



OFS IN BRIEF

The 15th 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 National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). Due to the partial government shutdown, this report does not contain sections on Governance and Civil Society, Humanitarian Assistance and Development, and Stabilization and Infrastructure.

U.S. Envoy Meets with Taliban *pp. 12-13*

- Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, led **peace talks** with Afghan and regional leaders, including members of the Taliban.
- Talks focused on security issues, such as a potential **ceasefire** and the **future of foreign forces** in Afghanistan.
- U.S. and Taliban negotiators agreed, in principle, to a **framework for a deal**, under which U.S. troops would withdraw and the Taliban guarantee not to harbor terrorists.
- The framework does not address future Taliban relations with the **Afghan government**, which the Taliban **does not recognize**.

Parliamentary Elections Marred by Violence, Logistical Challenges *pp. 10-12*

- On October 20, more than **4 million** Afghans (out of 8.5 million registered) voted in parliamentary elections.
- Taliban **attacks** on election day **killed 52** people and **wounded 336**.
- Logistical challenges included closed polling centers, inaccurate voter lists, and confusion regarding the use of biometric devices.
- As of February 2019, the **final results have not been released**.
- Taliban and ISIS-K **killed 10 candidates** and wounded or abducted 6 others during the campaign.



Pilot Shortage, Accidents as AAF Grows

pp. 27-29

- The Afghan Air Force has not trained enough UH-60 Black Hawk and MD-530 pilots to **keep pace with its growing fleet**.
- A series of **accidents** involving the Mi-17 helicopter raise questions about **overuse of the aircraft**.

Taliban and Terrorists Continue to Threaten Security

pp. 15-20

- **2,517 enemy-initiated attacks** resulted in casualties, a nearly 10 percent increase compared to the same quarter in 2017.
- **63 percent** of the Afghan population lived under **Afghan government control** or influence, a decline from 65 percent reported throughout FY 2018.
- The Taliban continued to **threaten provincial capitals**, including Ghazni and Farah, two cities that came under Taliban siege in 2018.

Insider Attack Targets Meeting of Senior U.S. and Afghan Leaders

pp. 13-15

- An **insider attack** targeting a meeting between Gen. Scott Miller and Afghan leaders **killed** Kandahar **police chief** Abdul Raziq and **intelligence chief** Abdul Mohmin.
- The **parliamentary election** was **delayed** one week in Kandahar province as a result of the attack.
- NATO forces **suspended all advisory activity** with Afghan forces for several weeks pending **re-screening** of ANDSF personnel.

Future U.S. Presence in Afghanistan Uncertain

p. 13

- Media reports indicated that President Trump was **considering withdrawing** half of the 7,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.
- The DoD said **no order has been given** to change U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan.

Oversight Activities

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- Lead IG agencies and partners completed **9 reports** related to OFS, including an audit of munitions management at Bagram and Kandahar Airfields.
- Lead IG investigations resulted in **1 arrest**, **1 criminal charge**, and **2 convictions**.
- A former contractor of job placement services was charged with selling **falsified resumes** and **counterfeit training**.