership, training, and logistics capability.
- The ANDSF continued to **implement** a new **personnel system** and had fewer cases of special forces misuse.
- The ANDSF showed **little progress** in building maintenance capacity or completing specialized training.

2nd SFAB Focuses on Logistics *pp. 24-25, 34-35*

- The 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) began its **advising mission** during the quarter, with a focus on improving ANDSF **logistics**.
- The DoD said that "the ANDSF does not have a supply problem; rather, **they have a distribution problem**."
- Enemy activity on the roads, maintenance backlogs, poor internet connectivity, and human capital challenges **undermine U.S. efforts** to improve the ANDSF distribution system.

Oversight and Investigations *pp. 54-80*

- Lead IG and partner agencies completed **9 audit reports** related to OFS, including projects related to linguist support contracts, countering violent extremism programs, and OCO funding.
- Lead IG investigative branches closed **7 cases**.