



“We have worrisome evidence that Iran is trying to influence, using money, the Iraqi elections. That money is being used to sway candidates, to sway votes. It’s not an insignificant amount of money, we believe.”

—Secretary of Defense James Mattis p.35

OIR IN BRIEF

The 13th quarterly report from the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) summarizes the quarter’s key events and oversight of the U.S. operation to defeat ISIS.

U.S. Shifts Efforts in Iraq from Combat to Institutional Development

pp. 14, 24, 34-35

- The DoD began **drawing down** presence in Iraq, transferring equipment and personnel to **Afghanistan**.
- U.S. training and assist once focused on **building Iraqi military institutions**, but the DoD relies on **Iraqi self-reporting** to assess progress.
- Ensuring **legitimate elections** in May was a key U.S. priority. **IDP voting** and **Iranian influence** present challenges.
- Iranian influence was apparent in **Shia militia threats against U.S. presence** and a brief alliance between the **Badr Organization** and Abadi government.

ISIS Down but Not Out

pp. 18-19

- ISIS continued to **control areas** of the Middle Euphrates River Valley in **Syria** and **seized territory** in Hama and Idlib provinces.
- **Tension** between the **Iraqi army and the Kurdish Peshmerga** created gaps in security allowing an increase in **ISIS violence**, including **assassinations**.

U.S. Syria Policy in Flux

pp. 14, 25, 49

- **Turkish forces** entered Syria to battle U.S.-backed Kurdish forces, resulting in an **“operational pause” in the fight against ISIS**.
- **U.S. withheld \$200 million** in stabilization funding to Syria pending reassessment of U.S. objectives.
- President Trump stated his intention to **withdraw** U.S. forces from Syria **“very soon.”**

Oversight

pp. 60-67

The Lead IG agencies and partners completed 6 reports:

DoD OIG: Improved vetting of Syrian opposition satisfied congressional guidance.

DoS OIG: Insufficient cost controls for food service in Iraq resulted in \$45 million in questioned costs.

Investigations

pp. 67-69

Lead IG investigations resulted in **2** arrests, **7** criminal charges, **6** contractor suspensions and debarments, and **5** administrative actions. These investigations also resulted in **\$6,653,324** in fines, savings, or recoveries.

OPE-P IN BRIEF

The 2nd quarterly report from the Lead Inspector General for Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines (OPE-P) summarizes the quarter’s key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to support the Philippine government in its fight against ISIS affiliates and other terrorist organizations.

U.S. Supports Philippine Security

pp. 93-95, 101

- **200-300 U.S. military advisors** provide training, advice, and assistance to the Philippine army.
- The principal driver of costs in OPE-P is **unmanned aerial surveillance** support.
- The DoD has spent approximately **\$31 million** on OPE-P since the operation began on 9/1/2017.
- The DoD requested **\$108.2 million** in OCO funds to support OPE-P in FY 2019.
- DoS formally designated **ISIS-P** as a **Foreign Terrorist Organization** on 2/27/2018.

ISIS-P Attempts to Regroup

pp. 98-100

- After losing 900 fighters and its “emir” last quarter, ISIS-P was **unable to conduct major operations**.
- Several ISIS-P commanders vied for the position of emir as **various factions** attempted to **reconstitute** outside Marawi.

Return to Marawi Begins

pp. 104-106

- **106,000 civilians returned** to Marawi, but over **311,000 remained displaced** from the area.
- **Unexploded ordnance** and severe **damage to infrastructure**, including utilities and schools, have slowed returns.
- ISIS-P arrests in **Manila** suggest the capital as a **potential target**.