



OIR IN BRIEF

The 36th 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.

Iran-aligned Militia Groups Launch Sustained Attacks on U.S. and Coalition Personnel

pp. 9–14

- Militias conducted at least **134 strikes** targeting Coalition forces and interests in Iraq and Syria, using one-way attack drones, missiles, and rockets.
- In response, the DoD significantly **bolstered force protection** measures and deployed additional defensive capabilities to the region.
- CJTF-OIR said the attacks created a “**new operating paradigm**” for the OIR mission.

Coalition Forces Limit ISF Advising Due to Militia Threat

pp. 18–24

- Key leader engagements were **cancelled or delayed**; some base operations were **degraded**; and advisory support to partners was **adjusted** due to the militia strikes.
- The Iraqi prime minister, under increased pressure from Iran-aligned Iraqi lawmakers and militia leaders, announced his government had **opened negotiations** on the future of U.S. forces in Iraq.
- The ISF made **incremental improvements** in warfighting capabilities, including conducting some independent airstrikes and using its own ISR assets for some tasks.

SDF Faces Multiple Security Challenges

pp. 28–36

- In Dayr az Zawr, **skirmishes** continued between the SDF and tribal militias.
- **Turkish bombardments** in northern Syria struck SDF personnel, civilians, and civilian infrastructure.
- CJTF-OIR said that the SDF, facing “**two possibly existential threats**,” paused counter-ISIS operations and guard force training in October.
- In the al-Hol displaced persons camp, security forces continued to **lack professionalism** despite training.

ISIS Endeavors to Rebuild, Continues Attacks

pp. 16–17

- In Iraq, ISIS was significantly constrained but continued to **exploit security gaps** between federal Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.
- In Syria, ISIS targeted SDF and regime forces, while coming under **increased Syrian regime and Russian pressure** in the Syrian Desert.

Third Party Forces Complicate the OIR Mission

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- **Türkiye** launched a days-long **aerial bombardment** on suspected terrorist targets in Syria and Iraq following an October 1 suicide attack in Ankara.
- In October, **U.S. forces shot down an armed Turkish drone** conducting strikes near U.S. forces in Syria, prompting high-level discussions.
- **Ongoing Russian military violations** of deconfliction protocols in Syria, particularly near At Tanf Garrison, put **Coalition forces at risk**.

Repatriations, Iraqi Provincial Elections on Track

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- An **ordered departure** of non-emergency personnel and contract workers from U.S. diplomatic facilities in Iraq diminished the ability to maintain facilities and equipment on those compounds.
- Iraq held provincial elections for the first time in a decade, but **voter turnout** was low.
- The U.S. Government continued to support **repatriation** of detainees and displaced individuals from camps in Syria, with 1,690 people repatriated during the quarter.
- Economic challenges, earthquake, drought increased **stabilization and humanitarian needs** in Syria.

Lead IG Oversight

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- The Lead IG agencies completed **two oversight reports** related to OIR, including on the DoD's management of military units' use of biometrics to identify friendly forces during overseas operations.