

## **OIR IN BRIEF**

The 30th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to defeat ISIS and train, advise, and assist local partners—including the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)—to improve regional stability.

#### ISIS Suffers Losses, Wages Fewer Attacks, Yet Remains a Threat

pp. 3, 10-11, 53-54

- ISIS attacks continued a downward trend despite a brief surge during Ramadan; the group conducted highly lethal attacks on regime forces in the Syrian Desert.
- Coalition forces maintained pressure on ISIS leadership, capturing a key ISIS operations facilitator/bomb-maker in June.
- U.S. and international officials said ISIS remains an ongoing threat, including violence and recruiting in SDF detention centers and the al-Hol displacement camp.

#### ISF Improves Some Capabilities, Faces Obstacles in Other Areas

pp. 3, 25-27, 29-30

- Two large-scale ISF operations **prevented ISIS** from conducting a major attack during Ramadan, according to CJTF-OIR.
- Iraqi ground forces directed their first air-to-ground strikes on ISIS targets with ISF aircraft.
- The government formation deadlock stalled creation of a joint ISF-Kurdish Security Forces brigade and Counter Terrorism Service recruitment.
- The war in Ukraine degraded Iraq's ability to maintain Russian-designed aircraft in its fleet.

# SDF Boosts Security at Detention Facilities, But Vulnerabilities and Challenges Remain

pp. 3, 56-59

- The SDF continued to improve security at detention facilities with Coalition support.
- Fundamental security vulnerabilities remained, including poor physical conditions and guard forces susceptible to bribes.
- The SDF guard force at the Ghuwayran Detention facility was "undermanned, underequipped, and undertrained" before an attack in January.
- The SDF also becomes "rapidly overstretched" during periods of Turkish cross-border activity.

### Third Parties Undermine the OIR Mission

pp. 3, 31-32, 39-40, 62-64

- Iran-aligned militias continued sporadic attacks on U.S., Coalition, Iraqi, and partner facilities and interests in Syria and Iraq.
- Turkey launched a renewed operation against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.
- U.S. and international leaders objected to Turkey's stated intent to launch a new incursion against Kurdish forces in northern Syria, which could shift the SDF focus away from ISIS.
- Russian aircraft struck a partner force's outpost near the At Tanf Garrison in Syria; there were no injuries.

## Repatriations, Reintegration of Displaced Persons Continue pp. 4, 43, 60-6

- U.S. officials maintained that failure to repatriate, rehabilitate, reintegrate, or prosecute ISIS affiliates in displaced persons camps and detention facilities in Syria may enable an ISIS resurgence.
- Iraq repatriated 151 families from the al-Hol camp in June, while just 9 Syrians returned home.
- Several countries showed willingness to repatriate nationals, but "gradually and in specific cases."

## **Food Prices, Summer Heat** *pp. 4, 35–36, 74*

- Despite stalled government formation, Iraq's parliament approved expanded food subsidies for vulnerable Iraqis, as record summer heat resulted in extensive electricity outages.
- In both Syria and Iraq, the war in Ukraine led to increased energy and food prices, raising costs for humanitarian operations amidst economic crisis and shortages.

#### **Lead IG Oversight**

pp. 6, 77

The Lead IG and partner agencies completed six reports
related to OIR including examinations of DoD and DoS
policies meant to prevent trafficking in persons, the Army's
accounting for property provided to a contractor for Kuwait
facilities, and financial accountability in humanitarian
assistance efforts.