



OFS/OES IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS) and Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes the events that took place in Afghanistan this quarter, including the U.S. efforts to end the 5-year OFS mission and begin "over-the-horizon" counterterrorism operations under OES.

DoD Ends the OFS Mission and Initiates OES

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- DoD activity under OFS focused on winding down that operation and **accounting for defense articles** procured for the former Afghan security forces.
- The OES mission is to **counter terrorist** threats emanating from Afghanistan, such as al-Qaeda and ISIS-K, from **over the horizon**.
- The U.S. Government continued to **negotiate** with regional partners about **potential basing locations** and support options.

Interagency Efforts to Relocate U.S. Nationals and Afghan Partners Continued

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- The United States has facilitated the departure of more than **3,000** U.S. nationals, Afghan partners, their family members, and others.
- An unknown number of **Afghan soldiers** remain in Afghanistan, and many are **ineligible** for U.S. Special Immigrant **Visas**.
- DoS led interagency efforts under **Operation Allies Rescue** to **relocate** eligible Afghans at risk of Taliban reprisals.
- DHS led the interagency efforts under **Operation Allies Welcome** to **resettle** Afghan evacuees in the U.S.

ISIS-K Emerges as Primary Terrorist Threat in Afghanistan

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- In October, ISIS-K conducted 2 separate **mosque bombings** targeting the Hazara Shia minority, which killed more than **100** people.
- On November 2, ISIS-K attacked Kabul's **military hospital**, **killing 25**, including a senior Taliban leader.
- U.S. intelligence estimates predict ISIS-K could threaten the **U.S. homeland** within **6 to 12 months**, though its efforts remained focused on Afghanistan.
- **Al-Qaeda** maintained a **low profile** in Afghanistan, likely at the behest of the Taliban, as the regime seeks to demonstrate international legitimacy.

U.S. Government Engages with the Taliban

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- **No nation** has **recognized** the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan.
- In October and November, **U.S. delegations met with Taliban** representatives in Qatar to discuss counterterrorism, human rights, and other issues.
- The DoS approved the creation of the **Afghanistan Affairs Unit**, which will lead diplomatic engagement related to Afghanistan from Doha, Qatar.

Taliban Continued Efforts to Build a National Government

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- The Taliban's "interim cabinet" is run mostly by **male Pashtuns**. Many senior leaders were members of the 1990s Taliban regime or younger leaders who emerged during the insurgency years.
- Acting **Minister of Interior** Sirajuddin Haqqani is currently on the **FBI's most wanted** terrorists list.
- Despite the Taliban's **pledge of amnesty** for employees of the former government, reports of **violent reprisals** were widespread.

Poor Economic Conditions Continue to Worsen

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- **Food shortages** affected **72%** of the population.
- **International donor** funding, which previously constituted the majority of Afghan government revenues, **largely stopped** after the Taliban took power.
- A nationwide **cash shortage** and decreased value of the local currency has hindered humanitarian relief efforts.
- While the end of armed conflict has improved **humanitarian access**, implementers face discriminatory **restrictions** against **female employees** under the Taliban.

Oversight and Investigations

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- The DoD OIG completed 2 management advisories related to the **relocation of Afghan evacuees**.
- The DoD OIG completed an evaluation of USCENTCOM and USSOCOM policies to prevent and address **law of war violations**.