



OIR IN BRIEF

The 20th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to defeat ISIS and train, advise, and assist local partners to improve regional stability.

U.S. Forces “Pause” Operations against ISIS after Drone Strike on Iranian General

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- After the January 2 killing of **Iranian General Qassem Soleimani**, U.S. forces **paused operations** against ISIS in Iraq to focus on **force protection**.
- The strike also killed Jamal Jaafar Ibrahim, the de facto head of the **Popular Mobilization Forces** in Iraq.

Iran-Aligned Militias Attack U.S. forces in Iraq

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- Iranian-aligned militias launched **11 rocket attacks** on U.S. military bases in Iraq, including a strike blamed on Kata'ib Hezbollah, which **killed 1 U.S. contractor**.
- U.S. forces responded with **airstrikes** on 5 Kata'ib Hezbollah facilities in Iraq and Syria, **killing at least 24** militia members.
- Members of Kata'ib Hezbollah and other militias protesting outside the U.S. Embassy **breached the security perimeter** and **set fires** in the compound.
- Many U.S. Embassy and all USAID staff **moved out of Baghdad**.

Iraqi Parliament Votes to Expel U.S. Forces

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- **Iraq's Parliament** passed a non-binding resolution following Soleimani's killing to **expel U.S. forces from Iraq**.
- **NATO and at least four Coalition partners** announced plans to **pull some troops** from Iraq, at least temporarily.

Street Protests Against Iraqi Government Erupt on October 1 and Continue Throughout the Quarter

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- Protesters **demanded reforms** to address corruption, joblessness, and a lack of basic services.
- Demonstrators also protested **Iran's involvement** in Iraq's politics and military affairs.
- Iraqi government forces and some Iranian-aligned militias **killed more than 500** demonstrators.

U.S. Forces Withdraw and Redeploy in Syria as Turkish Military Advances across Border

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- U.S. forces withdrew from most of the northeastern Syria border during an **incursion by Turkey**.
- **U.S. forces redeployed** to the far northeastern corner of Syria as Turkish, Russian, and Syrian regime forces moved into areas vacated by U.S. troops.
- U.S. forces deployed to northeastern Dayr az Zawr province to **guard oil fields** controlled by local partner forces in Syria and prevent ISIS access.

U.S. and Partner Forces Pause Counter-ISIS Operations in Syria after Turkish Incursion

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- Operations against ISIS **pause for several weeks** as Kurdish partner forces sought to **confront Turkey's advance**.
- In Syria, ISIS increased **claimed attacks** in the wake of the **Turkish incursion**.

ISIS Leader's Death Has Little Impact on ISIS Operations

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- ISIS quickly **named a successor** following the Oct. 27 death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.
- ISIS remained a **cohesive organization** with a command and control structure capable of low-level attacks.
- In Iraq, ISIS exploited the **mountainous and desert terrain** in northern and western provinces to continue operations.

Oversight and Investigations

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- Lead IG and partner agencies completed **6 reports**, including evaluations of a diplomatic security program and security assistance and training for Iraq's security forces.
- Lead IG and partner agencies have **116 open investigations**.