



OES IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes the security situation in Afghanistan during the quarter, the status of terrorist organizations (such as ISIS-Khorasan and al-Qaeda), and U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian efforts related to Afghanistan.

ISIS-K Kills Senior Taliban Official

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- An ISIS-K suicide bomber killed **Khalil Rahman Haqqani**, the Taliban's Minister for Refugees and a U.S.-designated **global terrorist**.
- Haqqani was the **most senior member** of the **Taliban killed** since the group's 2021 takeover of Afghanistan.
- The attack was a "**significant blow**" to the Taliban, and **indicative of ISIS-K's reach**, according to media.

Pakistan Strikes Targets in Afghanistan

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- Pakistan launched **airstrikes into Afghanistan** in December targeting a Tehrik-e Taliban (TTP) Pakistan camp.
- **Taliban forces retaliated**, though tensions later cooled, and **Pakistan continued to engage the Taliban** on security and other issues.
- The TTP does not directly target U.S. interests, but **risk of collateral damage** persists, State said.

Taliban Leader Seeks to Consolidate Control

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- **Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada** announced a decree to bring **military equipment** under his control.
- Akhundzada seeks to **limit ministry heads' control** over military resources, **despite his claimed intention** of curtailing smuggling, misuse of arms.

Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)

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- State reported it issued more than **71,000 SIVs to Afghan allies** between September 1, 2021 and December 30, 2024.
- State continued to **relocate eligible SIV applicants to third countries** for further visa processing.
- State improved data sharing with the DoD, **reducing manual processing** and maintenance.

Almost Half of All Afghans Require Humanitarian Assistance; U.S. is Largest Donor

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- The U.S. Government remained the **largest humanitarian donor** to Afghanistan.
- In 2025, 22.9 million people—nearly **half of Afghanistan's population**—will require humanitarian assistance.
- The U.S. Government has provided more than **\$2B** in humanitarian **assistance to Afghanistan** since the 2021 fall of Kabul.
- Taliban policies **continued to hinder** the provision of humanitarian aid.
- U.S. partners **adapted to Taliban restrictions** on female employees by using virtual platforms and male guardians.

State's Partners Made Payments to the Taliban to Operate

pp. 27–28

- The payments by State's implementing partners providing humanitarian and other aid included **taxes on local staff salaries** and **work permit fees**.
- One State office reported that between September 2021 and December 2024 its implementing partners paid **\$1.8M to the Taliban** for taxes, vehicle registration fees, and other expenses.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control **authorized these transactions** through general licenses.

Oversight and Investigations

- **State faced challenges** in accounting for sensitive security assets, including **armored vehicles and firearms**, during the 2021 U.S. **embassy evacuation** from Kabul.
- USAID OIG was **auditing USAID's oversight** of its implementers' ability to **mitigate security and safety risks**, and Taliban interference with assistance.
- Lead IG agencies and their partner agencies had 34 ongoing oversight projects, and **30 ongoing criminal investigations** related to OES.