



OES IN BRIEF

This report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes the events that took place in Afghanistan from July to December, including the status of terrorist organizations, such as ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K), al-Qaeda, and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), as well as U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian efforts related to Afghanistan.

Terrorist Organizations Remain a Threat to U.S. Interests

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- ISIS-K **aspired to attack the West**, claimed small attacks, and continued to recruit and raise funds.
- Al-Qaeda ran **training camps in Afghanistan** but were not rebuilding attack capability.
- **TTP attacks** provoked retaliatory **Pakistani airstrikes** in Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan and Pakistan **agreed to a ceasefire**, which tentatively held, but **efforts to mediate** a lasting peace remained **stalled** amid rising tensions.

State Considers Foreign Terrorist Organization Designation for Taliban

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- The Taliban is already designated as a **Specially Designated Global Terrorist**.
- The U.S. Government **does not recognize** any formal **government** in Afghanistan but does engage with the Taliban.
- The Taliban **released** one **American detainee** in September.

Afghan Relocation Efforts Wind Down

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- State continued closure of Enduring Welcome, the program for relocating **Afghan allies** to the U.S.
- Program activities **in Qatar** were expected to shutter by the end of FY 2026.
- State issued **4,890 Afghan SIVs** from July to December 2025.
- A Presidential Proclamation **stopped** any new **Afghan SIV applicants** from entering the United States as of January 1.

Taliban's Strict Edicts Continue to Impact Women and Girls

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- The Taliban restricted cultural and religious practices and **suppressed free speech**.
- Taliban aid delivery interference **prevented medical treatment** for women.
- Total international **humanitarian assistance** to Afghanistan **declined from \$3.27B** in 2022 to **\$994.8M** in 2025.
- The **U.S. Government stopped funding** for all humanitarian services in Afghanistan.



The Women's Business Center in Guzara, Herat, is a safe space for returnee women and girls rebuild their lives. (UNHCR photo)

Oversight and Investigations

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- A DoD OIG report found that the Army did not effectively manage the **Afghan relocation program** in Qatar.
- The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction's (SIGAR) issued its **final report** following 17 years of oversight of U.S. reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.
- Lead IG and partner agencies had **24 open investigations** and **referred 3 cases** to the Department of Justice.
- Investigative agencies reported **1 indictment, 1 conviction, and 1 civil settlement**