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 counter-terrorism pressure and remained a threat to Afghan security.

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.

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.

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.