



OFS IN BRIEF

The 12th 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 security forces.

Terrorist Attacks Strike Kabul *pp. 26-27*

“The Taliban is in the city.”

– General John Nicholson

JANUARY 4 ISIS-K suicide bomber **killed 20**.

JANUARY 20 Taliban siege of the Kabul International Hotel **killed 40**, including **4 U.S. citizens**.

JANUARY 27 Taliban detonated an ambulance packed with explosives, which **killed 100** and **injured 150**.

MARCH 21 ISIS-K suicide bomber **killed 31** near Shia shrine.

Minimal Progress in the Battle for Population Control *pp. 15-18*

- Afghan government increased the population under its control to **65%** from **64%** last quarter.
- Taliban held its share of the population under its control at **12%**.
- The U.S. and Afghan goal is to **secure control** of **80%** of the population.

Fewer Afghan Forces than Previously Reported *p. 19*

- DoD **released** Afghan military and police strength numbers for the **first time in nearly a year**.
- The number of active-duty Afghan security personnel **fell** from **331,708** in January 2017 to **313,728** in January 2018.
- Total Afghan security force strength this quarter was **11% below** its authorized level.

New U.S. Military Advisory Force Arrives in Afghanistan *pp. 35-36*

- **1st Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB)** arrived in Afghanistan and began operations.
- 6 SFAB battalions are deploying across Afghanistan to **expand advising** to the **tactical level**, embedded with Afghan *kandaks* (battalions).
- SFAB advisors represent an **increased U.S. troop presence** on the **front lines** of the conflict.

Afghan Elections Delayed *pp. 52-54*

- Afghan parliamentary elections were **postponed** from **July** until **October 2018**.
- Challenges to holding successful elections include inadequate **voter registration**, lack of dedicated **funding**, and **security risks** at polling sites.
- The delay introduces the additional risk of **winter weather**.
- The U.S. supports Afghan efforts to plan elections, which are seen as **critical** to the **government's legitimacy**.

Lead IG Oversight *pp. 81, 88, 94-96*

12 REPORTS COMPLETED, addressing:

- Significant challenges in the management and oversight of **\$3.1 billion** in **U.S. funding** provided to the **Afghan security ministries**.
- Contractors supporting the Embassy Air program **lacked information** to identify and mitigate **threats to aviation**.

INVESTIGATIONS resulted in:

- **\$2,019,454** in fines or recoveries.
- **2 criminal convictions** for contractor **kickbacks** and solicitation of **bribes**.

Talk of Peace but No Action Yet *pp. 54-55*

- President Ghani made a **peace offer** to the Taliban that included **legitimization of the Taliban** as a political party and **release of prisoners**.
- The **Taliban** called for **removal of all U.S. forces** and **peaceful dialogue** with the **United States**.

Conflict Continues to Displace Afghans *pp. 61-62*

- **54,063** additional Afghans were displaced by conflict during this quarter.
- **700,000** IDPs and returnees had no access to **education**; **2 million** had no access to a **doctor**; and **1.5 million** lacked **access to markets** to buy and sell goods, including food.
- **Returnees** from Pakistan to Afghanistan **fell** from **618,000** in 2016 to **157,000** in 2017.