OES/OFS IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS) summarizes the events that took place in Afghanistan this quarter, including the U.S. efforts to conduct “over-the-horizon” counterterrorism activities under OES and to close out the 5-year OFS mission.

DoD Conducts No Counterterror Strikes During the Quarter pp. 8–9

• After the quarter ended, a U.S. airstrike killed Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of al-Qaeda, in Kabul on July 31.
• General Mark Milley said the DoD continues to conduct surveillance of potential terrorist targets in Afghanistan.
• The DIA reported no change to its assessment of the number of terrorist fighters in Afghanistan:
  • ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K): 2,000
  • Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent: 200
  • Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan: 4,000

ISIS-K Violence in Afghanistan Increases pp. 9–12

• ISIS-K claimed 80 attacks during the quarter, a 90% increase from the previous quarter.
• Many of these attacks targeted Shia minority populations, including the bombing of a mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif that killed 31 and wounded 60.
• ISIS-K also conducted cross-border attacks on security forces in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
• ISIS-K aims to undermine Taliban rule through destabilizing acts of violence.

DoD Estimates $7.1 Billion in U.S.-Funded Equipment Was Left in Afghanistan pp. 33–34

• U.S. military removed or destroyed nearly all weapons and equipment used by U.S. troops in Afghanistan prior to withdrawal.
• The Taliban seized items from the former Afghan military including:
  • $923.3 million in aircraft
  • $4.1 billion in ground vehicles
  • $511.8 million in weapons
• The operational state of Afghan military vehicles was unknown and likely to deteriorate without U.S. contractor maintenance.

No Sovereign State Recognizes the Taliban but Many Engage Diplomatically pp. 19–20, 25–27

• U.S. officials briefly halted high-level engagements with the Taliban following the decree banning girls from attending secondary school.
• U.S.-Taliban dialogue resumed in June with discussions on women’s rights, terrorism, the economy, and the recent earthquake.
• China, Russia, and Iran permitted Taliban representatives to operate the Afghan embassies in their respective capitals, while withholding formal recognition.

60% of Afghans Require Humanitarian Assistance pp. 35–42

• Continued economic and governance crisis has limited access to food, healthcare, and education, while household debt increased.
• On June 22, a magnitude 5.9 earthquake killed approximately 770 people and injured 1,500, exacerbating existing needs for assistance.
• The Taliban hindered humanitarian operations, interfering with the designation of aid beneficiaries and imposing strict requirements on female aid workers.

DHS and DoS Facilitate Afghans’ Pathway to Enter the U.S. p. 21

• The DoS issued 4,362 Special Immigrant Visas during the quarter, nearly 4 times the number issued the previous quarter.
• DHS and DoS announced new exemptions to certain inadmissability factors for legal entry to the United States for fully-vetted Afghans.

Oversight and Investigations pp. 40–41, 48–49

• DoD OIG issued a management advisory on the DoD’s use of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet during the evacuation from Afghanistan.
• Lead IG and partner agencies initiated 7 new investigations and coordinated on 50 open investigations related to fraud, corruption, theft, and other offenses.