



OES IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes the events that took place in Afghanistan this quarter, including the status of terrorist organizations, such as ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) and al-Qaeda, as well as U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian efforts related to Afghanistan.

President Trump Pauses Foreign Assistance; Most Aid to Afghanistan Terminated *pp. 4–7*

- On January 20, nearly all **foreign assistance** to Afghanistan **stopped** pending a review of all programs. Some life-saving programs continued under temporary waivers.
- In early April State **terminated** all USAID development programs except for 2 education programs and a global health program.
- State terminated **30 State programs totaling \$146M**.
- USAID's mechanism for **third-party monitoring** of development assistance was **terminated**.

ISIS-K, al-Qaeda Intent on Attacking U.S. *pp. 9–10*

- ODNI said that Afghanistan-based ISIS-K is the **most dangerous ISIS branch**.
- ISIS-K is actively **recruiting** and **training** in Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries.
- Al-Qaeda enjoys a **permissive environment** under the Taliban but currently **is not capable** of launching attacks from Afghanistan.

U.S. Charges ISIS-K Plotter in 2021 Kabul Airport Attack *p. 10*

- Acting on U.S. intelligence, **Pakistani authorities** arrested Mohammad Sharifullah, a.k.a. "Jafar," who participated in the attack that **killed 13 U.S. Service members**.
- Pakistan transferred Jafar to **U.S. custody**, where he will face criminal charges.

U.S.-origin Weapons Left in Afghanistan a Regional Security Concern *pp. 11, 14*

- President Trump said that the U.S. should **reclaim military hardware**.
- Rifles** used by **Pakistani militants** in a deadly passenger **train hijacking** were traced to weapons left in Afghanistan by the U.S.

U.S. Halts Immigration Programs for Afghans *pp. 6, 21*

- In January, an executive order **suspended** the U.S. **Refugee Admissions Program**.
- State **suspended flights** from Afghanistan for all Afghans eligible for relocation assistance.
- State issued **3,553 SIVs** between January 1 and March 31, 2025—compared to **9,926** the previous quarter.

Afghanistan Among World's Worst Humanitarian Crises *pp. 23–24*

- More than **22M Afghans** rely on emergency humanitarian assistance.
- The U.S. was the **largest donor** to Afghanistan for more than **two decades**.
- State said it is "**well past time**" that the **Taliban take responsibility** for Afghans' needs.

U.S. Increases Direct Engagement with the Taliban *p. 15*

- In March, a senior U.S. official **met with senior Taliban leaders** in Kabul, the **highest-level** U.S.-Taliban meeting since 2021.
- The Taliban released **4 American citizens** detained in Afghanistan. Following one release, the U.S. **lifted \$20M in bounties** on 3 Taliban officials.

Oversight and Investigations *pp. 35–37*

- SIGAR made recommendations to State and USAID to address Taliban **interference** with and **diversion** of U.S. assistance.
- Investigative branches of the Lead IG and partner agencies had **30 open investigations** and made **2 referrals to the DoJ**.