The 21st 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).

### U.S. Withdraws Troops Under Agreement with the Taliban

- The United States reduced its troop level in Afghanistan to 8,600 by mid-June, a month ahead of schedule.
- The **Taliban was not honoring its commitment** to cut ties with al-Qaeda and conducted operations alongside al-Qaeda members.
- The USCENCOM commander said in June that “conditions have not been fully met” for the United States to withdraw all its remaining forces.

### Taliban Violence Increases, Further Threatening Peace Process

- The **Taliban ceased attacks against U.S. and coalition forces**, but increased operations against Afghan security forces.
- **UN data listed 5,543 “security incidents”** in Afghanistan between February 7 and May 14.
- **Afghan government officials questioned whether the Taliban was serious** about entering into peace negotiations.
- **Levels of violence stayed above norms** for the quarter, despite a 3-day ceasefire in May.
- **21 insider attacks against the ANDSF killed 83 Afghans**; there were no insider attacks against U.S. or coalition personnel.

### ANDSF Targets ISIS-K Leadership

- **Afghan security forces arrested** ISIS-K leader Abdullah Orakzai and other key ISIS militants.
- **ISIS-K maintained the ability to defend itself** and conduct mass casualty attacks despite pressure from coalition forces, the ANDSF, and the Taliban.
- The DoD estimated that **ISIS-K was reduced to about 1,000 fighters**, but still remains a security threat in Afghanistan.

### COVID-19 Disrupts U.S. Initiatives

- Afghanistan reached nearly **32,000 COVID-19 cases**, with 774 deaths, including 18 healthcare workers.
- The NATO-led coalition **ended face-to-face train, advise, and assist efforts** to prevent COVID-19’s spread.
- USAID suspended some activities to protect implementers, partly due to a **lack of available personal protective equipment**.

### Afghan Local Police Members Face Uncertain Future

- **U.S. funding for the Afghan Local Police will end** after September 30, 2020.
- COVID-19 stressed Afghanistan’s economy; **high unemployment reduced options** for members not eligible to join the ANDSF.
- **Unemployed members are vulnerable** to recruitment by militias and the Taliban.

### Afghan Government and the Taliban Make Little Progress on Peace Process

- Former Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah was appointed to **head the peace process**.
- A dispute between the Afghan government and the Taliban over prisoner releases further **delayed peace talks** originally set to begin March 10.
- The **Taliban released 700 captives**, and the **Afghan government released 3,895**.

### Oversight

- **Lead IG agencies completed 18 reports** related to OFS, including an audit that determined DoD contractors provided an estimated $6.3 million in meals that were not billed to coalition partners.
- **Lead IG and partner agencies collaborated on 92 investigations** involving fraud, corruption, human trafficking, and other crimes.