



# OIR IN BRIEF

The 37th 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—including the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)—to improve regional stability.

## Iran-aligned Militias Pause Attacks on U.S., Coalition Forces

pp. 12–14

- Militias conducted at least **50 attacks on U.S. and Coalition targets** in Iraq and Syria through early February.
- Following guidance from Iran, the militias **paused attacks** after a UAV strike **killed three U.S. troops** at the Tower 22 base in Jordan.
- U.S. forces **responded to attacks** with strikes on Iranian or Iran-aligned militia facilities.
- Coalition forces **prioritized force protection** as the strikes created a “more challenging” operational environment.

## U.S., Iraq Hold First Meeting of Higher Military Commission Amid Strained Relations

pp. 15–24

- The commission's findings will inform the **Coalition's transition** to a **bilateral** U.S.-Iraq security partnership.
- Iran-aligned parties in Iraq continued to call for **expelling Coalition troops** following U.S. strikes against militia targets.
- The Coalition continued to advise ISF leaders. The ISF conducted **independent airstrikes** and the KSF progressed toward security sector reform goals.
- Tensions between **Kurdistan's political parties** undermined the KRG's dealings with the Iraqi federal government.

## SDF Continues Counter-ISIS Operations Amid Multiple Security Challenges

pp. 24–31

- Iran-aligned militia attacks, Turkish airstrikes, and tensions with local Arab tribes **challenged** the SDF's **ability to secure** its area in northeastern Syria.
- SDF resumed participating in training of **detention facility guards**, though training for security forces at displaced person camps remained paused.
- The SDF conducted a 10-day **counter-ISIS operation in al-Hol** to prevent an ISIS-planned attack.

## ISIS Surges Attacks; Capabilities Remain Limited

pp. 9–11, 28, 32–33

- ISIS attacks increased in Syria during a **10-day attack campaign**.
- Despite the surge, ISIS capabilities and numbers **remained degraded**, especially in Iraq.
- More than **9,000 ISIS detainees** remained in SDF detention in Syria.
- ISIS adherents continued efforts to **indoctrinate and recruit** residents in the al-Hol and Roj **displaced persons camps**.
- **Repatriations** of displaced persons from Syria continued at a slow pace.

## Iraqi Economy Improves Slightly; Syria Continues to Struggle

pp. 39–61

- Iraq's **economy** projected to grow despite increased medium-term vulnerability related to **oil price volatility**.
- **Drought in Iraq eased** due to unprecedented rainfall, while some areas of Syria continued to face a water crisis.
- Northeastern Syria continued to face high **commodity price** fluctuations, **currency devaluation**, and **reduced agriculture** yields due to drought.
- In Syria, more than **70% of the population** is projected to need humanitarian assistance in 2024.

## Lead IG Oversight

pp. 66–73

- The Lead IG agencies issued **7 oversight reports** related to OIR.
- The DoD OIG found the U.S. Army **inconsistently** applied **safety and security** policies in storing **munitions** at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.
- A USAID OIG audit found that USAID faced challenges with **data reliability**, **partner inexperience**, and **staff capacity** in its New Partnerships Initiative, which included programming in Iraq.