The 20th 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).

**U.S. Signs Agreement With the Taliban**
- The agreement signed on February 29 provides for the immediate withdrawal of approximately 4,400 U.S. troops.
- The Taliban committed to preventing terrorist groups from operating in Afghanistan.
- U.S. and coalition forces agreed to a full withdrawal within 14 months, contingent on the Taliban upholding its obligations.
- Regional powers, including Russia, China, Pakistan, and Iran, issued statements in support of the agreement.

**Taliban Increases Violence Before and After Agreement Signing**
- The Taliban reduced violence against coalition forces for 1 week prior to the agreement but continued attacks on the ANDSF.
- U.S. and Taliban forces both increased offensive activity early in the quarter to strengthen their negotiating positions.
- The Taliban launched more than 300 attacks in the last 2 weeks of March.
- 17 insider attacks against the ANDSF killed 48 Afghans and 2 U.S. Soldiers.
- The DoD, citing ongoing deliberations, withheld the release of attack data, which have previously been used as a metric of the conflict’s intensity.

**ISIS-K Still Poses a Threat Despite Losses**
- ISIS-K’s loss of its Nangarhar stronghold in November 2019 diminished its capacity to plan and recruit.
- ISIS-K continues to threaten U.S. and Afghan targets through clandestine terrorist attacks.
- Taliban operations contributed to the reduction of ISIS-K.
- The DoD estimates that 300 to 2,500 ISIS-K fighters remain in Afghanistan.

**Political Impasse Over 2019 Presidential Elections Stalls Intra-Afghan Talks**
- The Afghan Independent Election Commission declared incumbent president Ashraf Ghani the winner on February 18.
- Ghani’s rival, Abdullah Abdullah, disputed the results and held a simultaneous inauguration ceremony on March 9.
- United States announced a $1 billion cut in U.S. assistance to Afghanistan, and warned of a further $1 billion reduction if Ghani and Abdullah do not resolve the dispute.
- The lack of a unified government, disputes over negotiating teams and prisoner releases, and violence impeded negotiations with the Taliban.

**COVID-19 Stresses Afghan Government, Economy, and Healthcare System**
- The DoS announced $18.4 million in COVID-19 support to Afghanistan, including assistance for displaced persons.
- Coalition forces stopped in-person train, advise, and assist efforts with the ANDSF but resumed some activities through telephone and e-mail.
- Afghan-Pakistani border closings aiming to stop the spread of the disease prevented or delayed necessary goods from entering the country.
- The large-scale outbreak in Iran contributed to a surge of Afghan expatriates returning to Afghanistan with only rudimentary health screenings at the border.
- Without sufficient action, an estimated 25.6 million Afghans will likely be infected and 110,000 could die.

**Oversight and Investigations**
- Lead IG agencies completed 2 reports related to OFS, including an evaluation of force protection screening, vetting, and biometric operations.
- Lead IG and partner agencies collaborated on 97 investigations involving fraud, corruption, human trafficking, and other crimes.